

Questionnaire to UN System on Indigenous Issues

UN-Habitat Responses

A.

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

With respect to the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your agency, fund and/or programme

i. Please provide information on measures taken or planned to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your organization.

N/A

B.

System Wide Action Plan to achieve the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Executive summary:

Please provide an overview of actions taken to implement the System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This summary will form the basis of the compilation report of UN activities to implement the SWAP and the Declaration.[Word limit: 600]

UN-Habitat is mandated to promote inclusive and sustainable cities. As a marginalized group, UN-Habitat is dedicated to improving the rights of Indigenous people around the world. UN-Habitat recognises the unique cultural and social values of Indigenous Peoples and their invaluable contribution to sustainable urban development, promoting diversity and socio-economic inclusion. Of particular relevance to the mandate of UN-Habitat is the right to adequate housing, as part of the right to an adequate standard of living, and to promote access to security of tenure and indigenous land rights.

UN-Habitat is the UN system focal point for the New Urban Agenda (NUA), adopted at the Habitat III Conference in Quito in October 2016. In the lead up to the event, Indigenous consultations were undertaken around the world and a joint-declaration was produced to influence the drafting of the NUA. The NUA promotes equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, and highlights Indigenous Peoples within this.

Most importantly, the ‘Indigenous Cities Declaration’ was launched at YoutHAB during the Indigenous Cities session at Habitat III. The Declaration highlights the importance of localizing the UN Declaration at the local level, as more and more Indigenous People move to cities.

At the World Urban Forum (WUF) in February 2018, UN-Habitat hosted a Stakeholder Roundtable for Indigenous Persons. The Roundtable brought together Indigenous Peoples from across the globe, including South and Central America, North America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Speakers included women and men from Canada, Honduras, Mexico and Ecuador. The interactive session highlighted the need to engage Indigenous Peoples in mainstream governance, as well as to strengthen self-governance of Indigenous areas. As Indigenous people become more urbanised, it is critical that they have a voice in local government. Furthermore, rural-urban linkages need to be strengthened, so

that rural indigenous peoples gain equal access to the economic opportunities of cities, whilst still being able to maintain a traditional way of life in rural areas.

In October 2018, UN-Habitat and Asker Kommune (Norway) co-hosted the third Asker Youth Conference on UN Day, celebrating the engagement of youth in achieving the SDGs through local action. 50 youth from the Norwegian communities of Hurum, Røyken and Asker convened under the theme of “Localization of the SDGs.” The Programme highlighted the importance of engaging Indigenous Youth in governance and was attended by Teanna Ducharme, of the Nisga Nation, and North American Focal Point for the UN Global Indigenous Youth Caucus.

At the programme and project level, UN-Habitat has an ‘Environmental and Social Safeguards System’ (ESSS) to must be cleared for all project proposals. Within this policy, there is a distinct section that protects the rights of Indigenous Peoples and ensures that all projects have considered the impact on Indigenous Peoples. This includes potential impacts on Indigenous land, cultural heritage and cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property of Indigenous Peoples. The ESSS is currently being revised, to move from a ‘do no harm’ principle to a ‘do good’ principle.

Furthermore, Human Rights mainstreaming in UN-Habitat ensures that all normative and operational work is sensitive to the particular needs of indigenous peoples. As part of human rights mainstreaming, UN-Habitat has developed a ‘Human Rights Marker.’ The Markers ensure that projects are applying the human-rights based approach and are respecting, promoting and fulfilling relevant human rights, including Indigenous rights.

As requested in the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (2014), a system-wide action plan (SWAP) to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted in November 2015, and launched by the Secretary-General at the UN Permanent Forum in May 2016. The Permanent Forum will follow up on progress made in the implementation of the system-wide action plan during its 2018 session.

For ease of reference, the questions have been framed under the six key elements of the SWAP- Indigenous Peoples as follows:

1. Raising awareness of the UN Declaration

Please provide information on any activities that raise awareness of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including key messages, advocacy and other media and outreach initiatives.

Please provide information on publications, films, audio material, maps, or other materials that feature or focus on the UN Declaration and on indigenous peoples. Please also provide links to the relevant websites and other sources.

Through its social media platforms, UN-Habitat promotes the UN Declaration and International Indigenous Day each year.

