

### Questionnaire to the UN system agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental organizations

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was established by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 2000/22. The Permanent Forum is mandated to provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to ECOSOC and through the Council to United Nations agencies, funds and programmes; to raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities related to indigenous issues with the UN system; and prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues.

The Permanent Forum's report of the eighteenth session of 2019 includes several recommendations within its mandated areas, some of which are addressed to UN system agencies, funds and programmes (attached).

The report can be found at: <https://undocs.org/en/E/2019/43>

The Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch/secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues invites UN system agencies, funds and programmes and other inter-governmental organizations to complete the attached questionnaire on any action taken or planned in response to the Permanent Forum's recommendations and other relevant issues, including the system-wide action plan on rights of indigenous peoples/SWAP and the 2030 Development Agenda.

The responses will be compiled into two separate reports for the 2020 session of the Permanent Forum: (a) System Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Implementation by the United Nations System; and (b) Update on the Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda.

All responses will be placed on the DESA/DISD website on Indigenous Peoples at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/>

*If you have any objections for your response to be made available on our website, please inform our office accordingly.*

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **28 November 2019** to:

Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch  
Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
Division for Inclusive Social Development  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, USA 10017  
Telephone: +1-917-367-5100  
Email: [indigenous\\_un@un.org](mailto:indigenous_un@un.org) and [melissa.martin@un.org](mailto:melissa.martin@un.org)

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The nineteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held at United Nations Headquarters from **13 - 24 April 2020**.

### **Provisional Agenda**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion on the theme: “Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”
4. 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 on Sustainable Development.
5. Dialogues:
  - a. Dialogue with indigenous peoples;
  - b. Dialogue with Member States;
  - c. Dialogue with the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes;
  - d. Human rights dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
  - e. Regional dialogues;
  - f. Thematic dialogues.
6. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.
7. Provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Permanent Forum.
8. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its nineteenth session.

## Questionnaire

Please provide information on the following:

### 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:<sup>1</sup>

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

**No recommendation was addressed to DGC in the report on the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.**

- ii. The theme of the 2020 PFII session is “Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”. Please include information on any position paper, report or other activities and programmes that are of relevance to this theme
- iii. 2020 will be Beijing + 25. Please provide information on any publication, report or other background note etc. related to indigenous women? Please also provide links to any relevant sources.

**In February 2019, DGC published the refreshed English edition of the booklet entitled “Women and Girls of African Descent, Human Rights Achievements and Challenges.” The Spanish version will be made available in December 2019, with the French version being finalized for release in early 2020. The publication highlights the intersectional challenges faced by Indigenous and Afro-decedent women and girls. (<http://bit.ly/2VbKBPg>)**

- iv. Please provide information on any methodology, tool or other steps taken to assess the implementation of Permanent Forum recommendations.

### 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]

**As the lead entity for implementation of Element 1 of the System-Wide Action Plan, the Department of Global Communications continued to chair a working group of communications professionals from across the UN system (including DESA, DPPA, FAO, IFAD, IOM, OHCHR, PAHO/WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF and UN Women) to**

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<sup>1</sup> See attached document entitled ‘Recommendations addressed to the UN Agencies’ to facilitate your responses.

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raise awareness of the rights of indigenous peoples through consistent messaging and coordinated outreach across the UN system. The inter-agency working group has been meeting regularly since April 2016 and continues to implement the joint communications strategy developed, including a set of key messages and a range of promotional products in multiple languages, such as digital cards, videos, and backgrounders. A shared online platform established in 2016 continues to serve as the main tool for sharing and cross-promoting content.

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 2020 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 relevant websites and other sources, including contact details of focal points.

**The Department educates the public on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the global and local level and through its range of multimedia and multilingual platforms, including video, audio, web and social media. It provided broad coverage of the 18th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (22 April-3 May) and the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August), including through.**

- **Webcast of meetings and press conferences on [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org).**
- **Coverage by the Department's Meetings Coverage Section, which published a total of 23 press releases/meeting summaries (12 English and 11 French) on indigenous issues, 14 of them on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.**
- **Support to media covering the Permanent Forum session included accreditation and escort for correspondents, notification of events through a daily media alert and provision to journalists with timely copies of statements and documents.**
- **UN News teams generated coverage in the six UN official languages plus Kiswahili and Portuguese of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples with multimedia stories, followed by additional coverage during the General Assembly.**
- **Covering events marking the International Year of Indigenous Languages.**

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Some of the highlights of activities this year included coverage of the story of “Roma” – an Academy Award-nominated film – with interviews of the Mexican filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón and the actress and activist Yalitza Aparicio, who was designated as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for the indigenous peoples in October 2019.

