

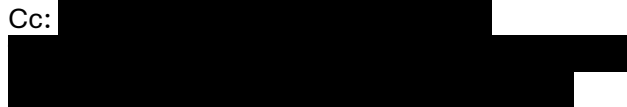


2 July 2026

To: Member State co-facilitators:



Cc:



Written Submission for the Informal Consultation on Enhanced Participation of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations (2026)

**Joint Statement from:
Treaty Council Worldwide
Gudang/Yadhaykenu Tribal Governing Council Indigenous Corporation
Baramadagal Darug Tribal Governing Council**

Mithakidth / Warami,

We write as the following collective who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from the continent now known as Australia:

- The Treaty Council Worldwide is an Indigenous corporation established to create avenues for economic empowerment and self-sufficiency for the Indigenous Clans and Nations it represents. The Treaty Council aims to broker sustainable, equitable economic development initiatives that will help these communities achieve greater autonomy and independence. The Treaty Council works with Indigenous Nations across Australia to advocate for recognition of Indigenous sovereignty and the development of treaty frameworks.
- The Gudang / Yadhaykenu Tribal Governing Council Indigenous Corporation represents the Wymarra family of the Gudang / Yadhaykenu peoples, which is the northern Cape York Peninsula. The Gudang and Yadhaykenu peoples are the Traditional Custodians of lands and waters at the northernmost tip of the Australian continent, including areas surrounding the Jardine River and the Torres Strait gateway.

- Baramadagal Darug Tribal Governing Council represents the Baramadagal as one of the clan groups of the Darug-speaking peoples whose Country encompasses Burramatta / Baramada (Parramatta) land and waterways. Darug-speaking Country includes the river systems, plains, and coastal environments that sustained Darug speaking families for countless generations prior to the arrival of the British in 1788.

The Treaty Council Worldwide supports the submission on Enhanced Participation of Indigenous Peoples as Nations at the United Nations and welcomes the continuation of the General Assembly process towards the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions.

For Indigenous Nations, treaties are not historical artefacts but living international agreements that establish enduring nation-to-nation relationships. Enhanced participation within the United Nations must therefore reflect the political status of Indigenous Peoples as Peoples possessing the inherent right of self-determination, rather than treating Indigenous Nations as stakeholders or non-governmental organisations.

The Treaty Council Worldwide strongly supports the establishment of a distinct status for Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions that recognises Indigenous governments, treaty authorities and traditional governing bodies in accordance with Articles 3, 18, 19, 37 and 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Accreditation must be independent of State control and based upon Indigenous systems of governance, customary law, treaty relationships and the free determination of Indigenous Peoples themselves.

We also support the development of procedural and institutional reforms that ensure Indigenous Nations can participate directly in negotiations, deliberations and decision-making across the United Nations system wherever matters affecting their rights, lands, territories, resources and future generations are under consideration.

The Treaty Council Worldwide calls upon Member States to seize this historic opportunity to move beyond consultation towards genuine recognition of Indigenous Peoples as Nations with inherent political authority and internationally recognised rights.

From the perspective of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative leadership, we support the submission and its call for a stronger and more equitable framework for Indigenous participation within the United Nations.

The experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples demonstrate that meaningful participation cannot depend solely on recognition by States. Indigenous representative institutions derive their legitimacy from their Peoples, cultures, customary law and continuing responsibilities to Country, not from government recognition or administrative processes.

We therefore support the creation of an Indigenous-led accreditation mechanism that is transparent, independent and representative of the world's Indigenous Peoples. Such a mechanism should recognise the diversity of Indigenous governance structures while ensuring the full participation of Indigenous women, Elders, youth and people with disabilities.

Enhanced participation should provide practical opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to influence international standards, climate policy, biodiversity, cultural heritage, education, health, justice and human rights, ensuring that decisions affecting Indigenous Peoples are informed by Indigenous knowledge systems and Indigenous leadership.

The General Assembly now has an opportunity to strengthen implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by creating institutional arrangements that reflect partnership, respect and self-determination rather than consultation alone.

The Gudang/Yadhaykenu Tribal Governing Council Indigenous Corporation and the Baramadagal Darug Tribal Governing Council supports the submission and affirms that Traditional Tribal Governments must be recognised internationally as the legitimate representative institutions of Indigenous Peoples.