In 2018, UN-Habitat hosted the World Urban Forum, with over 20,000 attendees. A key event at the Forum was the Stakeholder Roundtable for Indigenous Persons. This event invited indigenous people, civil society and international organisations to meet with local and national authorities. The

event highlighted priorities of Indigenous Persons in cities, and provoked engagement between Indigenous Peoples and authorities.

At the Habitat III Conference in Quito in 2016, UN-Habitat launched The Indigenous Cities Declaration, which promotes the implementation of the UN Declaration in cities and local communities.

2. Supporting the implementation of the UN Declaration, particularly at the country level

Please provide information on actions taken or planned by your agency, fund, programme, entity on the following:

i. Measures taken or planned to support national partners in reform and implementation of legal frameworks, policies, strategies and plans to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including any joint programming initiatives. Please also include information related to include indigenous women in your responses.

See attached document entitled 'Recommendations addressed to the UN Agencies' to facilitate your responses.

See Report of the 15th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2016/43) at para. 73.

UN-Habitat hosts the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) which promotes security of tenure for all. As part of this work, UN-Habitat promotes the respect and formalisation of customary land title, including that of Indigenous Peoples.

ii. Support provided to Member States to mainstream the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in national development plans and in the UN Development Assistance Frameworks and Common Country Assessments(CCA/UNDAFs).

N/A

iii. Support for consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogue including under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators.

N/A

3. Supporting indigenous peoples' rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

N/A

i. Has your agency/organization taken any measures to incorporate indigenous issues into policy and programming to implement the 2030 Agenda in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

Yes – UN-Habitat has adopted an Environmental and Social Safeguards System (ESSS) that specifically highlights indigenous rights as a key pillar. The System is applied to every project before approval, therefore ensuring that the rights of indigenous peoples are respected, promoted and fulfilled throughout the programmatic work of UN-Habitat.

ii. Has your agency/organization/entity supported the participation of indigenous peoples in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including at the national level? Please also include information on indigenous women, persons with disabilities, older persons and children and youth in your responses.

In 2018, UN-Habitat and Asker Kommune (Norway) co-hosted the third Asker Youth Conference on UN Day, celebrating the engagement of youth in achieving the SDGs through local action. 50 youth from the Norwegian communities of Hurum, Røyken and Asker convened under the theme of “Localization of the SDGs.” The Programme highlighted the importance of engaging Indigenous Youth in governance and was attended by Teanna Ducharme, of the Nisga Nation, and North American Focal Point for the UN Global Indigenous Youth Caucus.

iii. Please provide information on any reports or other documents in implementing the 2030 Agenda for indigenous peoples.

Also include information on any measures taken or planned for the collection of statistical data on indigenous peoples, in particular related to the SDG indicators for target 1.4 (secure tenure rights to land), target 2.3 (income of small-scale food producers), target 4.5 (parity in access to education) and target 10.3/16.b (experience of discrimination).

N/A

4. Mapping of existing standards and guidelines, capacities, training materials and resources for the effective implementation of the UNDRIP

i. Please provide information on any specific standards and guidelines on indigenous peoples adopted or planned by your agency/organization.

Yes – UN-Habitat has adopted an Environmental and Social Safeguards System (ESSS) that specifically highlights indigenous rights as a key pillar. The System is applied to every project before approval, therefore ensuring that the rights of indigenous peoples are respected, promoted and fulfilled throughout the programmatic work of UN-Habitat.

ii. Please provide information on any training materials prepared or planned related to the implementation of the UN Declaration.

iii. Please provide information on current resources and funds allocated to effectively implement the UN Declaration. Please also provide information on any joint initiatives with other UN agencies in the implementation of the UN Declaration.

N/A

5. Developing the capacities of States, indigenous peoples, civil society and UN personnel

Please provide information on any capacity development initiatives that your organization is conducting for indigenous peoples, government officials and UN staff. Also include information on the participation of indigenous women, children and youth as well as indigenous persons with disabilities in your response.

UN-Habitat runs human rights training every other year, for staff and personnel from across the organisation. As part of this, staff and personnel are trained in human rights instruments and the human rights based approach to development programming. This includes a focus on different marginalized groups, including Indigenous Persons.

6. Advancing the participation of indigenous peoples in UN processes

Please provide information on any support provided for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples at relevant UN bodies, including at the country level. Please also provide information on any consultative mechanisms, tools and other measures to obtain free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in processes that affect them.

N/A