

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.

Reprisals and indigenous human rights defenders

Pursuant to a recommendation of the Permanent Forum (see E/2018/43 E/C.19/2018/11, para. 14), the Assistant Secretary General continued to address the widespread intimidation of and reprisals against indigenous peoples. She remains concerned about the disproportionate impact on certain groups, including indigenous peoples, and encouraged continued efforts towards gender-sensitive documentation and reporting. As noted in the latest report of the Secretary-General on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights¹, OHCHR recorded 15 cases of reprisals against indigenous representatives in 2019 in the context of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, all of whom had received a participation grant. A total of 5 cases were recorded in relation to the session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held in April 2019, and 10 were recorded during or after the session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples held in July 2019 (A/75/222, para. 26). The Fund requested both bodies to develop a strategy to address reprisals against indigenous peoples (A/75/222, paras. 28 and 48), and that work is in progress.

¹ A/HRC/45/36, Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, Report of the Secretary-General - available from <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/45/36>.

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Situation in cross-border territories

In its report on its seventeenth session, the Permanent Forum recommended that Colombia and Ecuador take immediate action to protect the indigenous peoples whose territories are in the border area between the two countries, and encouraged OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to work with the two Governments to address this situation in close cooperation with the indigenous communities concerned (E/2018/43 E/C.19/2018/11, para. 67). The situation of indigenous peoples in cross-border areas was subject to separate analysis in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on her visit to Ecuador (A/HRC/42/37/Add.1). The situation of indigenous peoples facing physical or cultural extinction in Colombia was addressed again by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/COL/CO/17-19, para. 23).

OHCHR Colombia has continued to monitor the situation in cross-border areas. In particular, the Office has engaged with the government regarding the situation of 15 peoples living in the Putumayo region – 13 were considered by the Constitutional Court to be facing risk of physical or cultural extinction (Court order 004 of 2009). These people continue to face extreme vulnerability resulting from the accumulated effect of the expansion of the agricultural frontier; the intensification of resource extraction, illicit crops, and the operations of illegal armed groups, resulting in their lack of physical and environmental security. These factors continue to escalate, and may lead to definitive and irreversible impacts on indigenous peoples' survival. In cooperation with the National Human Rights Institution (Defensoría del Pueblo), the Office has continued to engage with the Government and indigenous peoples' organizations and authorities to develop a participatory strategy for the protection of indigenous peoples' rights in the Putumayo region, as a follow up to the Permanent Forum's recommendation. In this context, the Office has assisted indigenous peoples in formalizing and documenting their claims for protection (Ruta Étnica de Protección). The Office has also supported the establishment of an inter-institutional committee

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involving relevant government departments – including the National Land Agency and the Land Restitution Unit.

- 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.**

Responding to the 2030 Agenda’s call to “leave no one behind,” OHCHR continues to provide technical guidance on the Human Rights-Based Approach to Data (HRBAD) as a tool for data collection and disaggregation, including for the [4 SDG 16 indicators under OHCHR custodianship](#) on conflict-related deaths (16.1.2), killings and other attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists (16.10.1), independent national human rights institutions (16.a.1), and prevalence of discrimination and harassment (10.3.1/16.b.1). HRBAD espouses six key principles: participation, self-identification, data disaggregation, privacy, transparency, and accountability. This work draws attention to human rights and their practical and normative contributions to ensuring meaningful participation, especially by vulnerable and at-risk groups, including indigenous peoples, in all stages of the data life cycle.

OHCHR provided technical assistance and promoted good practices in strengthening institutional linkages and collaboration between NHRIs and National Statistical Offices (NSOs). With OHCHR support, an increasing number of countries, including Albania, Cabo Verde, Kenya, Kosovo, Liberia, Mexico, Moldova, Palestine, Pakistan, Philippines, Tajikistan, Uganda, and Uzbekistan, are establishing collaborative platforms to concretely operationalize the HRBAD as an instrument for rebuilding trust in data, improving visibility around groups left behind, including indigenous peoples, and reinforcing equality and non-discrimination. OHCHR organized virtual workshops for NHRIs, NSOs and other state agencies in Cabo Verde, El Salvador, Peru, Philippines and Tajikistan in 2020.

