

Forum: Human Rights Council

Question of: Improving the situation and possibilities of indigenous people

Submitted by: Nigeria

Co-submitted by: Brazil, Botswana, China, Croatia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Philippines, Qatar, South-Africa, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela



The Human Rights Council,

Aware of the problems and challenges many indigenous populations are subject to,

Guided by the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which among else states that:

[...] indigenous peoples are equal to all other people [...]

[...] indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands [...]

[...] control of indigenous peoples over developments affecting them and their lands, territories and resources will enable them to [...] promote their development,

Reaffirming every person's human right to equality of opportunity and freedom from exploitation and discrimination,

Alarmed that many indigenous peoples are currently not afforded the full extent of their rights, through design or neglect by state or third parties,

Determined to strengthen the situation and possibilities of indigenous peoples and to allow them access to the same opportunities other people enjoy,

1. **Strongly urges** all member states to adhere to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
2. **Encourages** all member states to work together with independent NGO's, such as, but not limited to IWGIA (International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs), UNIPROBA (Unions-nous pour la Promotion des Batwa) or Centre for World Indigenous Studies, to promote education globally on a variety of platforms and to provide expertise and counsel to the respective governments and citizens;
3. **Invites** the UNICRI, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, to run further courses about indigenous people, their rights and laws, to start projects to prevent further discrimination and to support governments to find solution in problems affecting indigenous people;
4. **Emphasizes** the importance of education and recommends that:

- a. Pupils belonging to an indigenous group be taught, whenever possible, in their native language;
 - b. Indigenous pupils be taught the lingua franca in their native language;
 - c. Pupils with an indigenous background be afforded full access to the country's regular education system;
 - d. All pupils, regardless of ethnic, cultural or religious background be educated to some extent about the history, practises and the like of the indigenous people living in their region;
 - e. Indigenous peoples be instructed properly in the necessary bureaucratic and record-keeping skills inherent to citizenship if they so desire;
5. **Urges** member states to establish guidelines for local or foreign corporations to follow when doing business with indigenous peoples;
6. **Further urges** member states to ensure that the UN concept of "free prior informed consent (FPIC)" is administered properly;
7. **Encourages** member nations to support cross border initiatives and exchange between communities of an indigenous people to:
- a. Enable indigenous people to remain contingent and homogeneous across national borders;
 - b. Ensure the preservation of that indigenous people's culture and language;
 - c. Promote exchange and friendship between the two states harbouring the indigenous communities;
8. **Advises** member states to recognize an indigenous people's ownership of the lands they inhabit and those essential to sustaining their livelihood, even if they may not have a proper land deed.