

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.
- 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.

Input from the UNCCD

No recommendation was specifically addressed to the UNCCD by the last PFII session

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]

Input from the UNCCD

Land is fundamental for the development and wellbeing of indigenous peoples. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found

Decision 5/COP14 adopted in New Delhi on the participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the UNCCD requests the secretariat to continue working with key stakeholders, including youth, faith-based organizations, local governments, farmers, pastoralists, women’s organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities. In this regard, during the course of 2021, the secretariat is supporting the participation of indigenous peoples in the meetings of the governing bodies of the

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Conventions (15th session of the Conference of the Parties -COP15) and its subsidiary bodies (19th session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention – CRIC19).

Civil society organizations representing indigenous peoples are being engaged in the work of the convention. In this regard, CENESTA a non-governmental organization from Iran is representing both indigenous peoples and Asian organizations within the UNCCD CSO panel and ensuring that the body is taking into consideration the points of view of IPOs. The panel meets once a month and has included the engagement of IPOs as one of the priorities for the current biennium.

Furthermore, decision 20/COP.14 on the policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies encourages stakeholder participation, involving land managers, including indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as experts and other knowledge holders, in policy for, planning for and implementation of land degradation neutrality.

In the framework of addressing the important aspect of access and protection of the land, the Parties to the Convention, adopted decision 26/COP14 on land tenure. In addition to highlighting the relevance of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), endorsed by the United Nations Committee on World Food Security, to the implementation of the Convention, the decision encourages Parties to recognize legitimate tenure rights, including customary rights, consistent with the national legal framework. The decision also requests Parties to provide effective, timely and affordable access to justice and transparent dispute resolution mechanisms and to recognize and promote fair and inclusive community-based conflict resolution mechanisms.

The secretariat, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization and other partners is working to prepare a technical guide that could assist the Parties to the convention to integrate the VGGT into the implementation of the UNCCD and the achievement of the Land Degradation Neutrality.

Last but not least, the recently finalized Gender Action Plan of the Convention also contents a strong component in the protection and development of indigenous peoples, particularly in the areas of enhancing women's access to improved knowledge and technologies that relate to effective UNCCD implementation and in the way we could strengthen women's land rights and access to natural resources.

Building on outcomes of the ministerial interactive dialogue organized at COP14 on a values-based approach to land stewardship, the secretariat will pay special attention to the role of indigenous communities. Guardians of our global land resources, protecting 80% biodiversity on Earth, if we are to stand a chance of arresting the degradation of our natural world, the implementation of the Convention can help the global community recognize, promote and harness indigenous communities' invaluable knowledge and intuitive connection with nature.

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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.

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.

Input from the UNCCD

In the framework of the implementation of decision 26/COP14 on Land Tenure, the secretariat together with the Food and Agriculture Organization has been working on the development of a technical guide that will assist countries in integrating the VGGT into the UNCCD and Land Degradation Neutrality implementation.

As of today, 5 consultations have been organized to identify challenges, benefits and barriers that should be addressed in the preparation of such a technical guide. Representatives from IPOs have been present at the consultations, ensuring that articles 26 and 27 of the UNDRIP are taking into consideration when addressing land tenure.

The final document will be ready for presentation at COP15 (last quarter of 2021) for the consideration of the Parties.

Furthermore, the secretariat is preparing a strategy on how to promote awareness-raising on

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responsible land governance for combating desertification/land degradation and drought among all stakeholders, particularly among vulnerable populations, including indigenous peoples and local communities (mandated by the same decision) Collaboration has been sought with the International Land Coalition and Land Portal

Relevant documents could be included here:

Land Rights for Sustainable Life on Land: <https://www.unccd.int/publications/civil-society-organizations-cso-panel-land-rights-sustainable-life-land>

UNCCD Global Land Outlook https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2018-06/GLO%20English_Full_Report_rev1.pdf

UNCCD Gender Action Plan: https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2018-01/GAP%20ENG%20%20low%20res_0.pdf

Focal point for indigenous peoples at the UNCCD CSO panel: <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/Nahid%20Naghizadeh.pdf>

Website of the UNCCD CSO panel: <https://csopanel.org/>

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.

The secretariat has been working on the aspects related to the Role of land in COVID-19 response and has issued a report promoting a new social contract for nature that meets our planet's current challenges. The report entitled ["Supporting the Global Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Land-based Solutions for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet"](#)

During 2020 we have organized several campaigns supporting young people that are working on the area of desertification, land degradation and drought. The campaign [#UNCCDLandHeroes](#) was launched during the year and the [winners](#) were announced at June 17, Desertification and Drought Day. During the rest of the year the secretariat

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organized 6 webinars with the winners addressing relevant issues for the youth (education, employment, entrepreneurship, science, food security and art)

- 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.
- 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.
- iv. Support for consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogue including under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators.
- v. Support provided to Resident Coordinators, UNCTs, SRSGs, UN field operations or Special Envoys in their engagement with indigenous peoples.

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?

The UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework is the most comprehensive global commitment to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in order to restore the productivity of vast expanses of degraded land, improve the livelihoods of more than 1.3 billion people, and reduce the impacts of drought on vulnerable populations to build

A future that avoids, minimizes, and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels to achieve a land degradation-neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The document identifies strategic objectives and requires Parties to report periodically on its implementation. Strategic objective 2 focusses on the improvement of the living conditions of populations affected by desertification, land degradation and drought. Among these aspects, the Parties identified the following expected impacts

1. Food security and adequate access to water for people in affected areas is improved
2. The livelihoods of people in affected areas are improved and diversified.
Expected impact
3. Local people, especially women and youth, are empowered and participate in decision-making processes in combating DLDD

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4. Migration forced by desertification and land degradation is substantially reduced

The full text of the strategy is available here.
https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/ICCD_COP%2813%29_L.18-1716078E_0.pdf

- 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).

Decision 26/COP14 on Land Tenure requests the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, to explore options for the integration of existing globally agreed Sustainable Development Goal indicators relevant to land governance into the UNCCD reporting process, with a view to avoiding duplication of reporting efforts and ensuring the widest reach among different national contexts.

In the next weeks the secretariat will finalize a report that will be looking particularly at the indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 and 5.a.2. We hope to provide more information during the next reporting cycle.

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.

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No yet

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

No yet. A specific training will be developed on land tenure which will include a component for IPOs. This will be developed in 2021

- 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.

Please see reference to question number 1 and summary regarding land tenure. The first draft of the document will be ready by mid-January with the intention to be peer reviewed by March 2021.

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

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;

Observers are invited to attend the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD and its subsidiary bodies (CRIC and Committee of Science and Technology). As of today, more than 600 civil society organizations are accredited as observer to the convention (full list available [here](#)). Several among them are IPOs. The secretariat always ensures that within the available resources there are organizations that receive financial support. The UNCCD CSO panel decides against 5 criteria (gender and geographical balance, turnover, expertise, and membership to a network) the organizations that will receive the financial support to attend those sessions.

In addition to the mandated official sessions, the secretariat also supports the participation of CSOs in relevant meetings of the [Science-Policy Interface](#) as well as the

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[Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought](#) CSO representatives attending those meetings need to consult with the CSO panel and bring all the necessary elements to the discussion.

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

Some elements are being currently discussed within the framework of the land tenure decision. Information to be provided during the next reporting cycle.

- iii. Any consultation mechanisms established by the UNCT 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.

Thank you very much