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Technical guidance on HRBAD was also provided to the statistical community during the celebration of the [World Statistics Day 2020](#) (October 12, 2020) and the Virtual Expert Group Meeting on Access versus Privacy: The Special Case of Population Data (6-8 October 2020), co-organized with UNFPA.

OHCHR developed and advanced the [COVID-19 Human Rights Indicators Framework](#) at the request of the UN Crisis Management Team and in collaboration with a range of UN entities. This framework, a crucial element of the UN's Socio-Economic Response Framework, is a practical tool for measuring whether the UN and States' responses to the pandemic are consistent with international human rights standards, address key human rights concerns, and builds on the global SDG indicators framework, in particular Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. It highlights the importance of safeguarding the rights to health and life, upholding freedom of speech, information, association and others that are critical to a healthy civic space, and ensuring that states of emergencies, public health and other measures comply with international law.

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]

OHCHR, at Headquarters and in the field, carried out a number of activities to implement the six components of the System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The work of the Office focused on raising awareness of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, developing the capacities of States, indigenous peoples, and UN Country teams and advancing the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations processes. In light of the persistent lack of indigenous peoples' participation in decision-making and increasing violence against indigenous human rights defenders worldwide, the Office has stepped up its

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efforts to facilitate dialogue between indigenous peoples and State authorities in a number of countries. In particular, OHCHR engaged with States to address forced evictions of indigenous peoples from their traditional lands, including through support to implementation of national and regional court decisions on the topic. It continued to act as mediator of some social conflict, at local and national level to advocate for the incorporation and use of human rights standards by the State in relation to forced displacement of indigenous peoples in order to prevent and mitigate social conflict and emerging crisis. OHCHR continued to engage actively with Development Finance Institutions in order to help ensure that development financing activities and policies are consistent with international human rights standards and principles, and that human rights risk information is integrated into their due diligence processes. This includes the review of environmental and social safeguards policies, including those related to indigenous peoples. OHCHR has also engaged with a range of MDBs and national DFIs on policy initiatives relating to reprisals against project-affected communities and the protection of environmental and human rights defenders. The Office also continued to provide support to legislative and policy changes in matters ranging from access to justice, culturally appropriate education, land rights and free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples. It has joined other UN agencies to contribute to the elaboration of the Plan of Action for the International Decade on Indigenous Languages under the auspices of UNESCO, and collaborated with UN-DESA, UN-Women and the ILO in a number of initiatives, notably in Africa, in partnership with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. In relation to climate change, the Office supported efforts to improve understanding of climate change as a threat multiplier, and as a driver of inequality, conflict and humanitarian crises, in order to support a rights-based prevention agenda that protects persons in vulnerable situations. The Office consistently stressed the importance of ensuring meaningful and informed participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making. Special emphasis was made on the heightened risk exposure of indigenous women and girls to climate and environmental harms, and the need to ensure that their rights to raise their voices and effectively share in decision-making

be protected and upheld. Finally, the OHCHR Fellowship Programme had to be redesigned due to COVID-19. The Office selected 20 of its most outstanding former Indigenous Fellows to be posted in country or regional OHCHR Offices and other UN offices in 16 different locations covering all regions. The work of OHCHR is further guided by the recommendations of the UN Expert Mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and human rights treaty bodies.

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

The Office continued to work for the promotion and the full application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in intergovernmental and other processes. The High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights regularly highlighted the concerns of indigenous peoples in their country visits, statements and other work, with particular focus on indigenous human rights defenders, the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the human rights of indigenous peoples, and the need to ensure their meaningful participation in decision-making processes.

