

## Lowitja Institute's UNPFII intervention

### 22nd session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

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"As the CEO of the Lowitja Institute and a Nurrunga Kurna citizen, we urgently call for action on the pressing issues facing Indigenous communities worldwide, as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

"The recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) paints a clear picture of our changing climate and its impacts, and its connection to colonisation.

"We, as Indigenous peoples, contribute the least to climate change, and yet we are impacted the most.

"The devastating impacts of climate change threaten our cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, as recognised in Article 8.


"Furthermore, the destruction of sacred sites and loss of traditional lands compromise our right to practice and revitalise our cultural traditions and customs, as stated in Article 11.

"Climate change is a direct result of colonisation and has caused destruction to our lands, sacred sites, and our ways of life.

"We must heal the deep relational wounds between nation states and Indigenous peoples, through:

- historical truth-telling
- decolonisation
- anti-racism

as central to achieving this goal, as outlined in Article 46.



"Our peoples survive and thrive because of our connections to our communities, cultures, ceremonies and languages.

"These are the social and cultural determinants of health.

"Centring these cultural determinants in policies and practices is integral in ensuring the sustainability of our planet and the achievement of the UN's sustainable development goals.

"We call on nation states to:

- take full responsibility for decolonisation and anti-racism, as recognised in Article 11, by transforming the principles and practices that guide all decision and policy-making, to be centred on Indigenous ways of knowing and doing, as stated in Article 18.

"We urge the United Nations and member nation states:

- to fully implement the UNDRIP in accordance with Article 42; convene a meeting to discuss decolonised approaches and actions, and monitor progress on climate change and its effects on Indigenous peoples' rights, particularly their health, as stated in Articles 24 and 31.

"We seek:

- support for Indigenous work forces who are at the forefront of climate change mitigation and adaptation, utilising our ancient knowledge and custodianship to care for our lands, as recognised in Article 29.

"It is imperative to ensure self-determination as stated in Article 3 of the UNDRIP.

"Finally, we urge nation states to:

- commit to understanding and including the cultural determinants of health as foundational to achieving equitable social determinants of health, as recognised in Article 24.

"We must act on these recommendations to guarantee the survival and thriving of Indigenous communities and our lands, as guaranteed by the UNDRIP.