

A Scan of International Report Recommendations on COVID-19 and Indigenous People

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This scan accompanies the Yellowhead Brief by Jade Dumoulin, *The "New Normal": Defending First Nations Jurisdiction During COVID-19*.

REPORT SOURCES (linked)

- UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Union of BC Indian Chiefs
- Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- The UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
- The Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- International Labour Organization
- Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Organization of American States General Secretariat
- Working Group on Indigenous Populations/ Communities in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
- Pan American Health Organization

THEMES



1. Decision-making, consultation & participation



2. Information & Data Access



3. Planning & Delivery of Healthcare



4. Prevention & Containment Measures



5. Mitigating Socio-Economic Impacts & Protecting Human Rights



6. Funding & Support



7. Environmental & Territorial Protection



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1. Decision-making, consultation & participation

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- As the world prepares strategies to mitigate the socioeconomic consequences of confinement and reduced economic activity, human rights, including the rights of Indigenous peoples, must be at the centre of recovery programmes. Given continuing or resurgent waves of transmission, national and local governments must also ensure that human rights-based pandemic emergency protocols are developed together with Indigenous peoples. Ensuring that women have a leadership role is particularly important to ending the intersecting discrimination they face, and the situation of Indigenous older persons, persons with disabilities, women, children, youth, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons and human rights defenders must also receive specific attention.

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- We call on all States to fulfil their human rights obligations, guided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to protect the health and lives of Indigenous peoples. In following WHO advice, we urge you to ensure that Indigenous peoples become your partners in this endeavour, and that you provide culturally acceptable healthcare, as well as food or other humanitarian relief, when necessary, and without discrimination. States should acknowledge and accommodate the cultural, spiritual, and religious rights and responsibilities of Indigenous peoples when considering measures to respond to the virus. As with the adoption of any measures that may affect Indigenous peoples, their free, prior and informed consent, grounded in the right to self-determination, should be sought.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

- We urge Member States and the international community to include the specific needs and priorities of Indigenous peoples in addressing the global outbreak of COVID 19.

The Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights

- Ensure the participation of Indigenous peoples in decision-making regarding the planning, development, and implementation of programmes and in the development of preventive measures against COVID-19.
- Consider Indigenous peoples as fundamental partners in addressing the pandemic. States should consult with Indigenous peoples, including those living in urban contexts, women, youth, older persons and LGBTI members and those living in urban contexts. Special attention should be paid to the needs and rights of Indigenous peoples living in transborder territories, including transborder cooperation between the concerned States, particularly in the Amazon region.
- Consult and cooperate in good faith with indigenous peoples, through their own representative institutions, to ensure that their views and specific rights and needs are included, when adopting and implementing legislative, administrative, policy, budgetary or regulatory measures in response to COVID-19, that may impact their lives.
- The right of Indigenous peoples to be consulted with the objective of obtaining their free, prior and informed consent remains applicable during the pandemic. Seek to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples when making decisions directly affecting them, including in the prevention and containment of the disease.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. Under the right of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination, FAO encourages Governments to include Indigenous peoples' representatives, leaders and traditional authorities in emergency and health response committees or any entity dedicated to the COVID 19 pandemic, both during the outbreak as well as in the aftermath.
8. FAO calls to not implement any policy, programme or intervention that affects Indigenous peoples without obtaining previously their Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues

- Engaging with Indigenous peoples' representative institutions about the impact of COVID-19 on these communities and assess their needs and requirements to prevent and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the participation of elders, women, children and adolescents, and Indigenous persons with disabilities. (pg 2)
- Ensuring the inclusion of Indigenous peoples' views and needs in the programmes and aid efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, through their participation and consultation, as envisaged in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. (pg 2)
- Promoting dialogue between Indigenous peoples and health and science experts on approaches to isolation, testing, access to health services and access to scientific information, even in remote areas. (pg 2)
- Promoting dialogue between state and Indigenous peoples' institutions on COVID-19 response measures, including aid efforts, to ensure that Indigenous peoples' views and needs are included; and with a view to striking a balance

between public health concerns and safeguarding the right of Indigenous peoples to be consulted with the objective of obtaining their free, prior and informed consent. (pg 2)

- Strengthening the inclusion of Indigenous peoples' representatives in emergency and health response committees or other mechanisms dedicated to the COVID-19 pandemic, both during the outbreak as well as in the aftermath. (pg 2)

Pan American Health Organization

- It is important to encourage social participation and strategic partnerships with Indigenous peoples, Afro descendants, and members of other ethnic groups, as appropriate to the national context, ensuring the representation of both women and men in COVID-19 activities. (pg 6)
- Governments will promote opportunities for participation and dialogue, not only to deal with the effects of COVID-19 specifically but to manage the post-emergency response phase, in which activities to promote economic and social recovery will be necessary. (pg 6)
- Insofar as possible, efforts should be made to encourage and facilitate the sharing of good practices among Indigenous peoples, communities, and organizations in the Region in terms of measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic and provide care to families and territories. (pg 6)
- Intersectoral activities should be promoted, since responding to the needs of different ethnic groups will require the engagement of multiple actors. Each measure promoted by the government should take the cultural realities of its peoples into account and be developed with the participation of the various groups, coordinating with suitable spokespersons from every community. (pg 10)

- Consideration should also be given to action aimed at protecting Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, and members of other ethnic groups living outside their territories. This includes people living in marginalized areas, people displaced by violence, and migrants, including those who have migrated for economic reasons. These situations should be reviewed and borne in mind so that differentiated approaches can be taken. (pg 10)

Working Group on Indigenous Populations/ Communities in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

- The Working Group urges the States Parties concerned to take into consideration the way of life of Indigenous peoples in all decisions taken for the prevention and control of COVID-19 with a view to addressing their specific needs for a strategic response to this epidemic among Indigenous populations/communities.
- The Working Group calls upon States Parties to involve representatives of Indigenous populations/communities with a view to obtaining their free, prior and informed consent in decision-making and actions concerning them in respect of COVID-19.
- The Working Group further urges States Parties to ensure that COVID-19 responses are designed and implemented in a way, which respect fundamental human rights and which do not lead to persecution and violence towards vulnerable groups, including Indigenous populations.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

- Be inclusive. It is in the interest of everyone that emergency measures do not inadvertently fail to encompass the needs of all groups in society. Governments should strive to consult with a wide range of social groups in the design and implementation of their responses. If specific groups indicate that their needs have not been met, adjust the measures to include them. This principle is also relevant for the recovery phase.



