

Cultural Survival

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/unpfii-intervention-cultural-survival-impacts-mining-transition-minerals-indigenous-peoples>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

[En español](#)

21st Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)
April 25 - May 6, 2022

Discussion on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights), with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Intervention by Cultural Survival presented by Galina Angarova (Executive Director) on April 29, 2022.

Thank you Mr. Chair, dear members of the Permanent Forum, dear delegates, Indigenous sisters, and brothers. *San Bainaa hundete nuheddut.*

I am here to make an intervention on behalf of Cultural Survival and a coalition of Indigenous-led and allied organizations and draw your attention to so-called transition minerals that are used for electric vehicles and other new technologies. We are witnessing the acceleration of the transition to a green, low carbon, and clean energy economy and increasing demand for transition minerals such as nickel, lithium, cobalt, and copper. This skyrocketing demand is driving a wave of investment into new and expanded mining projects. These projects are promoted as green because they aim to supply minerals used in renewable energy technologies and electric vehicles. However, these mining projects risk replicating the same harms of the fossil fuel economy: threatening Indigenous Peoples rights and territories, as their territories, contain the highest concentrations of these metals around the world, and destroying biodiverse ecosystems in the process. Increased mining of these minerals will also lead to conflicts between Indigenous communities and mining companies and will exacerbate climate change impacts, as well as these operations, are very energy-intensive.

As Indigenous Peoples, we have the responsibility and commitment to intervene and make this a Just Transition not just for a select few but for everyone. Just because companies are increasing mining for sustainable outcomes does not mean there will be zero impacts. In fact, the outcome will be quite the opposite, the impacts will be enormous, and we can predict that this transition will be done at the expense of Indigenous Peoples, and the process is already underway affecting many communities globally. Therefore, we urge governments, investors, and companies involved in the new green economy to observe and implement rights enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) including the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

In that spirit, we present the following recommendations to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:

[2021 Call for Proposals for Indigenous Community Radio Stations](#)

[Jos Francisco Cali Tzay Appointed as New United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

[Keepers of the Earth Fund Supports Indigenous-led COVID-19 Responses](#)

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are headquartered on [Massachusetts land](#), in Cambridge, MA, and we thank the past and current Indigenous stewards of this land.

Cultural Survival advocates for Indigenous Peoples' rights and supports Indigenous communities self-determination, cultures and

political resilience, since 1972.

Cultural Survival envisions a future that respects and honors Indigenous Peoples' inherent rights and dynamic cultures, deeply and richly interwoven in lands, languages, spiritual traditions, and artistic expression, rooted in self-determination and self-governance.

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