For the Gudang/Yadhaykenu and Baramadagal Darug People, governance arises from Country, kinship, customary law, cultural authority, and responsibilities passed down through generations. These responsibilities continue regardless of colonial administrative systems and remain central to our identity, our obligations to our ancestors and our responsibilities to future generations.

The United Nations enhanced participation process presents an important opportunity to recognise that Indigenous governance systems existed long before modern nation-states and continue to exercise authority through their own laws, customs and decision-making processes. This recognition should be reflected through a distinct status for Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions, independent accreditation processes free from State veto, and meaningful opportunities to participate directly in negotiations across the United Nations system.

The Gudang/Yadhaykenu Tribal Governing Council Indigenous Corporation and the Baramadagal Darug Tribal Governing Council particularly supports reforms that protect Indigenous Peoples from political interference, reprisals and barriers to participation, including financial constraints, visa restrictions and exclusionary accreditation requirements. Equal partnership between Indigenous Peoples and Member States must be embedded throughout the process.

We join Indigenous Peoples globally in calling for an outcome that gives practical effect to the right of self-determination and ensures Indigenous Nations and Tribal Governments participate as rights holders in international decision-making, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Enhanced participation within the United Nations should therefore recognise Indigenous Peoples as distinct rights holders and representative institutions, not as non-governmental organisations or civil society actors, and should strengthen, rather than diminish, the ability of Indigenous Peoples to participate directly in international decision-making on matters affecting their rights. The enhanced participation process provides an important opportunity to give practical effect to Articles 18, 19, and 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by recognising the status, authority, and representative institutions of Indigenous Peoples within the United Nations system.

UNDRIP as the foundation: The zero draft reaffirms the solemn commitment to uphold the principles of UNDRIP, including the right to participate in decision-making within the United Nations system on matters affecting Indigenous Peoples' rights, through representative institutions of their choosing, in accordance with their own procedures. We call on all elements of the process established by this resolution to be fully consistent with this commitment, in particular Articles 18 and 42 of UNDRIP.

Distinct status: The status established through this process must be distinct from that of NGOs, CSOs, NHRIs, local communities, minorities, and States. Indigenous Peoples are governments and Peoples. The NGO and ECOSOC accreditation model is inappropriate for Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions and must not be replicated.

Support for the multi-year structure: The Treaty Council Worldwide and Baramadagal Darug Tribal Governing Council support the multi-year structure outlined in the zero draft: informal hearings in the spring of 2027 and 2028, the Enhanced Participation Workshop in spring 2029, and adoption of further procedural and institutional steps at the eighty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

Consultation process and inclusion: All consultations in this process must occur with Indigenous Peoples and Member States together. The process must ensure meaningful participation of Indigenous women, youth, and persons with disabilities. The process must be open and transparent at every stage.

OP1: CONTINUING CONSIDERATION AT GA-84: *Continue consideration of possible further measures, with the aim of adopting procedural and institutional steps.*

Support for the multi-year structure: The Treaty Council Worldwide, the Gudang/Yadhaykenu Tribal Governing Council Indigenous Corporation and the Baramadagal Darug Tribal Governing Council strongly support operative paragraph 1's commitment to continuing consideration of this process with the aim of adopting 'procedural and institutional steps' at the eighty-fourth session. This commitment is the direct continuation of obligations States have already undertaken in General Assembly resolutions 71/321 and 78/328. It is essential to giving real effect to the right of Indigenous Peoples to participate in decision-making in matters affecting their rights, as guaranteed by Article 18 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The multi-year structure this resolution establishes, building from the hearings, through the Workshop, to a concrete outcome at GA-84, offers a clear and credible path to deliver on these commitments.

Procedural and institutional steps: We call for 'procedural and institutional steps' to be understood as encompassing, at a minimum: a new distinct status for Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions, separate from NGOs, civil society, and observers; an independent accreditation mechanism; clear accreditation criteria grounded in UNDRIP; a generous interpretation of venues of participation; and concrete modalities including speaking rights and access to informal negotiations.