2. Information & Data Access

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

97. Indigenous peoples are encouraged to share information with State authorities and independent institutions such as national human rights institutions on the public health and human rights situation they face during the pandemic, provided that such authorities reciprocate and respect the continuing right of Indigenous peoples to control their information. Indigenous peoples are also encouraged to share their good practices and traditional knowledge to inform solutions for the wider society.
101. Indigenous peoples in urban and rural settings should receive timely and accurate information on care and prevention during the pandemic, as well as, for instance, on support services for victims of gender-based violence during any periods of confinement, in accessible languages and formats (radio, social media, easy-read) that have been identified by the communities. States should also fund Indigenous peoples' own initiatives in this regard.
100. Data on Indigenous women, children, elders, persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex and two-spirit persons in the health-care system should be systematically collected and analysed to identify and address any discrimination in the impact of measures or in access to health care, recognizing the potentially differing experiences of Indigenous peoples living in urban settings, Indigenous communities (including in voluntary isolation and in initial contact) and mixed settings.

91. The collective right of Indigenous peoples to health entails the possibility of running their own health-care systems and applying a holistic approach to health care, incorporating their rights to culture, land, language and the natural environment.

Union of BC Indian Chiefs

- Instances of COVID-19 Infection: First Nations are calling upon the Governments of British Columbia (regional health authorities), and Canada (the FNHA, and ISC) to streamline the formal processes by which critical information – regarding confirmed and potential instances of COVID-19 infection – is disseminated to impacted First Nations. (pg 18)
- Information Overload: First Nations are requesting some degree of coordination between the FNLC, the FNHA, regional health authorities, ISC, and EMBC to limit the amount of duplicate information being presented to communities faced with reduced administrative capacities. (pg 18)
- Customer Service Capacity: First Nations are recommending that the Governments of British Columbia and Canada increase their customer service capacities as there have been significant delays in the receipt of appropriate responses to questions regarding time sensitive concerns (including funding opportunities, and the delivery of essential supplies and/or support services). These capacity increases should include improved staff training, more effective internal communications processes, and stronger communications processes between governmental bodies. There were frequent reports of customer service staff stating that they were unsure of the answer (claiming that they would 'check,' and subsequently failing to respond), or providing

inaccurate/contradictory information. First Nations further reported that having a dedicated customer service representative/agent at ISC, EMBC, the FNHA, and/or regional health authorities significantly improved the accuracy, and timeliness of responses. (pg 18)

- Financial Transparency: UBCIC members have consistently voiced concerns over the lack of financial transparency displayed by public bodies tasked with providing vital services to First Nations communities. There was a general dissatisfaction expressed by First Nations over the delivery of essential emergency funding, supplies, and support services by the Governments of British Columbia and Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic. First Nations are specifically calling for increased accountability, and improved financial transparency for the following public bodies: the FNHA, ISC, and EMBC. (pg 18)

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- All Indigenous peoples will require timely and accurate information on all aspects of the pandemic, in their Indigenous languages, and in culturally sensitive formats.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

- I urge you to take immediate steps to ensure that Indigenous peoples are informed, protected and prioritized during the COVID-19 global health pandemic. In this respect, information in Indigenous languages is important to ensure it is accessible and followed.

The UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

- Ensure that women and girls have access to COVID-19 public health messages: The public health response must include the formulation and dissemination of targeted messaging on issues that address the different contexts and concerns of Indigenous women and girls.

The Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights

- Ensure the collection of disaggregated data, including on rates of indigenous peoples' infection, mortality, economic effects and gender-based violence.
- Ensure that timely, accessible and accurate information about prevention and care, how to seek help in case of symptoms, and what is being done to address the pandemic, is made available to indigenous peoples living in their ancestral territories and in urban contexts, in as many indigenous languages and formats (oral, written, childfriendly) as possible.
- Support information campaigns with and for indigenous peoples on the pandemic, including health information specific to persons with disabilities, communicated in accessible modes, means and formats and developed in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities and indigenous representatives.⁴⁹ Provide information on preventive measures in indigenous languages, and through their own representatives and institutions, to ensure information is accessible and culturally appropriate and inclusive to all, including

indigenous persons with disabilities.⁵⁰ Involve indigenous youth in the dissemination of COVID-19 related messages within the communities, particularly through social media.

- Ensure access to information about preventive measures and support services for victims of gender-based violence and about how to access essential sexual and reproductive health services during the pandemic.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

2. FAO urges the global, regional and national health instances to provide contention information and audiovisual materials to Indigenous peoples and to support their translation and dissemination in Indigenous languages.
3. Local Indigenous communities often do not have full command of mainstream languages. To avoid communication breakdowns that will spread the disease, all main hygiene, quarantine and contention messages should be shared with the traditional leaders and youth leaders and translated into local Indigenous languages.
4. Involve Indigenous youth in the dissemination of COVID-19 messages within the communities both in mainstream languages as well as in local Indigenous languages, their command of social media makes them a fundamental player in this situation.

International Labour Organization

- Together with Indigenous peoples' representative institutions, develop and disseminate culturally appropriate information in Indigenous languages for preventing the spread of COVID-19, including information

accessible for persons with disabilities. (pg 5)

Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues

- Support information campaigns with and for Indigenous peoples on the COVID-19 pandemic, providing them with information on preventive measures in Indigenous languages, and through their own representatives and institutions to ensure information is accessible and culturally appropriate, including for Indigenous persons with disabilities. (pg 2)
- Promoting and supporting Indigenous peoples in data collection on the impact of COVID-19 by ensure that data is disaggregated by ethnicity to allow an analysis of the impact of the pandemic on Indigenous peoples. (pg 3)
- Encouraging the media to produce non-discriminatory and culturally appropriate content on COVID-19. (pg 3)

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

54. Provide information about the pandemic in their traditional language, and where possible, provide intercultural facilitators who can help them clearly understand the measures the State has taken and the effects of the pandemic.

