

## Resolution

### UNPO XV General Assembly

#### On the Impact of COVID-19 on Unrepresented Nations and Peoples

*Meeting in plenary session on 2 August 2020, the XV General Assembly of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO),*

- *recognizing* that the coronavirus pandemic has exerted a particularly harsh toll on indigenous peoples and minorities worldwide given years of chronic underdevelopment and neglect by their governments;
- *emphasizing* that authoritarian governments around the world have used the pandemic as a pretext to further increase persecution, militarization, surveillance and the curtailing of political participation of national minorities;
- *expressing* grave concern with the fact that the crisis is being used to further stigmatize ethnic and religious minorities, leading to hate speech and widespread intolerance;
- *recalling* that unrepresented nations and peoples are excluded from decision-making regarding public health policies affecting their communities and therefore are prevented from taking effective response to the crisis;
- *reaffirming* self-determination as a fundamental human right without which civil and political participation, as well as economic, social and cultural rights cannot be fully enjoyed;
- *underscoring* that UN Member States are obliged to protect the right to self-determination of all peoples as enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- *having regard* to states with limited recognition whose exclusion from international institutions has weakened effective international cooperation, and been detrimental to their ability to respond to the public health emergency and access international funding;
- *commending* Taiwan’s international solidarity by providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits and ventilators to unrepresented peoples and microstates in need;
- *noting* with concern that restrictions imposed by the pandemic have further limited the right to freedom of movement of citizens from states with limited recognition, who lack internationally recognized travel documents;

1. *Call upon* the international community to strengthen multilateral mechanisms of governance as the only way to tackle global crisis via coordination and solidarity to the most vulnerable;
2. *Strongly condemn* governments taking advantage of the public health crisis to postpone national elections and to adopt policies with the intent to silence political dissent;
3. *Urge* states to adopt strict policies against the spread of hate speech targeting minorities and indigenous peoples, often scapegoats of the pandemic;
4. *Call upon* the international community to allow states with limited recognition to have full access to coordination mechanisms such as the World Health Organization and access to external international aid and funding;
5. *Stress* the importance of releasing political prisoners and prisoners of conscience during the pandemic so as to avoid a highly contagious environment that could put their lives at risk;
6. *Reaffirm* the critical need for states to take into account the special needs of women and children belonging to minority groups during the pandemic, as well as of other vulnerable groups;
7. *Strongly condemn* states that during the pandemic have introduced legislation that further discriminates against minorities and exacerbates their marginalization;
8. *Call* for the United Nations to launch an international fund specifically aimed at strengthening resilience of minority and indigenous communities worldwide, so as to allow them to recover from the harsh impact of the pandemic;
9. *Urge* the United States to ensure fair allocation of federal funds to its territories and to the District of Columbia with regards to response to the pandemic, as well as to allocate specific funding to support Native American populations;
10. *Remind*, the international community that the restrictions on freedom of movement so necessary to combat the pandemic that have unavoidably caused such economic hardship are felt continuously by the citizens of states with limited recognition, such as Abkhazia, Somaliland and Kosovo, because of failures to recognize travel documents or grant visas, and by peoples whose freedom of movement are continually curtailed by authoritarian states, such as the Tibetan and Uyghur peoples, and *urges* practical measures to avoid this in future;
11. *Further remind*, the international community that the disproportionate impact that the pandemic has had on minorities, indigenous communities and other unrepresented peoples is largely caused by the marginalization and lack of self-determination of these communities and is simply an amplification of public health and other rights-based disparities faced by these communities, and *urges* a renewed focus on the full realization of the right to self-determination of all peoples.