

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 Indigenous Peoples 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 2021 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 **20 December 2020** 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

Email: indigenous_un@un.org and requesens@un.org

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The Twentieth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled to take place from **19 - 30 April 2021**.

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. Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
7. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.
8. Provisional agenda for the twentieth-first session of the Permanent Forum.
9. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its twentieth 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:

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

The Permanent Forum has called on the UN System to collaborate with indigenous peoples in designing and implementing early warning systems to ensure peace, security and good governance in their lands. To this end, our Office intends to organize events aimed at familiarizing representatives of indigenous communities in the region of the Americas with risk factors of atrocity crimes with the aim of identifying local indicators for early warning systems in a participatory and inclusive manner. Based on the results of a pilot exercise to be conducted in Nicaragua in January 2021 with the support of OHCHR, our Office will consider expanding this initiative to other States in the region. Potential partners for this initiative include the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights and the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention.

- ii. The theme of the 2021 PFII session is “Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”. Please include information on any publications, projects, report or activities that are of relevance to this theme.

Please see above comment.

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 or planned 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 requested in the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/69/2), 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.

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In August 2020, the United Nations Executive Committee agreed on the need for accelerated and collective action to strengthen the implementation of UN System Wide Action Plan (SWAP) on indigenous peoples. In November 2020, the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination issued a Call to Action: Building an Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Future with Indigenous Peoples, to ensure collaborative and coherent UN system action to support the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples with focus on furthering the implementation of the SWAP.

The Permanent Forum will follow up on progress made in the implementation of the system-wide action plan during its 2021 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 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 Office on Genocide Prevention and on the Responsibility to Protect refers to key elements in the Declaration in its periodic contributions to the work of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. In 2020, this has included at the Annual Network Focal Point meeting, which took place on 28 October virtually, and in which the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect participated. In addition, the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect raised concerns related to the vulnerability of indigenous peoples and the need to advance key elements in the Declaration in consultations with a number of civil society organizations in the Americas organized in partnership with the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights.

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

The role of the new Resident Coordinators and UN Country Team framework is an integral component of the UN's commitment to support the rights of those at risk of being left behind, including indigenous peoples.

The Chief Executives Board committed to redouble efforts to help Resident Coordinators and UNCTs ensure more systematic participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations country processes.

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

- i. Any activities or support provided to indigenous peoples both during the COVID-19 pandemic and after, to ensure their inclusion in addressing the impacts of the pandemic, as well as in building back better.

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In her recent engagements with Member States at the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention , with the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights and with civil society organizations in the Americas, the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect has stressed the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on vulnerable populations, including indigenous peoples. In her messages, she has emphasized that the pandemic is exacerbating structural inequalities and pervasive trends of discrimination, including with an increase of hate speech. The Special Adviser is encouraging dedicated action by national authorities to address these serious impacts – both in the response to and aftermath of the crisis as part of their responsibility to protect.

- ii. 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.

The Office on Genocide Prevention and on the Responsibility to Protect has continued advocating for stronger protection for indigenous peoples in its work within and outside of the United Nations. Within the system, we have continued sharing information with colleagues in a number of States in the Americas, as well as offering our support to increase visibility for such concerns. This includes in support of national authorities, most frequently Ombudsperson's institutions.

- iii. 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, where ratified, in national development plans and in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and Common Country Analysis.

Please see answer B.1. above

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

Besides the platforms outlined in B.1 above, the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect has undertaken such consultations bilaterally and informally.

- v. Support provided to Resident Coordinators, UNCTs, SRSGs, UN field operations or Special Envoys in their engagement with indigenous peoples.

See B.ii above. In parallel, our Office is coordinating the implementation of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, which involves supporting Country Teams in the development of national UN action plans to this effect upon demand. In this vein, our Office has been invited to form part of a Central America Regional Interagency Task Force on Combatting Disinformation that has been launched by the UNESCO Office in Costa Rica. In its first meeting, , our Office made a presentation on options to increase collaboration in addressing hate speech directed towards vulnerable populations, including indigenous peoples.

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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?

N/A

- 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?

N/A

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

The Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect assesses the degree of presence or absence of risk factors in its atrocity crimes prevention methodology. The specific risk factors and indicators are listed and described in the Office's [Framework for Analysis for Atrocity Crimes](#). In conducting such assessments, particularly in the region of the Americas, our Office considers the situation of indigenous populations as particularly vulnerable, and uses this tool as informed guidance to assess risk of atrocity crimes against them.

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

N/A

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- 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.

No specific allocation to the implementation of the Declaration.

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

Please provide information on:

- i. Any capacity development initiatives that your organization is conducting for indigenous peoples, government officials and UN staff;

The Office includes representatives of indigenous populations in its list of interlocutors when assessing the risk of atrocity crimes, particularly in the region of the Americas. This is specially the case in field visits by the Office to States where these communities are assessed to be particularly vulnerable. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this kind of engagement is now taking place virtually. As an example the Office, together with OHCHR's regional office in Panama, is planning to conduct online workshops with civil society partners, including indigenous groups, in Nicaragua aimed at: (a) identifying challenges for the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in specific countries; (b) identifying policy options to address them; and (c) exploring institutional reforms or arrangements that could facilitate atrocity prevention assessment and response. This exercise is likely to be replicated in other countries in the Latin American region.

The Office has also presented the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech to the interagency forum on indigenous issues as well as to the experts of the Permanent Forum with the aim of discussing options to connect this agenda to their work.

- ii. Please include information on the participation of indigenous women, children and youth as well as indigenous persons with disabilities in your response.

N/A

6. Advancing the participation of indigenous peoples at the UN

Please provide information on:

- i. Any support provided for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples at relevant UN processes, including at the country level;

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N/A

- ii. Any consultative mechanisms, tools and other measures to obtain free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in processes that affect them;

N/A

- iii. Any consultation mechanisms established by the UNCT¹ or support to Member States in establishing institutions and mechanisms for consultation with indigenous peoples, as well as ensuring effective participation of indigenous youth and indigenous women, in the COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery plans.

In its engagement with States in the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, the Office has advocated for the inclusion of indigenous peoples in risk assessment and response arrangements. Unlike in previous years, however, there has not been a formal request for assistance in the development of national atrocity prevention action plans in 2020.

Thank you very much