Organization of American States General Secretariat

- Keep citizens and representative Indigenous organizations informed of the extraordinary measures adopted by states and coordinate, in advance,

with the local authorities those to be implemented within their Indigenous lands and territories. (pg 42)

- Ensure that disaggregated sociocultural and epidemiological information on Indigenous peoples is available, for example, on the prevalence of chronic diseases in Indigenous peoples as a risk factor, in order to improve COVID-19 prevention, management, and containment measures. To achieve this, it is recommended that ethnicity variables be incorporated in the administrative health records used in connection with this pandemic. (pg 42)

Working Group on Indigenous Populations/ Communities in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

- The Working Group urges States Parties to make every effort to ensure that Indigenous peoples have access to information on measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including translation into local Indigenous languages and the use of accessible means of communication.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

- Be sensitive to language needs. States should provide basic services in the languages used by various communities as far as possible, especially in healthcare and in communications about the health crisis and official responses. People with limited knowledge of the official language(s) can become particularly vulnerable if they cannot understand what is expected from them. Distance learning programmes should accommodate the needs of

all communities. Children belonging to minority groups should be able to continue learning in the official language, along with their mother tongue.

Pan American Health Organization

- Organize and participate in intercultural dialogues to inform members of the community about the measures to be adopted with respect to COVID-19. All information should be discussed to prevent the dissemination of messages that are not understood by Indigenous communities. (pg 8)
 - It is necessary to know whether the population can read its mother tongue in order to broadcast radio messages prepared by the community. (pg 8)
 - Protocols and recommendations should contain information that is easily understood, so that the ideas can be conveyed to the community. (pg 8)
 - Include the ethnicity variable in health registries to produce important information for tailoring COVID 19 interventions to the needs of the different populations. (pg 9)
 - Specific steps must be taken to ensure that these populations have access to information about practices for preventing and managing COVID-19 in their communities, including household practices. While translation into local Indigenous languages is particularly important, other aspects of communication with these groups are also very important in the context of COVID-19. Messages must be culturally appropriate, bearing in mind the customs and lifestyles of the population in question. Whenever possible, symbols and images should also be used to make the message more understandable. Such images should be suited to the cultural context, and technical and inappropriate language should be avoided. (pg 9)
- The information should also be culturally aligned with the different world views of Indigenous peoples: although a message may have the same prevention objective for the population as a whole, it will differ in form. These forms should be validated by the Indigenous populations themselves. The images used in documents or social media should be inclusive and never stigmatize or stereotype Indigenous peoples, Afro descendants, or others. (pg 9)
 - It is important for the information to be accessible to the community. Thus, it is necessary to know whether the majority of the community communicates orally and whether radio spots or other communications media are used, to ensure that messages effectively reach the population. (pg 9)
 - Actions and policies should focus on eradicating racism and discrimination against these groups, making it important to have information for decision-making. However, when considering whether to divulge microdata on health issues that include Indigenous peoples, Afro descendants, or members of other ethnic groups, it is important not to provide information that permits individual or collective identification that could result in or amplify stigma and lead to discrimination against these populations. (pg 10)



3. Planning & Delivery of Healthcare

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

96. Indigenous authorities, communities and associations should prepare or update contingency plans for pandemics, identifying the areas they can manage entirely independently and those where they may require support. The plans should include options for the isolation of sick members of the community, as well as a communication tree, clearly identifying the counterparts within the local and regional governments with which they will coordinate or collaborate. They should designate individuals within the community as focal points for implementation.
98. States should update pandemic contingency plans and laws and ensure that such plans include specific measures and dedicated funding for Indigenous peoples, and identify specific proactive communication channels, such as a directory with contact information for chiefs and other leaders, including in urban areas. States should also rely on Indigenous knowledge to inform their overall responses.
99. To respect the rights to self-determination and self-governance, States and Indigenous communities should prepare forward-looking tailored health-care and prevention protocols and virus containment measures, on the basis of transparent and accountable two-way consultation with representatives of Indigenous authorities and organizations. Any emergency or unplanned State measures that could have an impact on the rights of Indigenous peoples must first receive their free prior and informed consent, if necessary with the assistance of intercultural facilitators to explain the necessity and impact of the measures. The specific

situation of Indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation must be taken into account, and planning may involve collaboration with other non-isolated Indigenous communities in the area.

102. Health-care protocols and preventive measures applicable to Indigenous peoples should take into account their distinctive concepts of health, including their traditional medicine. They should be jointly developed and delivered by State health institutions and Indigenous health systems that complement each other. Where distinct Indigenous health structures do not exist, States should support their creation. States should also coordinate with Indigenous peoples to ensure continuity of medical care for non-COVID Indigenous patients.

Union of BC Indian Chiefs

- First Nations are calling for the FNLC to engage in advocacy, and governmental policy reform work to address the systemic racism rampant within Canada's health care sector, and further evidenced in everyday acts of racial violence born from ignorance, and fear. (pg 21)

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

- Of special concern are the vulnerable chronically ill, those in medical fragility, as well as the Indigenous elders. The Indigenous elders are a priority for our communities as our keepers of history and traditions and cultures.
- We also ask Member States to ensure that Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact exercise their right to self-determination and their decision to be isolated be respected. Any plan or protective measures to address Indigenous peoples in

voluntary isolation and initial contact should be multidisciplinary and follow agreed protocols and international recommendations such as the recommendations of the Inter American Commission on Human Rights.

The UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

- Proposals must furthermore include designated safe spaces for Indigenous women to safely report abuse. They must also integrate violence prevention efforts and essential services into COVID-19 response plans, while supporting culturally appropriate shelters and other Indigenous women's organizations on the front lines of the response.
- National Plans for Combating COVID-19 must include activities and funds for addressing limited access to health, including reproductive health services, that Indigenous women and adolescent girls frequently face, as well as the poor health outcomes of those who have experienced early marriage and female genital mutilation.
- During testing and treatment for COVID-19, health systems must be mindful of the importance of respecting interculturality and the positive dimensions of Indigenous peoples' cultural practices, traditions and values in health delivery

The Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights

- Take into account Indigenous peoples' distinctive concepts of health, which are inextricably linked with the realization of other rights, including the rights to self-determination, development, culture, land, language and the natural environment.
- Create plans to provide non-discriminatory access to culturally acceptable, age and gender-sensitive healthcare; sexual and reproductive health services should be included as well.
- Provide access to personal protective equipment, testing and urgent emergency care paramount for Indigenous peoples. Protect, recognize and provide Indigenous midwives, as frontline health workers, with the same personal protective equipment as other frontline health workers.
- Pay particular attention to ensure that the health crisis does not lead to an increase in maternal mortality among Indigenous women and adolescent girls. Ensure that health structures for Indigenous women receive adequate funds to assist them.
- Provide targeted attention to Indigenous people living in urban contexts, by supporting local health committees in urban areas, and involving Indigenous health representatives in the prevention and treatment of patients with COVID-19, without discrimination.
- Ensure that no one is denied treatment on the basis of disability, as well as any form of medical bias against Indigenous persons with disabilities. Identify and remove barriers to treatment, including ensuring accessible environments.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

5. FAO urges health entities to include in their response an intercultural approach that takes into consideration traditional Indigenous health care takers, training them in all the relevant contention measures and use of equipment to stop the spreading of the virus.
6. FAO requests Governments and health organizations to include Indigenous peoples' communities among the receivers of contention material such as masks, gloves, disinfectant and other contention materials.
7. FAO urges Governments to include Indigenous peoples in their countries as recipients of health assistance like any other citizen of the country, including them among the population share that is tested for possible positive COVID-19 cases.

International Labour Organization

- Ensure that measures taken to enhance the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of health services also benefit Indigenous peoples, are culturally appropriate and ensure effective access to health care, including COVID-19 testing and treatment. (pg 5-6)
- Strengthen access of Indigenous people to health services, including community-based services taking into account their cultures and conditions, as well as their traditional preventive care, healing practices and medicines. (pg 6)

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

56. Take utmost measures to protect the human rights of Indigenous peoples in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, bearing in mind that these groups are entitled to receive health care that is culturally appropriate, and that takes into account traditional preventive care, healing practices, and traditional medicines.

Organization of American States General Secretariat

- The preventive and care measures adopted and implemented must be culturally and linguistically appropriate, must take into account the practices and customs of the Indigenous peoples that live in national territories, and must guarantee the use of methodologies and tools that allow the transmission of information in native languages, relevant to their culture, in a clear and simple way. (pg 42)
- Use the physical and/or technological means or supports available, that are most used and accessible to Indigenous peoples, to disseminate the measures to be implemented. (pg 42)
- Culturally contextualize the measures adopted by states, using the concepts, messages, and indications that are pertinent to the social, cultural, and economic reality of Indigenous peoples. Likewise, consider the geographical and climatological conditions of the places where Indigenous peoples live in order to ensure the relevance and effectiveness of the measures adopted. (pg 42-43)

- Guarantee access of Indigenous populations and strengthen the operational capacity of the first-tier health care facilities of Indigenous peoples for the prevention, management, and containment of the pandemic, guaranteeing the availability of personnel, medicines, supplies, and medical equipment. (pg 43)

Pan American Health Organization

- Health personnel should work hand-in-hand with Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and other ethnic groups to develop recommendations acceptable to these groups to protect their health. Communication methods include intercultural dialogues, exchanges, and councils. These recommendations are reviewed with the community leader, who, based on his or her understanding of the situation, will distribute the work among members of the community. (pg 6)
- The programmed activities should be part of a specific plan agreed on by the health system and the Indigenous or Afro-descendant populations. (pg 8)
- Relations between the health sector and Indigenous and Afro-descendant leaders need to be strengthened, taking into account their different world views and their understanding of health and disease, among other things, to jointly develop effective prevention and protection measures for families and communities in the face of the pandemic. (pg 9)

- Respect for traditional medicine should be promoted through the use of traditional plants, practices, and customs, understanding the meaning they hold for Indigenous peoples, as well as their potential contribution to Western medicine; governments should adopt strategies to take advantage of this knowledge. (pg 10)
- Ongoing epidemiological surveillance should be conducted by Indigenous health workers and health promoters, who will report on the health status of the population and make timely referrals to the health services. (pg 10)
- Consider the traditions and customs of Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and members of other ethnic groups for dead body management in the context of COVID-19. (pg 11)



4. Prevention & Containment Measures

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

103. States should support, and when requested assist in the enforcement of, any decision by Indigenous communities to restrict access to their territories to prevent virus spread. Where health professionals from outside the community enter the community, for example, for mobile testing clinics, such persons may in principle be expected to have tested negative for the virus before arrival.
103. Nationwide lockdown and quarantine measures should be non-discriminatory in their application and enforcement, demonstrably necessary and proportionate, authorized for specific prescribed periods of time (potentially subject to renewal) and compliant with international human rights laws and standards. Such measures must accommodate Indigenous peoples' traditional way of life, practices and institutions to mitigate any disproportionate impact on them.
103. If States close or restrict border crossings, special safeguards should protect the rights of Indigenous peoples whose families, communities or peoples are divided by the borders.
108. Regular evidence-based evaluation of prevention and containment measures should take place with the participation of Indigenous authorities and organizations.

Union of BC Indian Chiefs

- Re-Opening Public Parks: First Nations are requesting that the reopening of public parks (local, and provincial) be delayed until such time that communities are confident that this will not pose a threat to the health and safety of their community members.

