

**XXXIX**

**TECMUN**

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Permanent Forum of  
Indigenous Issues

XXXIX TECMUN  
Session Schedule

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**Tuesday, April 7th**

Registration	8:00 – 9:00 h
Opening Ceremony	9:00 – 10:00 h
Break	10:00 – 10:30 h
First Session	10:30 – 12:30 h
Break	12:30 – 13:00 h
Second Session	13:00 – 15:00 h
Meal	15:00 – 16:00 h
Third Session	16:00 – 18:00 h

**Wednesday, April 8th**

Master Conference	8:30 – 9:30 h
Break	9:30 – 10:00 h
Fourth Session	10:00 – 12:30 h
Break	12:30 – 13:00 h
Fifth Session	13:00 – 15:00 h
Meal	15:00 – 16:00 h
Sixth Session	16:00 – 18:00 h

**Thursday, April 9th**

Seven Session	8:00 – 9:30 h
Break	9:30 – 10:00 h
Eighth Session	10:00 – 12:00 h
Break	12:00 – 12:30 h
Ninth Session	12:30 – 13:45 h
Meal	13:45 – 14:30 h
Closing Ceremony	15:00 – 17:30 h

XXXIX TECMUN  
**General Agenda**

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*General Secretary: Abril Valdés Calva*

**GENERAL COORDINATION**

*Subsecretary of General Coordination: Mauro Carillo Gálvez*  
*Supervisor of General Coordination for Co. Secretariat: Ana Sofía Castañeda Hornedo*

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*General Subsecretary: Andrea Abigail Salazar López*  
*Supervisor of Coordination: Alexa Esmeralda Rivera Jiménez*

**Reunión de Alto Nivel Para la Asamblea General**

*Presidente: Claudia Guadalupe Pfeiffer Benítez*

**Tópico A)** Medidas para frenar el reclutamiento y la utilización de niños y adolescentes por actores armados no estatales del G9 Fanmi e Alye en la República de Haití.

**Tópico B)** Acciones para frenar la producción, distribución y monetización transnacional de pornografía infantil en el Sudeste Asiático.

**Cuarta Comisión Política Especial y de Descolonización**

*Presidente: Valentina Reyes Pardo*

**Topic A)** Mecanismos para prevenir el traslado de la población Israelí al territorio sirio de los Altos del Golán debido a la ocupación militar del Estado de Israel.

**Topic B)** Estrategias para frenar la fragmentación territorial de la República del Yemen debido al control del territorio por parte del movimiento hutí Ansar Allah

**Sixth Legal Committee**

*President: Miguel Ángel Pérez Rodríguez*

**Tópico A)** Mechanisms to regulate the application of immunity of State officials in Sub-Saharan Africa, with emphasis on international criminal jurisdiction.

**Tópico B)** Measures to control and address the transboundary environmental crimes in the Amazon with emphasis on international State responsibility and due diligence obligations.

**World Health Organization**

*President: María Fernanda Dominguez Heredia*

**Topic A)** Confronting the maternal and neonatal mortality emergency in Sub-Saharan Africa, driven by fragile healthcare systems, limited medical infrastructure, and deep social and economic inequalities.

**Topic B)** Responding to the health consequences of environmental disasters, resource scarcity, and climate-driven displacement with emphasis on the Pacific Ring of Fire.

**League of Arab States**

*President: David Trujillo Loza*

**Tópico A)** Strategies to mitigate the conflict between the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Extremist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) in the region of the Levant.

**Tópico B)** Strategies to eradicate the attacks by the Houthies held on the Red Sea, keeping an aim on shipments from the United States of America and the European Union.

**Comité des Disparitions Forcées**

*Président: Marian Robles Ortiz*

**Subjet A)** Mesures pour cesser les disparitions forcées et promouvoir la recherche des personnes concernées aux États-Unis Mexicains provoquées par le Cártel del Noreste dans la région nord-est du territoire.

**Subjet B)** Stratégies pour arrêter la disparition forcée dans la République d'Albanie en raison de la détention arbitraire et de l'emprisonnement sans processus judiciaire sous le régime du premier ministre Edi Rama.

**Organización Marítima Internacional**

*Presidente: José Guillermo Ramírez Fulgencio*

**Tópico A)** Estrategias para contrarrestar la introducción y propagación de especies marinas invasoras a través de la bioincrustación y el agua de lastre en Asia Oriental y el Sudeste Asiático.