Videos produced included one for International Literacy Day (8 September) promoting indigenous languages, based on a book produced in collaboration with the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, in which indigenous youth spoke about their cultures—the first-ever compilation of essays by indigenous youth, and another on the opening of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The Department continues to maintain a fully accessible and mobile-compliant website for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples ([www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday](http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday)) in the six official languages, which is updated regularly with information on the year's theme, background, messages from the Secretary-General, and other high-ranking officials, events, resources and videos.

The Declaration and issues related to indigenous peoples were featured regularly on the UN social media accounts in the six official languages, plus Kiswahili, Portuguese and Hindi. To raise the social media profile of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the Department worked with Twitter to promote once again an emoji, featuring the UN branding for indigenous issues, for hashtags in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. Some 120,000 tweets with the emoji were posted between 8 August and 17 September, with #IndigenousPeoplesDay as the top hashtag with more than 44,000 Tweets, followed by #PueblosIndigenas with more than 29,000 Tweets, highlighting the engagement of Spanish speaking audiences. The top retweet was a [tweet by Pope Francis \(@Pontifex\)](#) with more than 4,500 retweets.

### Contacts:

#### For UN News:

Ben Malor, Chief Editor, Dailies, UN News ([malor@un.org](mailto:malor@un.org))

Victor Evans-Harvey, Acting Chief Editor, UN News ([evans-harvey@un.org](mailto:evans-harvey@un.org))

#### For Social Media:

Joachim Harris, OIC for Social Media and Deputy Director, Digital and Promotion Branch ([joachim.harris@un.org](mailto:joachim.harris@un.org)).

The flagship Indigenous Media Zone, aimed at strengthening outreach to indigenous communities and amplifying indigenous voices, was again co-organized by DGC and DESA during the first week of the 18th session of the Permanent Forum in April. Participants included indigenous radio and TV producers as well as activists from dozens of countries. Interviews and discussions on topics including traditional knowledge, conservation and human rights, indigenous youth, human rights defenders, women, land rights and languages were streamed live on Facebook. Other panels were live-streamed through indigenous community media channels, including by Notimia (Latin American indigenous women’s news agency), Indigenous Information Network (Kenya), Cultural Survival’s indigenous rights radio (global), the US Human Rights Network (United States) and IWGIA (International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs). Notable experts such as Professor Jeffrey Sachs and actor and activist Alec Baldwin helped focus attention on indigenous peoples’ issues.

On the sidelines of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at UN Headquarters in July 2019, the Department [interviewed SDG Advocate Hindou Ibrahim](#) about the impact of climate change and the role of indigenous communities around the world in tackling this global challenge and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

[A story on indigenous knowledge](#) in tackling climate change and protecting fragile ecosystems was featured in the SDG “Goal of the Month” July edition and [promoted on social media](#) on the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples (9 August)

A newly designed print version of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which was issued by DGC in English and Spanish in 2018, was made available in the other four UN official languages and posted online.

Arabic: <http://bit.ly/2XjF6iz>; Chinese: <http://bit.ly/2Ofy3Ds>;

English: <http://bit.ly/33OTPEO>; French: <http://bit.ly/2Qjxqvp>;

Russian: <http://bit.ly/32OGVp1> and Spanish: <http://bit.ly/2ObtbiU>

iSeek, the UN Intranet, featured articles and announcements in French and English about the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples (4), International Year of Indigenous Languages (4), and UN staff activities around indigenous languages (5) and agriculture (1) to inform staff members of indigenous issues.

The Dag Hammarskjöld Library (DHL) maintains a research guide on indigenous issues (<http://research.un.org/en/indigenous>), including a collection of key UN documents related to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In February of 2019, the DHL organized event entitled “The Future of Indigenous Languages: Keys to Understanding the World,” which highlighted both the challenges that indigenous peoples face to preserve or revitalize their languages and cultures and the measures that are being undertaken during the International Year of Indigenous Languages to strengthen their capacity in this regard.

The United Nations iLibrary ([un-ilibrary.org](http://un-ilibrary.org)) provides user-friendly, fully searchable access to digital content on indigenous peoples in all official UN languages, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and DESA’s State of the World’s Indigenous Peoples (4th edition).