This will require the support of local municipalities and the Government of British Columbia. (pg 21)

- Public Knowledge and Enforcement: First Nations are seeking increased support from municipal/provincial/federal governments in both communicating crucial information regarding community isolation protocols to the general public and enforcing these isolation protocols. This is a critical concern for First Nations facing extensive resource extraction, seasonal tree planting, industrial development, and non-subsistence hunting/fishing activities within their traditional territories. One anonymous First Nation suggested stricter punishments – steep fines – for those individuals, and/or companies which breach these protocols. (pg 21)
- Emergency Response Plan Templates: UBCIC members are requesting emergency response templates specifically geared towards public health crises such as epidemics/pandemics. This could be relayed to EMBC, the Government of British Columbia given that these public bodies have already produced such materials. (pg 22)
- Inter-Community Support Network: Chief Don Tom, Tsartlip First Nation, has suggested that the FNLC facilitate conference sessions, or round table discussions in which First Nations from across the province can share their experiences and ask questions aimed at improving their emergency response capacities. This would provide an opportunity for communities to benefit from the extensive knowledge held by First Nations who have successfully met the needs of their community members through funding applications, partnerships with both public bodies and private entities, etc. (pg 22)

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- It is imperative that sanitary cordons preventing outsiders from entering their territories are strictly controlled to avoid any contact. In order to limit the spread of Covid-19, several communities of Indigenous peoples have taken the initiative to put in place containment measures and controls at the entrance to their territories. We welcome these initiatives and call on States to respect and support them.
- The requirement to remain in quarantine will also require measures taken by the State, in partnership with Indigenous peoples, to control entry by non-Indigenous peoples or non-essential health care workers onto Indigenous land. Such measures should also mitigate against encroachment upon Indigenous land by opportunists, or invaders such as illegal loggers and miners.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

- Further States must prevent outsiders from entering into their territories.

The Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights

- Put in place measures for strict control over the entry of any person in Indigenous territories - in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and their representative institutions - including health professionals,

- public officials, visitors and partner institutions. Any person entering Indigenous territories should be tested for COVID-19 and undergo a medical evaluation beforehand. These measures should not, however, hamper the delivery of medical and humanitarian assistance to Indigenous peoples in times of emergency or the transit of those seeking to move outside their community for medical assistance.
- Allow Indigenous people to leave their territories when needed and provide them with appropriate shelter and accommodation. If freedom of movement needs to be restricted due to public health reasons, such limitations must comply with international human rights law and standards and be respectful of traditional Indigenous practices and beliefs.
- Indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation or initial contact should be particularly protected. 88 States and other parties should categorize Indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation or initial contact as groups in particularly vulnerable situations.
- Sanitary cordons that prevent outsiders from entering the territories of these peoples should be strictly implemented to avoid any contact. However, the presence of such cordons should not lead to a complete halt in existing communication efforts between the State and the Indigenous (non-isolated) communities living near them.
- States should dialogue and work together with non-isolated Indigenous leaders living near or in the same territories as Indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation or initial contact, so as to be informed of any possible outbreaks within such communities. This way, they

can ensure their protection from the spread of the pandemic in Indigenous territories.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

9. The right of Indigenous Peoples to be or remain in Voluntary Isolation must be respected
10. Several Indigenous Peoples communities have self-imposed quarantine and have established controls to limit access to their communities. These mechanisms should be respected and reinforced whenever requested.
11. FAO urges Governments to intensify protection measures to stop external farmers, settlers, private firms, industries and miners from entering Indigenous peoples' territories taking advantage of the present crisis.

International Labour Organization

- Support prevention measures taken by Indigenous peoples themselves based on their cultures and traditions, such as "community closures", in coordination with the State's preventive measures, and taking action against unauthorized intrusion upon Indigenous peoples' lands or territories. (pg 5)
- Ensure effective inclusion of Indigenous peoples in social assistance, cash transfers or in-kind benefits, as well as in income support during sickness and self-isolation particularly in the context of extension of insurance coverage as an emergency measure. (pg 6)
- Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues

Support the right of Indigenous peoples to be or remain in voluntary isolation. Several Indigenous Peoples communities have self-imposed quarantine and have established controls to limit access to their communities. (pg 3)

Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues

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Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

55. Respect unconditionally non-contact with Indigenous peoples or groups who are in voluntary isolation, given the very severe impact that contagion with the virus could have on their livelihood and survival as a people.

Organization of American States General Secretariat

- Indigenous women are in a situation of greater vulnerability to COVID-19 as they experience various forms of exclusion and discrimination within and outside their community; therefore, it must be guaranteed that the prevention and containment measures adopted by states guarantee their right to health under equal conditions. (pg 43)
- Provide intercultural training to health personnel so that the preventive actions and care provided are culturally relevant and free from all types of discrimination. (pg 43)

- Guarantee that health personnel and other state agents who enter Indigenous territories are in optimal health and are not carriers of COVID-19. (pg 43)
- Adopt measures that guarantee food security and access to basic hygiene items for Indigenous peoples who may be affected by compulsory social isolation measures (quarantines). (pg 43)
- In the case of Indigenous peoples in isolation and initial contact, suspend the exceptional authorizations to enter reserves intended to protect this population with the exception of activities that the health sector requires. Likewise, carry out epidemiological surveillance of populations living around the territories of these peoples, effectively creating a "ring of sanitary protection." Also, intensify the sanitary security protocols for cases of members of the Indigenous peoples in a situation of initial contact who are treated in various health units, as well as for their ground and/or air transfers to and from their settlements. (pg 43)

Working Group on Indigenous Populations/ Communities in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

- The Working Group calls upon States Parties with Indigenous populations/ communities in their territories to take all appropriate measures for the protection of Indigenous communities from contamination by COVID-19 through proper prevention due to their vulnerability.