**Tópico B)** Medidas para el fortalecimiento de la seguridad marítima y de las operaciones de búsqueda y rescate en el Mar Mediterráneo ante el aumento de embarcaciones irregulares

**Oficina de las Naciones Unidas Contra la Droga y el Delito**

*Presidente: Diego Alejandro Salazar Náfate*

**Tópico A)** Mecanismos para frenar el desvío de precursores químicos hacia redes de drogas sintéticas operadas por la 'Ndrangheta italiana entre Asia Oriental, América Latina y la Unión Europea.

**Tópico B)** Medidas para combatir la impunidad de la violencia sexual vinculado al tráfico armado entre Ucrania y la Federación de Rusia.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

*General Subsecretary: Samantha Salgado Nájjar*

*Supervisor of Coordination: Arantza Estrada Rios*

**Comisión en Justicia y Prevención del Crimen**

*Presidente: Valentina Ramírez Galindo*

**A)** Estrategias para combatir la trata de personas mediante plataformas digitales en América Latina, con énfasis en la captación de menores

**B)** Estrategias para fortalecer programas de justicia restaurativa juvenil en América Latina, con énfasis en contextos de violencia comunitaria y debilidad institucional en Honduras y El Salvador

### **Historical United Nations Program on AIDS/HIV**

*President: Emiliano Bautista Sosa*

**Topic A)** Strategies to Address the Ongoing Public Health and Social Crisis Related to HIV/AIDS in Haiti, with Emphasis on Reducing Stigmatization and Strengthening Health Infrastructure beginning in 1981.

**Topic B)** Strategies to Strengthen Early-Epidemic Detection and Community Protection Mechanisms, with Emphasis on the New York HIV/AIDS Outbreak of 1981–1984.

### **Convención de las Naciones Unidas en Contra de la Corrupción**

*Presidente: Javier Gil Rodríguez*

**Tópico Único)** Estrategias para regular la transparencia financiera y control electoral en América Latina con énfasis en el flujo de recursos económicos de origen ilícito en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela.

### **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

*President: Axl Paris Ortega Rodríguez*

**Topic A)** Strategies to Stop the Femoral Genital Mutilation as a Mechanism of Social Control over Indigenous Girls and Women in Rural Communities of Eastern Africa with Limited State Presence.

**Tópico B)** Measures to mitigate the use of indigenous territories as sacrifice zones, focusing on extreme violence and structural failures in the protection of rights in the Darién Gap.

### **Departamento de las Operaciones de la Paz**

*Presidente: Galia Sofía López Chacón*

**A)** Medidas para la protección de civiles y el establecimiento de mecanismos operativos seguros para el acceso humanitario con énfasis en la atención a víctimas de acoso sexual, derivados del conflicto armado interno en la República de Sudán.

**B)** Medidas para la protección de la población civil y la reducción de la violencia interétnica en Etiopía del Norte, mediante el fortalecimiento de la seguridad comunitaria y la presencia operativa de las misiones de paz de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas.

### **Comisión Económica y Social para Asia Occidental**

*Presidente: Yarezi Benítez Mendoza*

**A)** Estrategias para fortalecer la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional infantil debido al uso de alimentos inadecuados y la sedación farmacológica como respuesta al hambre aguda en contextos de conflicto, con énfasis en la República de Yemen

**B)** Acciones para erradicar y prevenir la explotación infantil laboral en Asia Occidental, con énfasis en la República Islámica de Irán

**Caribbean Community**

*President: Valeria Oropeza Pérez*

**A)** Measures to reduce youth unemployment in Barbados, Guyana, and Saint Lucia through regional access to education and technical training programs, addressing economic inequality and limited workforce opportunities.

**B)** Regional cooperation to address the activities of organized criminal networks involved in the trafficking of illegal firearms affecting Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Haiti, with emphasis on cross-border coordination and information sharing.

**Comitte of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals**

*President: Sofia Paola Jiménez de la Cruz*

**A)** Mechanisms to regulate the reception of hazardous waste in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the aim of ensuring its correct disposal and preventing damage.

**B)** Strategies to reinforce safety standards and operational practices in the storage and distribution of refined petroleum products in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, with an emphasis on reducing spills, fires, and damage caused by gasoline and diesel fuel.

**SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND REGIONAL ORGANISMS**

*General Subsecretary: Patrick Eduardo Cunillé Paniagua*

*Supervisor of Coordination: Hannia Nieves José*

**Oficina De Las Naciones Unidas Para La Prevención Del Genocidio Y La Responsabilidad De Proteger**

*Presidente: María Fernanda López Islas*

**A)** Acciones para detener la segregación forzada y la limpieza étnica en la República de la Unión de Myanmar, con énfasis en la comunidad Rohingya.

**B)** Medidas para frenar el aumento de la violencia sistemática y el abuso generalizado contra la población civil por parte de bandas armadas en la República de Haití.

**Consejo de Europa**

*Presidente: Diego López Peralta*

**A)** Estrategias para la protección de los derechos humanos de los refugiados ucranianos desplazados por el conflicto bélico con la Federación Rusa en los Estados miembros receptores.

**B)** Mecanismos para limitar la trata de personas mediante el abordaje del contexto económico en la región de Schengen.

### **North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

*President: Ingrid Carrilo García*

**A)** Actions to prevent emerging security and economic threats through multinational cooperation between NATO member and non-member allies, focusing on the Indo-Pacific region.

**B)** Actions to enhance maritime and undersea capabilities in order to protect critical infrastructure and mitigate security risks in the Baltic Sea region.

### **International Criminal Police Organization**

*Presidente: Melany Fayed Cervantes Espinoza*

**A)** Measures to decrease the environmental crimes in the Amazon due to the illegal exploitation of the natural resources in order to protect vulnerable communities and preserve environmental security.

**B)** Measures to combat the trafficking of young women for sexual exploitation in the Thailand–Cambodia border region in order to protect vulnerable migrant women and dismantle trafficking networks.

### **Banco Mundial**

*President: Miguel Ander Hernández Aguilar*

**A)** Financiamiento de la infraestructura de transporte sostenible en la región Subsahariana de África.

**B)** Intervención financiera internacional en economías en crisis: el caso de la República de Cuba.

### **Security Council**

*Presidente: Mariana Méndez Cruz*

**A)** Strategies to prevent an armed invasion between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China limiting the military posturing and international involvement arising from the unresolved tension across the Taiwan Strait.

**B)** Measures to halt the emergent Kashmir dispute involving the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan centralizing on the nuclear threats, attacks and humanitarian violations.

### **Comité de Estado Mayor**

*President: Leonardo Senties Carmona*

**A)** Mecanismos de prevención de conflictos y cooperación internacional para mitigar las tensiones entre la República de Serbia y el Estado de Kosovo, con el objetivo de evitar un conflicto armado.

**B)** Acciones de contención del conflicto armado en la región de Chechenia y la Federación de Rusia

### **Corte Internacional de Justicia**

*Presidente: Mariana Dueñas Salgado*

**A)** Aplicación de la Convención de la Prevención y la Sanción del Delito de Genocidio en relación a la población Palestina en la Franja de Gaza (República de Sudáfrica vs Estado de Israel).

**B)** Incumplimiento de la Convención de Viena sobre relaciones diplomáticas con respecto al asalto a la embajada de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos en Quito (Estados Unidos Mexicanos vs República del Ecuador).

*“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” — Eleanor Roosevelt*

Dear reader,

Today, after six years at TECMUN, my story here comes to an end. What once began as a moment filled with uncertainty has transformed into one of the most defining journeys of my life. This path has demanded more from me than I ever imagined — countless hours of work, unwavering commitment, silent sacrifices, and yes, even moments where tears spoke louder than words. But within every challenge, I discovered something far greater: the strength to rise, the courage to be heard, and the realization that my voice is not only valid — it is powerful enough to create change. TECMUN did not just shape the way I speak, it shaped the way I believe in myself.

My journey in TECMUN has never been easy, but it has been deeply meaningful. Along the way, I was never alone. I was surrounded by people who believed in me when I struggled to believe in myself — people who guided me, supported me, and reminded me why I started. For them, for you, for every advisor who trusted me, and above all, for my Secretariat, I gave my absolute best in everything I did. This last year, especially, challenged me in ways I never thought I would face. It pushed me beyond my limits, forced me to confront my fears, and taught me that growth is never comfortable — but always worth it.