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In addition, OHCHR played an active role in efforts aimed at raising the profile of indigenous peoples in the context of the Human Rights Council, including through its support to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and by organizing, during the forty seventh session of the Human Rights Council in September 2020, a panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples, focusing on the protection of indigenous human rights defenders. The panel discussion was aimed at: assessing the global trends in threats and violence against indigenous human rights defenders, including in conflict and post-conflict areas; considering the reasons behind the use of threats and violence against indigenous human rights defenders, which experts believe has increased in recent years; assessing the impact of the aforementioned types of violence; and identifying good practices and current challenges in violence prevention and protection of indigenous human rights defenders, including indigenous-led protection mechanisms and their further empowerment. The panel was chaired and moderated by the Vice-President of the Human Rights Council, H.E. Mr. Yackoley Kokou Johnson, and comprised the following panellists: Ms. Aida Quilcue Vivas, Indigenous woman from the Nasa peoples of Colombia and Human Rights Counselor of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia; Mr. Andrew Anderson, Executive Director of Frontline Defenders; Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Indigenous woman from the Kankanaey Igorot peoples of the Cordillera Region of the Philippines and former Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples; Mr. Joseph Itongwa, Director of the National Alliance for Support and Promotion of Areas and Territories Conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In her opening statement, the Deputy-High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Al Nashif, portrayed indigenous human rights defenders as the agents of change and guardians of ancestral lands, natural resources, culture, knowledge and livelihoods of indigenous people. She noted that they risk their own lives, while seeking to protect the lives and way of life of their communities. In this context, she referred to the reported cases of harassment, attacks, acts of violence and killings perpetrated against this

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group. She noted the worrying statistics of two hundred and twelve land and environmental activists murdered in 2019, the highest recorded number since 2012. Out of the aforementioned figures, which are believed to be underrepresented, forty percent of the victims are of indigenous background. Ms. Al Nashif emphasized the need to collect adequate data on the injurious treatment of indigenous human rights defenders. This data is crucial in assessing the policies and programmes aimed at improving indigenous peoples' well-being and combating cases of discrimination and violence perpetrated against them. By concluding the opening statement, she emphasized the obligation of the Member States to ensure the protection of indigenous human rights defenders and to hold aggressors and violators to account. The panellist discussed issues including effective redress and reparations to the victims of criminalization and extrajudicial killings; the responsibility of companies under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; the need for secure land tenure; and the rights of indigenous peoples to give or withhold their free, prior and informed consent to projects affecting their community.

The OHCHR field presences have also been active in promoting the Declaration and developing tools to promote greater awareness of the existing standards to advance the rights of indigenous peoples. The Indigenous Fellowship Programme also makes an important contribution to building up community capacity to defend human rights and is a concrete means for promoting understanding of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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.

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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 COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionately affecting indigenous peoples - in some cases even posing a critical threat to their survival - underlying structural inequalities and pervasive discrimination. Following extensive consultations with OHCHR field presences and Member States, OHCHR issued A Guidance Note on Covid-19 and the rights of indigenous peoples in June 2020. The note highlights the impact of Covid-19 in relation to their human rights, with a focus on their rights to lands and natural resources; access to information; and safe drinking water and sanitation. It further provides examples of best practices from States, including key recommendations on how to ensure meaningful participation of indigenous peoples, including women, in efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic².

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected not only the protection and realization of the whole spectrum of human rights worldwide, but also placed at increased risk the delivery of the 2030 Agenda, its SDGs and the Agenda's promise to leave no one behind. OHCHR promptly adapted its strategy and 2030 Agenda-related work for maximum impact in the new context, including as relevant to the protection of vulnerable groups' human rights.³

The Office developed its "OHCHR COVID-19 strategy", which identifies priority areas of engagement, including:

²https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/IPeoples/OHCHRGuidance_COVID19_IndigenousPeoplesRights.pdf

³ For OHCHR guidance, tools and approaches that can be useful in the context of COVID-19, please visit <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>. Guidance included there, for instance, relates to the principle of leaving no one behind as well as specifically to the situation of indigenous peoples.

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- Engagement in support of vulnerable people/groups – advocating for and working to anchor the principle of leaving no one behind (LNOB) as central to COVID-19 response and recovery, taking the 2030 Agenda as the blueprint for building back better and guiding OHCHR’s and UN’s response to the pandemic: In this context, OHCHR (with UNDP and DCO) led the development of the [Checklist for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Socio-Economic Country Responses to COVID-19](#), thus actively contributing to UN’s efforts to assist countries respond to the pandemic and build back better and greener, guided by the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The checklist makes specific references to indigenous peoples as well as indigenous languages and provides links to further sources of information such as the relevant [IASG Guidance Note for the UN System](#).
- Engaging on economic and social impacts of the pandemic – while all human rights can find their reflection in the 2030 Agenda, OHCHR placed an explicit priority on economic and social rights and on the related SDGs, including SDG 10.