OP2: ENHANCED PARTICIPATION WORKSHOP IN SPRING 2029: *Organise a three-day workshop within existing resources. Requests appointment of one State co-facilitator and one Indigenous co-facilitator. Joint report with specific recommendations.*

Support for the workshop: The Treaty Council Worldwide and the Gudang/Yadhaykenu Tribal Governing Council Indigenous Corporation and the Baramadagal Darug Tribal Governing Council welcome the zero draft as a basis for discussion and strongly support establishing the Enhanced Participation Workshop under operative paragraph 2. This Workshop is an essential mechanism for giving effect to Indigenous Peoples' right to participate in decision-making on matters that would affect their rights, through representative institutions of their choosing, as guaranteed by Article 18 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It is the direct continuation of the mandate set out in General Assembly resolutions 71/321 and 78/328 and represents a critical opportunity to finally translate years of dialogue into the concrete procedural and institutional steps Indigenous Peoples have long called for. We urge that the Workshop be fully resourced and supported so that it can deliver on this essential purpose, with Indigenous Peoples from all seven sociocultural regions positioned as the central authors of its outcome.

Indigenous co-facilitator must have equal status: Operative paragraph 2(a) requests the appointment of one State co-facilitator and one Indigenous co-facilitator. The Indigenous co-

facilitator must have fully equal status and authority, not merely an advisory role. The appointment must be made transparently, with representation from across the seven sociocultural regions, at the beginning of the eighty-third session as the paragraph requires.

The joint report must be co-authored with Indigenous Peoples. Operative paragraph 2(b) provides that the Workshop co-facilitators, together with DESA, ‘shall be responsible for the preparation of a joint report.’ We call for this language to be strengthened to make clear that the report must be prepared with the active co-authorship of Indigenous Peoples, not only transmitted to the General Assembly on their behalf. The joint report must reflect Indigenous Peoples' own recommendations on the four elements.

OP3: INFORMAL INTERACTIVE HEARINGS IN SPRING 2027 AND 2028 *Requests the PGA to organise informal interactive hearings with Indigenous Peoples during GA-81 and GA-82, ensuring representation from all seven socio-cultural regions. Two Member State co-facilitators and two Indigenous Peoples advisers to be appointed.*

The Treaty Council Worldwide and the Gudang/Yadhaykenu Tribal Governing Council Indigenous Corporation and the Baramadagal Darug Tribal Governing Council strongly support the organisation of informal interactive hearings during the eighty-first and eighty-second sessions, prior to the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as provided in operative paragraph 3. These hearings are an essential foundation for the entire enhanced participation process. This is consistent with the participatory rights guaranteed under Article 18 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the mandate established by General Assembly resolutions 71/321 and 78/328. All informal interactive hearings must be held with Indigenous Peoples and Member States together in the same room as a dialogue, not as separate or sequential consultations.

OP4: SECRETARY GENERAL COMPILATION *Requests the SG to compile information from Member States and Indigenous Peoples across the seven regions on existing practices, acknowledgements of Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions, barriers (language, financial, procedural), and good practices before GA-83*

Indigenous Peoples' contributions: Operative paragraph 4 requests the Secretary-General to ‘compile information from Member States and Indigenous Peoples.’ We call for this to be strengthened to require the Secretary-General to formally and proactively invite written contributions from Indigenous Peoples' organisations, not only from Member States. Without a formal invitation mechanism, Indigenous input risks being underrepresented.

Barriers must be documented fully. The Secretary-General's report must explicitly document all significant barriers to participation, including language barriers; financial constraints; visa refusals and travel restrictions; ECOSOC status requirements; geographic distance; and state interference with Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions. The report should also draw on good practices from UNPFII, EMRIP, UNFCCC, CBD, and WIPO.

OPS 5 AND 6: HIGH-LEVEL PANEL AND EXPERT GROUP MEETING *OP 5: High-level panel during GA-82 high-level segment. OP 6: Welcomes UNPFII draft recommendation for a three-day expert group meeting on Enhanced Participation.*

Support with equal co-chairing: We support the high-level panel (OP 5) and the UNPFII expert group meeting (OP 6). Indigenous Peoples must co-chair the panel as equals. The expert group meeting's report must be formally transmitted to, and substantively considered at, the Workshop, and be resourced to include Indigenous Peoples from all seven sociocultural regions.