Never stay silent in the face of injustice. Speak up, act, and make choices — because the power to create change lies both in the decisions you take and in the ones you choose not to. Educate yourself, because nurturing your mind will help you understand yourself and others. Help those who need it most, because you hold privileges that many people around the world do not — and using them to serve others is one of the noblest forms of leadership. Do everything with passion, with love, and with purpose — every single day, for yourself and for others. Inspire and be inspired, because you never know if your words or your actions might be the push someone needs to believe in themselves.

Everything I have lived through here has taught me that leadership is not about titles, recognition, or standing at the front of a room — it is about impact. It is about choosing to show up, even when it is hard. It is about lifting others as you grow, and understanding that the greatest legacy you can leave behind is not what you achieve, but who you inspire along the way. And that is what I hope to leave with you, dear reader: the certainty that your voice matters, that your actions carry weight, and that you are far more capable than you think.

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Abril Valdés Calva  
Secretary General for the  
XXXIX TECMUN

*“Your origin does not define your destiny.”*  
— *Marcus Rashford*

Dear participant,

Today I say goodbye to the project of my life called TECMUN. From the bottom of my heart, I can say thank you endlessly. Maybe today you are entering your first model without really knowing what to expect, or perhaps you come with doubts, nerves, or even without much motivation. But let me tell you something: you are about to live one of the most incredible experiences of your life. TECMUN is not just a Model United Nations—it is a place where we always grow, where you challenge yourself, and where you discover what you are truly capable of.

This project was built with effort and dedication from all of us, but above all, with and for people like you. Because without every delegate, minister, judge, without every idea, without every voice, this simply wouldn't exist. Thank you for daring to be part of something I have loved for so many years. Thank you for taking an interest in issues that many ignore and for always seeking solutions to problems that at our age may not seem so relevant.

Throughout this journey, you will not only learn about politics or debate—you will also learn about life. You will meet people who will leave a mark on you, ideas that will change you, and moments you will never forget. You will step out of your comfort zone and begin to see the world through different eyes.

Today it's my turn to close this chapter, but now it's your turn to write yours. Make the most of every second—make mistakes, get back up, enjoy, laugh, learn, and leave your mark. Don't be afraid to be different, to speak up, to try new things. Always remember: it's not where you come from that matters, but how far you want to go.

Thank you for continuing this dream.

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Mauro Gálvez Carillo  
Subsecretary of General Coordination for the  
XXXIX TECMUN

*“Peace is not something you wish for; it’s something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away.” — John Lennon*

Dear Reader, today you are here, ready—or perhaps not so ready—to spend the next three days discussing, debating, upholding, and, above all, dreaming about your stance on a global issue that disrupts the peace not only of certain nations, but of the life of every citizen on Earth. Today marks my sixth model within TECMUN, and after each one, I have learned extraordinary lessons that have changed my life in every aspect; however, the lesson they all share, and the one I consider fundamental, is this: courage, effort, and patience will always show you why they were worth it. My journey in TECMUN has not been easy; it has brought much work, time, dedication, and a few tears, but above all, it taught me that my voice has power. Today, to you—delegate, magistrate, judge—I invite you, even if it may be terrifying, to raise your placard, express that opinion, idea, or proposal that could be the key to a successful model, show that you can transform those nerves, that you have the courage, and decide to change the world from right here. Remember that your voice is a superpower, the greatest of all and with it, you can become a transformative agent of our current world, and you have the power to maintain that much-needed peace. I remind you that the greatest difference starts here and prevails in your day-to-day actions and decisions. Welcome to this new TECMUN. Live it to the fullest: raise your placard, build friendships, defend your stance, and forge new relationships; this is a place to grow, transform, and experiment. Congratulations. You now have a small piece of the world in your hands, and it is up to you to decide what you will do with it. We trust in you.

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Samantha Salgado Nájara

Subsecretary for the Economical and Social Council

for the XXXIX TECMUN

*“You define your own life. Don't let other people write your script”*

*-Oprah winfrey*

Delegates,

Today, you are standing in a place that many years ago truly terrified me. TECMUN is not just a model; it is an experience that can change your life if you allow it to. I still remember my first MUN back in middle school: I was a kid filled with fear, holding my placard with shaking hands, unsure if I should raise it or stay silent. I was afraid of speaking up, afraid of being wrong, afraid of being judged, and afraid of not being enough. Over time, I learned a lesson that completely changed me. Fear will always exist, but it should never be the reason we stop ourselves from growing or chasing what we want.