Through the Department’s guided tours and visual aids provided by the UNPFII Secretariat, the Visitors Services educated UN Headquarters visitors about the World’s Indigenous Peoples, the recognition and protection of their rights, and the impact on their territories and lands at the country level.

The Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth (OSGEY) meaningfully integrates indigenous youth voices into its work by collaborating closely with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC). OSGEY facilitated participation of GIYC representatives at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); provided a foreword penned by the Envoy to a new book “Global Indigenous Youth: Through Their Eyes”; participated in the book launch on the sidelines of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; supported inclusion of delegates in the preparation process of the Climate Action Summit in Abu Dhabi and the Youth Climate Summit in New York; and invited a representative of the



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GIYC to open the Youth Climate Summit with a spiritual moment to acknowledge and celebrate the special connection between indigenous communities and the environment.

The Department's Exhibits Unit facilitated an exhibit titled "World in Faces" in the UN Visitors Lobby at United Nations Headquarters in New York and along the fence on First Avenue, displaying the extraordinary diversity of indigenous cultures of the world through portraits of indigenous people taken in their own spaces.

The Department's network of United Nations Information Centres (UNICs) around the world organized activities and events to raise awareness of indigenous peoples' issues. UNICs Cairo, Dhaka, Manila, Rabat, Rio de Janeiro, Warsaw, as well as the UN Regional Information Centre in Brussels translated in local languages and distributed the Secretary-General's message on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and promoted it on social media platforms. Languages used included Arabic, Bangla, Polish, Portuguese and five Nordic languages.

The UNIC Canberra interview of the Co-Chair of the Steering Committee for the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages and Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies which is based in Canberra was posted on social media and the UNIC's website in March 2019.

UNIC Panama and the Resident Coordinator Office assisted the Tourism Authority of Panama and UNESCO based in Costa Rica in the preparation of an awareness campaign for the International Year of Indigenous Languages. The artwork of the campaign, prepared in six of the seven Panamanian indigenous languages, was displayed at the Tocumen International Airport for 15 days and received wide media coverage in October 2019.

UNIC Rio de Janeiro produced a special video feature for the International Year of Indigenous Languages in February 2019. The team traveled to Roraima state to film how indigenous languages are taught at a University. The material was published on the Centre's website and promoted through social media, besides being shared with Portuguese speaking countries and shared with local media.

The Department's Graphic Design Unit designed a range of promotional products for the International Year of Indigenous Languages and added translations of the logo into Estonian, Gaelic and Romanian to the already available six official UN languages as well as Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese. The Department will support communications and outreach for the high-level closing event of the International Year of Indigenous Languages convened by the President of the General Assembly on 17 December 2019.

### **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 indigenous women in your responses.

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As referred to above, UNICs continue to reach out to the media and educational institutions; engage in partnerships with governments as well as local civil society organizations and the private sector; and maintain libraries and electronic information resources on a wide range of indigenous issues.

The United Nations in Panama celebrated the World Indigenous Day with people from the Comarca Ngäbe - Bugle, as well as indigenous leaders from the other six Panamanian indigenous populations in August 2019.

The UN Office in Nairobi hosted a 3-day International Expert Group meeting on the Rights of Indigenous peoples in January 2019. Case studies and possible solutions were presented by local and international experts. The UN DESA organized event was supported by UNIC Nairobi which produced nine Kiswahili and English short interview videos, which were promoted by UN News.

The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth during her official missions to the United Arab Emirates, Maldives, and for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Spain advocated for the rights of indigenous youth with governments, UN Country Teams and other stakeholders.

- 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 Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and Common Country Analysis.
- iii.* Support for consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogue including under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators.

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

- 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?
- 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. Please describe how indigenous peoples have contributed to the preparation of the national plans/strategies for SDG implementation?
- 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-



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scale food producers), target 4.5 (parity in access to education) and target 10.3/16.b (experience of discrimination).

#### **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.
- 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.

#### **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. Please provide details of up to three concrete examples where your entity has made the most progress.

#### **6. Advancing the participation of indigenous peoples at the UN**

Please provide information on any support provided for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples at relevant UN processes, 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.

- i.* Please also provide data on the number of indigenous persons working in your Agency/organization, and any obstacles faced in recruiting indigenous persons.
- ii.* Please provide brief reflections on how your entity plans to address any obstacles faced.