5. Mitigating Socio-Economic Impacts & Protecting Human Rights

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

108. States should provide additional protection to Indigenous and other human rights defenders who may be at additional risk due to confinement or other measures. States should recognize the monitoring and reporting of human rights violations and abuses by defenders as an essential service that should be permitted to continue.
109. Emergency powers must not be abused to quash dissent or silence Indigenous leaders and rights defenders. States should urgently remove or reduce the presence of State militaries in Indigenous territories and communities. Attacks on Indigenous, land, environmental and women human rights defenders must be stopped, perpetrators held accountable and access to justice and remedy and reparation guaranteed.
110. In designing and implementing economic and social recovery plans, States must respect, protect and promote Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination, including autonomy and self-governance, particularly their rights to control the use of and access to their lands and resources, and to operate their own health and educational systems. Relevant processes and plans must be driven by Indigenous peoples themselves with the financial and material support of States, with a leadership role for Indigenous women. Given pre-existing marginalization exacerbated by the pandemic, housing, access to food, health care and education for Indigenous peoples, in both rural and urban contexts, should be a priority.

Union of BC Indian Chiefs

- Governmental Support Services: Chief Judy Wilson, Neskonlith Indian Band, is calling for the Governments of British Columbia and Canada to take responsibility for the on-going administration of essential governmental support services related to the mitigation/prevention of domestic violence, and child abuse/neglect, and the treatment of drug/alcohol addiction, and other mental health concerns during public health crises. (pg 22)

The UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

- Ensure poverty analysis remains a dynamic process during as well as after the COVID crisis and in such procedures, prioritize data collection and analysis by sex, ethnicity, race and location.
- Advocate for strengthening existing social protection mechanisms (e.g., cash and in-kind benefits, including social insurance schemes). In this same context, ensure that ongoing fiscal response packages are implemented in an equitable manner and straddling this with the principle of leave no one behind.
- Consult Indigenous women's groups through innovative means, to secure their views on equitable approaches for designing, reviewing and implementing stimulus packages.
- Address malnutrition among Indigenous children and meet their ongoing food and educational needs through school meal programmes and access to learning opportunities. In doing so, take full account of potential discrimination against Indigenous girls in the distribution and implementation of such services.
- Bear in mind that Indigenous women and girls are leaders in their own right, as seen in their dynamic contributions to global, regional and national agendas, such as those related to climate action and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
- Invest in measures that ensure Indigenous women's access to the highest attainable standard of health, including and sexual and reproductive health and reverse disproportionate high levels of maternal mortality.
- Break the silence on violence against Indigenous women and girls and enhance the evidence through longitudinal research, data collection and analysis by sex, race, disability, ethnicity and location.
- Recognize the traditional management systems of Indigenous women, who also possess both original and usufructuary rights to lands (e.g., nomadic systems, shifting cultivation).
- Help ensure that Indigenous women maintain decision making rights on issues related to maintenance of their ancestral lands, and sacred and cultural sites.
- Support the reform of discriminatory legislation and policies affecting Indigenous women's collective and individual property and family rights
- Assist in increasing access to land tenure and livelihoods, including entrepreneurship, and access to formal markets and financial mechanisms.
- Build capacities in resilience, disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation with a gender and intercultural inclusion perspective.
- Encourage the full participation of Indigenous women in all aspects of public life as well as in economic policy and decision-making at the local and national levels.

- Improve and/or help develop intercultural and gender-responsive services, including justice, transport, utilities, markets, water and energy, and green technology.
- Enhance collaboration and partnerships with human rights defenders who are at the frontline in the defense of Indigenous peoples' ancestral lands, natural resources and livelihoods.
- When starting the recovery phase, UN country teams should support governments in accelerating the comprehensive implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, including by advancing Indigenous women's participation in public life; free, prior and informed consent; bodily autonomy; self-determination and collective and individual rights. These steps should go hand in hand with the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with emphasis on leaving no one behind.

The Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights

- Avoid removal of Indigenous peoples from their lands; diminishing or using Indigenous lands for military activity, especially for the duration of this pandemic.
- Put in place support schemes to address the socio-economic effects of COVID-19, including threats to their traditional livelihood, food insecurity and food sovereignty. For Indigenous peoples not to be left behind, there should be an expansion of safety net programs to include those most affected by the coronavirus, including ensuring food access in isolated areas.

- Include Indigenous peoples in economic and disaster relief packages, which must be respectful of traditional dietary requirements.
- Ensure that the specific needs of Indigenous women and girls are addressed in measures to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

12. FAO has always been urging governments to stop any planned or ongoing evictions of Indigenous peoples. Its call is renewed and heightened given the context of the health emergency for COVID-19.

International Labour Organization

- Undertake rapid assessments of the economic impacts of COVID-19 on Indigenous women and men in the informal economy, both workers and entrepreneurs, for developing support measures, targeting sectors and occupations in which Indigenous women and men are engaged or certain geographic areas. (pg 5)
- Develop occupational safety and health measures for facilitating back to work transitions that are culturally appropriate and responsive to the needs of Indigenous workers and entrepreneurs, both in the formal and informal economy. (pg 6)
- Support for small enterprises and cooperatives of Indigenous and tribal peoples, with a focus on local and rural communities and facilitating transitions to formality and access to markets. (pg 6)
- Promote Indigenous women's empowerment, including through access to jobs, entrepreneurship support, access to land and credit,

protection against violence and harassment, and developing culturally sensitive policies that address care needs amongst Indigenous groups. (pg 6)

- Boost Indigenous youth employment, with a focus on skills and vocational training and green jobs. (pg 6)
- Support employment intensive investment programmes (community works and community contracting). (pg 6)
- Build inclusive social protection systems, including floors, which guarantee at least effective access to essential health care and a basic level of income security for all. (pg 6)
- Promote payments for ecosystem services as a policy tool addressing social and environmental objectives. (pg 6)
- Promote dialogue and collaboration between employers' and workers' organizations and Indigenous peoples' organizations. (pg 6)

Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues

- Condemning attacks on Indigenous human rights defenders and land and environmental defenders that are happening under the pretext of or with the excuse of COVID-19 response. (pg 3)
- Promoting the rights of Indigenous women who risk being disproportionately impacted due to their prominent roles in the informal economy and as care givers. Particular attention should be paid to: ensuring that Indigenous women benefit equally from social protection and stimulus interventions; preventing and responding to violence which is escalating as result of stay at home policies; and ensuring

that already burdened health systems do not result in an escalation of the existing alarming rates of maternal mortality among Indigenous women and adolescent girls. (pg 3)

- Ensuring that the rights of Indigenous peoples particularly at risk, including elders, women, Indigenous peoples with disabilities, children and adolescents, sexual minorities based on sexual orientation and gender identity, Indigenous people living with HIV and other underlying health conditions, are addressed in measures to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic. (pg 3)
- Strengthening Indigenous peoples' livelihoods and local economies in the context of relief and recovery policies and programmes, (for instance through facilitating supplychain management including for crops, ensuring access to markets, and support for Indigenous entrepreneurship and cooperatives), as means for sustaining their communities and securing resilience and self-reliance. (pg 3)

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

- Uphold human rights. It is essential to ensure that persons belonging to national minorities are treated equally and enjoy basic human rights, especially to health and to accurate, easy-to-understand and timely information, without discrimination of any kind, at all times, including when introducing short-term emergency measures.
- Protect the economically vulnerable. The economic repercussions of the crisis will hit those in precarious employment first and hardest. This

includes guest workers, informal labourers and persons belonging to marginalized communities, including those with a minority background. There is a real risk that they may fall into poverty and social exclusion. Women, who often bear additional responsibilities in their households or are on the frontlines of healthcare provision, may also be disproportionately affected. This is especially the case for women from minority communities that may experience double discrimination.

- Maintain zero tolerance for discrimination and xenophobia. Authorities need to be especially vigilant in monitoring and combatting instances of intolerance and xenophobia and other forms of “otherization” based on identity, ethnicity, language, religion or culture. In times of uncertainty, deeply rooted anxieties can rise to the surface. If states consider using surveillance technologies to track the spread of the virus, this should not target any groups disproportionately.
- Build on positive examples to promote social cohesion. There have been many positive examples of inclusive communication among communities and measures that target all groups regardless of their background in the OSCE States. Zannier said: “Any examples of inclusivity in our approaches to this crisis are cause for optimism and are key for the health, stability and resilience of our societies.”



6. Funding & Support

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

93. The Special Rapporteur encourages all Member States and other international actors to act collectively and in solidarity to rapidly scale up emergency support for Indigenous peoples in all their diversities, including for sufficient and culturally appropriate testing, personal protective equipment and treatment and for community services such as those relating to water and sanitation, health and social protection. Distribution of relief should never discriminate against anyone on such grounds as Indigenous status, ethnicity, race, nationality (including statelessness), disability, age, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Union of BC Indian Chiefs

- **Indigenous Community Support Fund:** First Nations are requesting that the UBCIC and the FNLC advocate for a reassessment of the formula used to determine the dispensation of funding to communities during public health crises such as epidemics/pandemics. (pg 19)
- **Economic Restart Planning:** First Nations are calling for the Government of British Columbia to develop an effective economic restart plan which addresses the needs of their communities, including the allocation of direct economic stimulus funding for Indigenous businesses. (pg 19)
- **Technology and Connectivity:** There is a distinct need for connectivity infrastructure upgrades (expansion of telecommunication networks to rural areas, increased bandwidth capacity, extension of service to residential addresses), and technology upgrades (computers, house phones, smart phones, tablets, software, etc.). There

is a call for the establishment of a dedicated stream of funding for this particular purpose. (pg 19)

- **Health Services:** First Nations are requesting that the Governments of British Columbia and Canada invest substantial funding towards:
 - providing accessible province-wide COVID-19 testing – in both urban and rural regions – via hospitals, clinics, care facilities for those with mental/physical disabilities and/or seniors, community health service centres, and visiting nurses/ doctors;
 - acquiring sufficient supplies (determined on the basis of both current, and future needs) of PPE, and a variety sanitation products/ equipment;
 - improving the efficiency of those distribution networks by which these much needed supplies are distributed across the province – particularly to rural communities;
 - bolstering the capacity of emergency response services – air, ground, and sea ambulances – during public health emergencies such as epidemics/pandemics;
 - constructing, renovating, and/or retrofitting health service facilities to improve the capacity of First Nations to offer quality medical care to community members – including the provision of temporary (isolation) housing, and COVID-19 testing services. (pg 19-20)”
- **Recognition of Essential Services:** First Nations are calling for the recognition of a wider range of health care providers and community support staff as essential workers given the vital role of these workers in the insurance of community health and wellbeing. (pg 20)
- **Food Security:** First Nations are calling for the provision of substantial funding to improve food security (particularly in rural communities), implicating a variety of possible opportunities for investment. (pg 20)
- **Off-Reserve Members:** UBCIC members from across the province are requesting that additional funding for urban and/or off-reserve community members be provided to First Nations governments directly (rather than being channelled solely through a select number of Friendship Centres) during public health crises such as epidemics/pandemics. (pg 20)
- **Delivery of Emergency Support Services:** First Nations are calling for further funding to support the ongoing administration of vital support services during this public health crises given the depletion of both emergency and community funds during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic – as argued, the funding received allowed for the instigation, but not long-term maintenance of certain vital services. (pg 20)
- **Emergency Response Preparedness:** One anonymous First Nation suggested that there is a real potential for EMBC, ISC, the FNHA, and the FNLC to collaborate in the creation of comprehensive ‘check-lists’ detailing the essential supplies required for a range of emergency circumstances (including floods, tsunamis, forest fires, land/mudslides, epidemics/ pandemics). Municipalities, and First Nations governments could refer to these ‘check-lists’ when developing/ revising emergency response plans. However, a more effective approach would be for EMBC, ISC, the FNHA, and the FNLC to coordinate with First Nations governments to assess the emergency preparedness of communities across the province and

support the acquisition/distribution of required supplies based on these 'check-lists'. (pg 21)