Each and every one of you has something valuable to say, and your voice deserves to be heard. You are capable of reaching much further than you imagine if you dare to take that first step. In this TECMUN, I invite you to be yourselves, to give your best, and to fight for that Best Delegate award, which is far from impossible. As your president, I promise to give 100% of myself to make this an unforgettable experience, one filled with growth, learning, and memories that will stay with you long after this model ends. I am truly proud of each of you for being here, because not everyone has the courage to step out of their comfort zone. Life is lived only once, so dare to speak, dare to fail, dare to learn, and dare to grow. See you very soon, and I wish you all great success.

“We cannot achieve perfection, but if we pursue perfection, we can achieve excellence.” —  
Vince Lombardi

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Axl Paris Ortega Rodríguez

President of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
for the XXXIX TECMUN

# Background

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) is an advisory body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), established in 2000 to address the main issues affecting “Indigenous people within the United Nations” system. It was created to examine matters related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health, and human rights; while promoting respect for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Since 2002, it has met annually, usually at United Nations Headquarters in New York, becoming a key space for the promotion of Indigenous peoples’ rights. The Forum is composed of 16 independent experts who serve in their personal capacity, 8 are nominated by governments and 8 by indigenous organizations, and their role is to provide advice and make recommendations.

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## Faculties

- Organizing awareness campaigns and public events to highlight indigenous issues such as land rights, access to education, health services, and environmental protection;
- Promote and support the implementation of human rights standards related to Indigenous people, within national and international aspects;
- Raise visibility of Indigenous issues through reports, sessions, and awareness activities;
- Facilitate dialogue between Indigenous representatives, governments, and international organizations, to address concerns and build cooperative solutions;
- Monitoring progress and identifying gaps in the application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

## **Topic A**

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Strategies to Stop Female Genital Mutilation as  
a Mechanism of Social Control over Indigenous  
Girls and Women in Rural Communities of  
Eastern Africa.

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*By: Axl Paris Ortega Rodríguez*

## **Background and Context of Female Genital Mutilation**

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a harmful practice involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. At the international level, it is widely recognized as a violation of human rights, particularly the rights of girls and women to health, bodily integrity, and freedom from violence (World Health Organization [WHO], 2025). Despite being prohibited by law in many countries, FGM continues to be practiced in several regions of Eastern Africa. This persistence is especially evident in rural and Indigenous communities where access to state institutions, healthcare, and education is limited. In such contexts, traditional practices often prevail over formal legal frameworks, allowing FGM to continue with little external oversight.

In countries such as the Republic of Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of the Sudan, the Republic of South Sudan, and the Republic of the Niger, FGM remains prevalent among Indigenous groups. This situation is largely driven by deeply rooted social norms and traditional authority structures that regulate gender roles and expectations. The practice is also closely linked to poverty, limited educational opportunities, and systemic gender inequality. These factors create environments in which girls are particularly vulnerable to harmful practices. The situation is further exacerbated in remote areas where state presence is minimal or inconsistent, weakening enforcement mechanisms and access to protective services (Del Pilar, 2019).

## **FGM as a Cultural Practice and a Mechanism of Social Control**

Among Indigenous communities such as the Maasai and Samburu peoples, FGM is commonly understood as a rite of passage marking the transition of girls into womanhood. It is frequently associated with ideas of purity, honor, marriageability, and social acceptance

within the community. As a result, families experience strong social pressure to ensure that their daughters undergo the practice. Compliance is often viewed as a prerequisite for social inclusion and future stability. Fear of exclusion, shame, or community stigma reinforces the continuation of FGM across generations (Amref Health Africa, n.d.).

Beyond its cultural justification, FGM operates as a mechanism of social and gender control. By regulating female sexuality, the practice reinforces patriarchal norms and entrenched power structures within communities. It limits the autonomy of girls and women and restricts their ability to make decisions over their own bodies. Resistance to the practice is often met with severe social consequences. Girls who refuse or escape FGM may face rejection, forced marriage, or permanent exclusion from their communities, reinforcing the coercive nature of the practice (Del Pilar, 2019).

### **Physical, Psychological, and Social Consequences**

The physical consequences of FGM are severe, immediate, and long-lasting for those affected. Short-term risks include extreme pain, hemorrhaging, infections, and shock due to the absence of medical conditions during the procedure. In some cases, these complications result in death, particularly among young girls. Over time, FGM can lead to chronic infections, infertility, and serious complications during pregnancy and childbirth. These risks are intensified in rural Indigenous communities where access to medical care and emergency services is extremely limited.

