

THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

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Media Advisory

PRESS CONFERENCE

Indigenous peoples and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Friday, 23 October, at 10:30 a.m.

Room S-237, UN Headquarters, New York

Joan Carling

Member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Paul Kanyinke Sena

Former Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Fabiana del Popolo

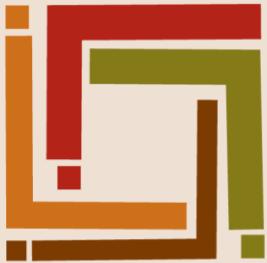
Expert, Population Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

BACKGROUND:

A two-day expert group meeting on “Indigenous Peoples and Agenda 2030,” organized by the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at United Nations Headquarters on 22-23 October aims to develop strategic guidance and recommendations to mobilize action and support for including indigenous issues in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015, includes six specific references to indigenous peoples. Yet, “States and the UN system must be ambitious, and go beyond the points mentioned in this text to bring indigenous peoples into the achievement of goals and targets – for the 2030 Agenda to be truly inclusive,” said Joan Carling, member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, when commenting on the adoption of the landmark document.





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In particular, “indigenous peoples’ rights to their traditional lands, territories and resources have to be secured as the fundamental basis for their economic development and foundation of their lives, livelihoods and cultures,” said the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum, Professor Megan Davis.

Indigenous peoples have much to teach the world about living sustainably: “Let us learn from the extensive knowledge systems of indigenous peoples, developed over many centuries, as we move forward to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda to combat climate change, to sustainably manage forests and to halt biodiversity loss,” Professor Davis said.

The Expert Group meeting is also discussing how to track progress in meeting the goals and targets for indigenous peoples through the development of culturally relevant indicators and disaggregation of data.

“Indigenous peoples look forward to being part of this exciting journey, so it can truly transform our world and bring peace and prosperity for all. This is a priority task to which the Permanent Forum remains committed,” Professor Davis added.

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For more information on the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, please see www.un.org/indigenous

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The press conference will be **webcast live** at webtv.un.org