- Community Isolation Enforcement: First Nations are seeking on-going funding (and financial reimbursement) for the employment of security guards and community guardians, and the purchase of signage (community closure notices), and physical (no-post cement) barriers. (pg 21)

The Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights

- Provide continuous access to sufficient clean water and soap to Indigenous peoples, particularly those living in the most vulnerable conditions. Water service continuity, where possible, should be maintained during the pandemic, including proper treatment and accessibility for all.
- For Indigenous areas unserved with safe drinking water, temporary measures should be taken to facilitate access to safe water, or to facilitate household water treatment

Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues

- Supporting access to safe drinking water, nutritious food, and sanitation facilities for Indigenous peoples, being respectful of Indigenous peoples' food systems during the pandemic. (pg 3)
- Supporting projects to make accessible mental health and psychosocial support available to Indigenous persons, particularly adolescents and young people. (pg 3)

- Ensuring access to remote learning opportunities, including low tech and no tech options, for children and young people affected by school closures.

Organization of American States General Secretariat

- Guarantee access to regular basic education for Indigenous children and adolescents through appropriate means in order to strengthen the development of healthy practices and habits that prevent COVID-19 as well as other diseases affecting Indigenous populations. (pg 43)

Working Group on Indigenous Populations/ Communities in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

- The Working Group further urges States Parties to take the necessary steps to ensure the health and well-being of vulnerable groups, including Indigenous populations/communities, by facilitating their access to safe drinking water, soap and sanitizers, accessible and appropriate health facilities and other basic social services.

Pan American Health Organization

- It is also important to take action to protect territories by promoting activities to provide food and clean water, soap, and disinfectant, as well as other basic supplies. (pg 10)
- Promote intersectoral action to tackle the social determinants of health that affect COVID-19 prevention among groups in conditions of vulnerability, especially Indigenous peoples. Specific measures should

be considered to protect populations living inside and outside their home territory, including people living in marginalized areas, people displaced by violence, and migrants. When adopting protective measures for populations living in their home territory, their housing and sanitation conditions, movements, means of transportation, commercial practices, and food security should be taken into account. (pg 11)



7. Environmental & Territorial Protection

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

92. Many Indigenous peoples rely on fragile ecosystems for their sustenance and survival. As they are already threatened by climate change, reducing environmental protection in the name of promoting economic recovery would disproportionately have an impact on Indigenous peoples. The pandemic must be an occasion for transformative change, including by ending the overexploitation of natural resources and emissions contributing to global warming, and reversing increasing socioeconomic inequality within and between nations.
106. Given the new pandemic-related risks, the resumption or continuation of business activity occurring on Indigenous territory should take place only with the renewed consent of concerned Indigenous peoples. States should consider a moratorium on all logging and extractive industries operating in proximity to Indigenous communities. Neither State authorities nor businesses should be permitted to exploit the situation to intensify activities to which Indigenous peoples have objected.
107. States should refrain from introducing legislation or approving extractive or similar projects in the territories of Indigenous peoples in any circumstance where measures against COVID-19 prevent proper consultation and consent. States should equally refrain from proceeding to or threatening Indigenous peoples with eviction of from their lands and seek to demilitarize Indigenous lands.
112. States should reinforce their commitments and actions aimed at curbing emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change, taking into consideration the specific

dependence of Indigenous peoples on their lands and natural resources, including by supporting environmental conservation projects and initiatives led by Indigenous peoples.

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- We also urge States to make a firm commitment to avoid: removal of Indigenous peoples from their lands; diminishing Indigenous lands; and using Indigenous lands for military activity, especially for the duration of this pandemic. In short, territorial protection will be a vital component of States' efforts to protect Indigenous peoples from the spread of the disease and contribute to their recovery after this crisis.

The Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights

- Support Indigenous peoples environmental conservation projects and initiatives in the Amazon region and elsewhere, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals, taking into account and highlighting their traditional knowledge, medicines and health practices
- Ensure Indigenous territorial protection and the health of Indigenous peoples during the pandemic by considering a moratorium on extractive mining, oil, and logging activities, industrial agriculture, and all religious proselytization⁷⁶ within or on the border of Indigenous territories,⁷⁷ and take mitigating measures against encroachment upon Indigenous land.

International Labour Organization

- Recognize and protect Indigenous peoples' rights to land and natural resources. (pg 6)

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

57. Refrain from introducing legislation and/or moving forward to carry out production and/or extractive projects in the territories of Indigenous peoples during the period the pandemic may last, given the impossibility of conducting prior informed and free consent processes (due to the recommendation of the World Health Organization (WHO) that social distancing measures be adopted) provided for in ILO Convention 169 and other pertinent international and national instruments.



8. Endorsements

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

94. The Special Rapporteur endorses already issued guidance and recommendations on the rights of Indigenous peoples in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including from OHCHR and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues.

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- We advise all States and UN agencies to take on board our advice herein, guided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as guidance provided by the OHCHR.

International Labour Organization

- Several countries with dedicated public institutions in charge of Indigenous peoples' affairs, for example Canada, Colombia, India, Mexico and Peru, have been able to take measures to prevent COVID-19 in Indigenous communities and provide targeted support to them. However, in many countries such institutions are still absent or in need of further strengthening to be able to ensure effective coordinated and systematic action for protecting the rights of Indigenous and tribal peoples as provided for in Convention No. 169. The COVID-19 crisis has brought these weaknesses to light, with governments often unable to respond adequately to the protection needs of Indigenous communities, with their full and effective participation. (pg 6)

Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues

- The United Nations system's actions and support to the pandemic should be responsive to the rights and needs of Indigenous peoples, guided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169). (pg 1)

Working Group on Indigenous Populations/ Communities in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

- The Working Group reaffirms the principles and recommendations made by the Commission in its Press Release of 28 February 2020 on the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis and in its Statement of 24 March 2020 on a human rights-based effective response to the novel COVID-19 virus in Africa.