In addition to physical harm, FGM produces profound psychological and social consequences. Survivors may experience trauma, anxiety, depression, and long-term emotional distress. These effects often persist throughout adulthood and affect personal relationships and well-being. The practice also disrupts the social and educational development of girls. Frequently, FGM is linked to early marriage and increased domestic

responsibilities, which interrupts schooling and reinforces cycles of poverty and inequality (James, n.d.).

### **Legal Frameworks and International Norms**

At the international level, female genital mutilation is condemned by multiple human rights instruments. These include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Both instruments emphasize the obligation of States to protect girls from harmful practices and gender-based violence. In addition, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms the right of Indigenous women and children to live free from violence, discrimination, and abuse. Together, these frameworks establish clear international standards for the protection of girls' rights (United Nations, 1979, 1989, 2007).

Despite the existence of these legal norms, enforcement remains limited in many regions where FGM persists. Weak state presence, lack of institutional capacity, and distrust toward authorities hinder effective implementation. Furthermore, purely punitive approaches often fail to address the cultural and social dimensions of the practice. As a result, laws may exist only on paper without producing meaningful change. This situation highlights the need for comprehensive strategies that integrate legal enforcement with education, health services, and community-based interventions (WHO, 2025).

### **Efforts by International Organizations and Indigenous Initiatives**

International organizations have played a key role in global efforts to address female genital mutilation. Institutions such as the World Health Organization and UNICEF have documented the impacts of FGM and supported national action plans aimed at its elimination. These efforts frame FGM as both a public health issue and a human rights violation. They

also emphasize prevention through education, awareness campaigns, and improved access to healthcare. Additionally, international cooperation has contributed to the collection of data and the development of policy guidelines.

At the same time, Indigenous-led initiatives have proven to be essential for achieving sustainable change. Programs promoting alternative rites of passage allow communities to preserve cultural identity without perpetuating harmful practices. These initiatives are most effective when they actively involve elders, traditional leaders, women, and youth. Through dialogue and community participation, they encourage internal reflection and gradual social transformation. This approach reduces resistance and fosters culturally respectful solutions (Amref Health Africa, n.d.).

### **Relevance to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues occupies a strategic position in addressing FGM within Indigenous communities. Its mandate focuses on the promotion of Indigenous rights, cultural integrity, and self-determination. The Forum provides an institutional space to highlight the challenges faced by Indigenous women and girls at the international level. It also facilitates dialogue between States, Indigenous representatives, and United Nations agencies. This role allows the Forum to influence policy discussions and promote coordinated responses.

Through intercultural dialogue, the Forum can support cooperation between governments and Indigenous communities. It promotes approaches that respect community autonomy while advancing human rights and gender equality. These efforts contribute to strengthening prevention and protection strategies in culturally sensitive ways. In this context, addressing FGM aligns directly with the Forum's broader objectives related to health, equality, and Indigenous self-determination.

## **FGM as an Issue Requiring International Attention**

Female genital mutilation constitutes a transnational human rights concern that extends beyond national borders. It cannot be effectively addressed solely at the local or national level due to its deep social roots and cross-border prevalence. The persistence of the practice reflects broader structural inequalities, including gender discrimination, poverty, and the marginalization of Indigenous populations. These conditions create environments in which harmful practices can continue unchecked.

The ongoing violation of the rights of Indigenous girls and women poses a serious threat to health, development, and gender equality. It also undermines international commitments to human rights and sustainable development. For this reason, FGM requires sustained international attention, cooperation, and political will. Bodies such as the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues are essential for coordinating comprehensive and culturally respectful responses to this issue.

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## Topic B

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Measures to mitigate the use of indigenous territories as sacrifice zones, focusing on extreme violence and structural failures in the protection of rights in the Darién Gap.

## **Background and Context of the Darién Gap**

The Darién Gap is a dense and remote region located along the border between the Republic of Panama and the Republic of Colombia. It is an ancestral Indigenous territory primarily inhabited by the Emberá and Wounaan peoples, who have historically faced marginalization, limited state presence, and inadequate access to public services such as healthcare, education, and security (United Nations, 2007). In recent decades, the region has gained international attention due to the sharp increase in irregular migration flows crossing the area toward North America.

