



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 November 2021

English only

Commission for Social Development

Sixtieth session

7–16 February 2022

**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
Priority Theme: Inclusive and resilient recovery from
COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being, and dignity
for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and
dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda**

Statement submitted by UFER – Unis pour l'Équité et la Fin du Racisme/UFER – United for Equity and Ending Racism, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Indigenous Peoples hold unique approaches in response to the outstanding issues of COVID-19, poverty, hunger and the climate crisis. The legitimacy of Indigenous Peoples is not recognized by some governments and therefore they are excluded from formal participation in working for solutions.

Article 33 of the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** states in part: “Indigenous Peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions.” When governments do not recognize, respect and include the concept of Article 33 into their own mechanisms of governance, many Indigenous Peoples are excluded from formal decision-making processes.

Indigenous Peoples have been living on ancestral lands in harmony with nature for generations. Their insights must be considered when developing solutions to climate change which is key to the elimination of health pandemics, poverty and hunger.

Central to Indigenous culture is the transference to new generations of a sustainable way of living. When Indigenous Peoples are not recognized as legitimate socio-political actors, their wisdom is excluded from official efforts to confront and transform critical social problems.

We call upon this 60th session of the Commission on Social Development to address these obstacles and to request that UN Member States facilitate the recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in each country. By listening to and including Indigenous Peoples in political processes to confront and transform COVID-19, poverty, hunger and the climate crisis, new avenues for a better and sustainable future for all can be found.
