



BELFAST ASSEMBLY 2022

ECONOMIC COMMISSION ADOPTED RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: The Congress of Nations and States shall encourage the creation of a joint mechanism between Peoples, Nations, and States led equally by representatives of the states and nations that shall coordinate the parties in their management, use and distribution of economic assets within their territories consistent with the Charter of the Congress of Nations and States.

FURTHER RESOLVED: The joint mechanism shall be a neutral body that collaboratively defines objectives which are mutually beneficial and agreed upon by the parties. It shall complement the organizational structures and the administrative power of the state with the local knowledge, traditions and expertise of the nation and Peoples.

FURTHER RESOLVED: The joint mechanism shall function according to the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as defined by the International Labour Organization in its Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (1989, C169) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) as put into practice by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

FURTHER RESOLVED: The Congress of Nations and States encourages states to economically integrate Peoples within their economy

- i) This is to be achieved through forums, economic education, policy formation, and financial support

FURTHER RESOLVED: To advocate for economic literacy, and for skill-based training to form a central part of education curriculum for Peoples.



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BACKGROUND REPORT

ECONOMIC COMMISSION

Backgrounds to the debate on the resolution

The Economic Commission engaged in a series of dialogues regarding its mandate. Two central themes surfaced in the conversations within the Economic Commission. The first theme related to defining concepts and the second was around universal application. With regards to concepts and priorities, the commission grappled with the challenge of defining its parameters. Several questions persisted: In what way should the economy be delineated from the field of politics or wider society? What should be defined as an economic prerogative? Sometimes, ‘economic growth’ is contradictory to sustainability. Similarly, short-term benefits could potentially harm the interests of both nations and states in the longer term.

The second theme in the Commissions dialogues related to universal application. Since CNS aims to be a platform to mediate the relationships between nations and states globally and on an egalitarian basis, resolutions need to reflect this universal ambition. This has proven difficult. Partly, the expertise within the commission is by definition specialized within certain frameworks or limited to particular geographical regions. Therefore, any resolution can really only be formulated in the broadest and most general terms. Were the commission to avoid generating an ‘empty’ resolution, it had to approach the challenge holistically, carefully treading the field and creating a resolution which would leave the initiative for more detailed negotiations between nations and states to the parties involved.

The Resolution

As one of the main goals of CNS is promoting the rights of Peoples, the aim of this mechanism is to give Peoples and Nations the authority to decide on their territories’ economic development and to be involved in the management of its benefits. Disputes on the use and distribution of economic assets shall be avoided by and solved through the mechanism’s guidelines.

For the matter of this resolution, “economic assets” shall cover but are not limited to capital, property and non-monetary assets. No form of asset should be excluded in order for the mechanism to be able to operate in all areas and for it to be effective regardless of the form of economic benefit.

“Parties” are the nation and state parties to this resolution. It shall therefore be enacted on “their territories” as defined by the Charter of CNS. This shall cover economic assets with effect or gained on these territories.

The decisions of the mechanism shall be made to the benefit of the parties (“mutually beneficial”). This concept is to be understood to the extent that not all parties may benefit from every decision but that the compromises should always consider the interest of both, nations and states. It does also imply that the benefit can have different forms (environmental, social, economic or other).

The mechanism being created as a neutral body implies that it shall be an agency under the authority of both, nations and states. “Collaboration” shall mean a process that equally involves all parties or as defined by the joint mechanism.

The wording of this resolution is considered to take into account that not all peoples are recognized as such or as nations by the states and that their organizational structures differ. By stating that “representatives” of the parties are to form the mechanism, it shall be possible for a self-defined people (referring to the definition in the Charter of CNS) to send members, regardless of its governance structure or the recognition by states. Including nations in the decision making of the joint mechanism shall lead to regulations that let them benefit from economic assets even if they were not entitled to before.

Legal provisions that this resolution is referring to are the Charter of CNS as adopted by the Convening Council in August 2021, the Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples No. C169, adopted in 1989 by the International Labour Organization¹, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/61/295, adopted in 2007 by the General Assembly²) and the guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)³.

Commissioners:

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¹ The Convention can be found here:

https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C169 (last reviewed May 19, 2022).

² The UNDRIP can be found here: https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf (last reviewed on May 19, 2022).

³ The FAO Manual on FPIC can be found here: <https://www.fao.org/3/i6190e/i6190e.pdf> (last reviewed May 19, 2022).