The geographic isolation of the Darién Gap has significantly contributed to weak institutional oversight and limited law enforcement capacity. Difficult terrain, lack of infrastructure, and scarce government presence have created conditions in which state authority is largely absent. This lack of effective governance has allowed armed groups, criminal organizations, and illicit economies to operate within Indigenous territories with minimal resistance. As a result, Indigenous lands have increasingly been transformed into zones where violence, exploitation, and abuse occur with little accountability.

## **Indigenous Territories as Sacrifice Zones**

The concept of “sacrifice zones” refers to territories where human rights, environmental protection, and community well-being are systematically compromised in favor of political, economic, or security priorities. In the Darién Gap, Indigenous territories have effectively become sacrifice zones due to the tolerance of extreme violence and the absence of adequate protection mechanisms. State policies often prioritize border security and migration control while overlooking the long-term impacts on Indigenous populations. As a result, Indigenous lives and territorial rights are frequently treated as expendable within broader regional strategies.

For the Emberá and Wounaan communities, this reality manifests in constant exposure to armed actors, forced displacement, and the gradual erosion of traditional governance structures. Indigenous authorities frequently lack the resources, recognition, and institutional backing necessary to protect their communities or enforce local norms. Meanwhile, state responses tend to prioritize migration management over the long-term protection of Indigenous rights and territorial integrity. This imbalance reinforces structural neglect and normalizes the violation of Indigenous collective and territorial rights. Over time, this dynamic weakens community cohesion and undermines Indigenous self-determination.

### **Patterns of Extreme Violence and Human Rights Violations**

The Darién Gap has become a setting of extreme violence, including killings, sexual violence, disappearances, threats, and acts of intimidation against Indigenous populations. Women, children, and adolescents are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse, exploitation, and human trafficking during crossings through the region. Armed groups and criminal networks often take advantage of the absence of law enforcement to commit abuses with impunity. Many of these crimes remain undocumented due to fear of retaliation, distrust toward authorities, and the absence of safe and accessible reporting mechanisms. Consequently, the true scale of violence in the region remains largely invisible at national and international levels.

In addition to direct physical violence, Indigenous communities experience profound psychological trauma and long-term social harm. Persistent insecurity disrupts daily life, weakens cultural practices, and limits the ability of communities to maintain traditional livelihoods. Families are often forced to abandon their ancestral lands, leading to displacement and loss of cultural continuity. The presence of armed and criminal groups undermines Indigenous autonomy and self-determination by imposing external control over

territory and movement (United Nations, 2007). These conditions contribute to a cycle of violence and impunity that continues to deepen the humanitarian and human rights crisis.

### **Structural Failures and Lack of Protection Mechanisms**

One of the central challenges in the Darién Gap is the lack of accessible and culturally appropriate mechanisms to report and respond to human rights violations. Indigenous communities often lack safe, confidential, and trusted channels to report crimes or seek institutional protection. In many cases, victims must travel long distances through dangerous terrain to access authorities, exposing them to additional risks. Language barriers, discrimination, and fear of retaliation further discourage reporting. This reality allows abuses to continue without accountability and reinforces a climate of impunity.

Furthermore, coordination between the Republic of Panama and the Republic of Colombia remains limited and inconsistent. Insufficient cross-border cooperation weakens monitoring, investigation, and protection efforts within Indigenous territories. Structural failures in governance, security, and social services reinforce the treatment of the Darién as a neglected zone rather than a protected Indigenous homeland. These failures highlight the gap between international human rights commitments and their practical implementation on the ground. As a result, Indigenous communities remain disproportionately exposed to violence and insecurity.

### **International Legal Frameworks and Indigenous Rights**

International human rights law establishes clear standards for the protection of Indigenous peoples and their territories. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms the rights to security, territorial integrity, cultural survival, and

self-determination, as well as the obligation of States to prevent violence against Indigenous communities. These principles require States to respect Indigenous governance systems and ensure free, prior, and informed consent regarding actions affecting their lands. Such standards are directly applicable to the situation in the Darién Gap and provide a strong legal basis for international concern.

Despite the existence of these frameworks, implementation remains weak in practice. Indigenous communities in the Darién rarely experience these protections in concrete and consistent ways. Limited political will, institutional capacity, and accountability mechanisms undermine effective enforcement. The failure to uphold international obligations contributes to the normalization of violence and neglect within Indigenous territories.