OPS 7 AND 8: EXISTING MECHANISMS *OP 7: Urges contributions to the UN Voluntary Fund. OP 8: Encourages UNPFII, EMRIP, and the Special Rapporteur to continue addressing enhanced participation with equitable and adequate resourcing.*

Adequate resourcing: We urge Member States to increase contributions to the UN Voluntary Fund to support Indigenous participation at all stages of this process, including hearings, consultations, the Workshop, and GA-84 negotiations (OP 7). We also call for direct financial support to the Indigenous Coordinating Body. UNPFII, EMRIP, and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples must be adequately and sustainably resourced.

Accreditation Criteria And Mechanism, Venues, And Modalities

Rights-based criteria, independent Indigenous-led mechanism, no State veto
The accreditation criteria to be developed through this process must be rights-based and defined by Indigenous Peoples themselves. Self-identification and self-determination must be the foundation. Criteria must not require state recognition, which is frequently used as a tool of suppression. The accreditation mechanism must be independent and led by Indigenous representatives from all seven sociocultural regions, with no State veto. No renewed debate by States on the definition of 'indigenous peoples' is acceptable.

Protection from reprisals: Enhanced participation must not increase Indigenous Peoples' vulnerability to reprisals or intimidation. Visa refusals are a documented and systemic barrier. Host country obligations under the UN Headquarters Agreement must be enforced, and protection from reprisals must be explicitly reflected in any outcome and committed to by all Member States.

Further Inclusions: We recommend the inclusion of (1) specific barriers to participation that you have experienced, (2) regional, community, or contextual information, (3) good practices or models you recommend, and (4) any other positions or recommendations.

Further participation: The Treaty Council Worldwide and the Gudang/Yadhaykenu Tribal Governing Council Indigenous Corporation and the Baramadagal Darug Tribal Governing Council appreciate the opportunity to provide these written views. We plan to continue engaging constructively with the co-facilitators, co-advisers, and Member States throughout this process. We call on all parties to engage seriously with written submissions and verbal statements. We look forward to a process that is timely, inclusive, transparent and representative of all seven sociocultural regions. We look forward to an outcome at the eighty-fourth session of the General Assembly that delivers concrete procedural and institutional steps, including a new, distinct status for Indigenous Peoples' representative institutions, an independent Indigenous-led accreditation mechanism, and meaningful participation across all relevant United Nations forums. Such an outcome would better reflect the inherent right of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination and participation in decisions affecting their rights, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Treaty Council Worldwide further affirms that Indigenous Nations derive their authority from their own laws, customs, governance systems and responsibilities to Country, rather than from recognition or delegation by States. The implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples cannot be achieved solely through settler-state legislative or administrative mechanisms that continue to subsume Indigenous Peoples within colonial governance structures. Rather, enhanced participation must recognise Indigenous Nations as distinct political entities exercising their inherent right to self-determination, capable of engaging with States and the United Nations on the basis of equality, mutual respect and nation-to-nation relationships. We therefore support the establishment of an independent Indigenous-led accreditation mechanism and a distinct institutional status that reflects the

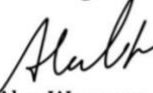
inherent sovereignty and representative authority of Indigenous Peoples, consistent with Articles 3, 18, 19, 37, 38 and 42 of UNDRIP.

Treaty Council Worldwide and the Gudang/Yadhaykenu Tribal Governing Council Indigenous Corporation and the Baramadagal Darug Tribal Governing Council affirms that our authority arises from Country, kinship, customary law and our continuing responsibilities as Traditional Custodians. These responsibilities pre-date colonial governments and continue independently of them. Enhanced participation within the United Nations should therefore recognise Tribal Governing Councils and Traditional Governments as legitimate representative institutions in accordance with Indigenous law and custom, rather than requiring validation through colonial institutions. We support an Indigenous-designed accreditation process that respects the diversity of Indigenous governance systems and enables Traditional Governments to participate directly in international decision-making that affects their rights, territories, cultures, and future generations.

We affirm that effective implementation of UNDRIP requires governments to move beyond consultative models towards genuine recognition of Indigenous governance and decision-making authority. Indigenous representative institutions derive their legitimacy from their Peoples and cultural governance systems, not from legislative delegation by States. Enhanced participation at the United Nations should strengthen Indigenous self-determination through independent accreditation, equitable participation, and institutional arrangements that recognise Indigenous Peoples as rights holders and governing Peoples rather than stakeholders within existing State systems.

Esso / Yanu

Kind Regards


Alex Wymarra



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