### **Relevance to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues plays a crucial role in addressing situations where Indigenous territories are treated as sacrifice zones, particularly in contexts marked by structural violence and weak state protection. Its mandate allows it to raise international visibility around systemic human rights violations affecting Indigenous peoples worldwide, including issues related to territorial dispossession, insecurity, and lack of access to justice. Through its advisory role within the United Nations system, the Forum contributes to shaping global discussions on Indigenous rights and influencing policy development across multiple UN bodies.

By addressing the situation in the Darién Gap, the Forum can promote sustained international awareness and encourage coordinated, rights-based responses that go beyond short-term or security-focused approaches. It can support the creation of monitoring initiatives, thematic studies, and official recommendations aimed at documenting human rights violations and identifying structural gaps in protection.

## **The Darién Gap as an Issue Requiring International Attention**

The situation in the Darién Gap represents a transnational human rights crisis that extends beyond migration management and border control. The systematic exposure of Indigenous communities to violence, displacement, and exploitation threatens their survival, cultural continuity, and fundamental rights. These impacts are not isolated incidents but part of a broader pattern of structural neglect. Treating Indigenous territories as sacrifice zones undermines international commitments to human rights, Indigenous self-determination, and sustainable development.

For these reasons, the crisis in the Darién Gap requires sustained international attention and cooperation. Addressing the structural causes of violence, strengthening protection mechanisms, and ensuring Indigenous participation are essential steps toward safeguarding rights. International bodies such as the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues are key to ensuring that Indigenous territories are no longer spaces of neglect. Instead, they must be recognized and protected as zones of dignity, safety, and collective rights.

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### ***Forbidden Words***

*Defined by the United Nations, are non diplomatic terms participants must avoid to mention during their speeches on the debate and in the writing of resolution projects*

<b>Forbidden Words</b>	<b>Permitted equivalents</b>
First world countries	Developed countries
Third world countries	Developing countries
Gay <sup>1</sup>	Member of the LGBTIQ+ community
War <sup>2</sup>	Belic conflict
Rape	Sexual abuse
Terrorist	Extremist
Kill or murder	Deprive someone of their life
Death	Casualties
Assassination	Homicide
Army	Military forces
Money	Economic resources
Poor	Lack of resources
Okay	Yes or agree
Black <sup>3</sup>	Afrodescendant

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### **Glossary for Resolution Projects**

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<sup>1</sup> The word Gay is replaced by a more inclusive term, recognizing that not all people within the LGBTIQ+ community identify in the same way.

<sup>2</sup> The word War can be used in order to refer to historical contexts, such as the Cold War, the First World War, etc. It can only be used in the Security Council to refer to armed conflicts.

<sup>3</sup> The word Black, in reference to ethnicity, is not prohibited but it is recommended to limit its use and refer to this sector as a dark-skinned person or afrodescendant as the case may be.

### ***Preambulatory Phrases***

*Preambulatory Phrases are used at the beginning of every Resolution Paper in order to give context about the resolutions made for the topic. Preambulatory Phrases must be written in italics followed by a sentence that gives said context. For each Resolution Paper there must be five sentences beginning with a Preambulatory Phrase.*

Affirming	Desiring	Noting with deep concern
Alarmed by	Emphasizing	Noting with satisfaction
Approving	Expecting	Noting further
Bearing in mind	Expressing its appreciation	Observing
Believing	Fulfilling	Reaffirming
Confident	Fully aware	Realizing
Contemplating	Further deploring	Recalling
Convinced	Further recalling	Recognizing
Declaring	Guided by	Referring
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Seeking
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Taking into consideration
Deeply convinced	Having examined	Taking note
Deeply disturbed	Having received	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply regretting	Keeping in mind	Welcoming

***Operative Clauses***

*Operative Clauses are used at the beginning of every resolution within the Resolution Paper on the debated topic. They must be written in italics and bold.*

Accepts	Endorses	Notes
Affirms	Draws the attentions	Proclaims
Approves	Emphasizes	Reaffirms
Authorizes	Encourages	Recommends
Calls	Expresses its appreciation	Regrets
Calls upon	Expresses its hope	Reminds
Condemns	Further invites	Requests
Confirms	Further proclaims	Solemnly
Congratulates	Further reminds	Affirms
Considers	Further recommends	Strongly
Declares accordingly	Further requests	condemns
Deplores	Further resolves	Supports
Designates	Has resolved	Takes note of
		Transmits
		Trusts

***Personal notes***

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