In addition, the joint UNEP-OHCHR Key Messages on Human Rights, the Environment and COVID-19⁴ outline the essential human rights obligations and responsibilities of States and other stakeholders, including businesses, in addressing and responding to environmental aspects of the COVID-19 crisis. The report highlights that environmental harms disproportionately impact individuals, groups and peoples already living in vulnerable situations – including indigenous peoples, and that action is needed to protect both the environment and its defenders including, in many cases, indigenous peoples, whose worldviews and traditional knowledge can bring critical perspectives for sustainable and rights-based development. The reports also emphasizes that

⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/HR-environment-COVID19.pdf>

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COVID-19 crisis should be a catalyst for further democratization of environmental decision-making at all levels through improved use of digital space and inclusive consultative processes.

OHCHR field presences also advocated for the integration of human rights into the COVID-19 response and actions to effectively address and mitigate the impact on indigenous peoples' human rights. For example, OHCHR in Cambodia offered technical assistance to the Government, seeking to ensure that the Government's COVID-19 response was aligned with its obligation to take all necessary steps to prevent, treat and control the disease as a component of the right to health. To ensure that no one is left behind, OHCHR advocated for the adoption of special measures to protect groups and individuals in situations of particular vulnerability to the pandemic, including indigenous peoples. The OHCHR Regional Office for South America provided substantive support to the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs in Paraguay in the drafting of a sanitary protocol on COVID-19 and addressing its effects on indigenous peoples. The support was focused on integrating a human rights-based approach in line with relevant international standards. Similarly, the OHCHR office in Colombia advised the Government on incorporating a rights-based approach into the formulation of Decree 546, which sets out measures for substituting prison sentences and imprisonment for home detention in the context of the state of emergency declared due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the government decree contains the recognition of the right of indigenous peoples to apply indigenous justice systems, as established in the Constitution of Colombia. The Office also advocated for greater involvement and consultation with indigenous peoples in the design of COVID-19 mitigation and recovery measures. In Guatemala, the Office and the Pan-American Health Organization facilitated a series of dialogues between the Ministry of Health and indigenous authorities across the country to address limited access of indigenous peoples to relevant decision-making forums.

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- 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.**

OHCHR continued to support the integration of indigenous peoples' rights in legislation and policies through technical advice to State authorities. In cooperation with UNDESA, and UN-Women, the Office provided support to the development of an Affirmative Action Programme on Indigenous Peoples led by the Ministry on Gender and Social Development in Uganda with technical support provided by UNDESA. Following the establishment in late 2019 of a National Reference Committee, comprised of representatives of indigenous communities and relevant Ministries, OHCHR participated in consultative meetings held in 2020, with a focus on issues including access to justice, culturally appropriate education, participation and indigenous peoples' right to lands, which have informed the preparation of the Action Programme.

OHCHR also continued to advocate for the adoption of a Bill on the Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The admissibility of the Bill in the National Assembly on June 5, 2020 marked a major step forward. The Assembly is expected to finally pass the bill during its next session in 2021.

The Office also supported work in relation to gender-based violence against indigenous women in Cambodia and provided guidance on the implementation of the decision of the African Court on Human and Peoples' rights on the land rights of the indigenous Ogiek community in Kenya

In the context of Latin America, OHCHR Colombia promoted increased coordination between the special indigenous justice system and the official justice system, including the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), the special transition justice system established under the Colombian peace process. In this context, OHCHR has supported the Consejo Regional Indígena del Cauca (CRIC) in their interactions with local justice sector institutions in northern Cauca, currently one of the most violent regions in the country. In addition, OHCHR advocated for an "ethnic-

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territorial” and gender-based approach before the JEP, including the recognition of indigenous peoples and communities as collective victims of the internal armed conflict in emblematic cases. The Office also continued to provide technical assistance to indigenous peoples’ self-government and justice system strengthening processes, at the request of several communities, as a strategy to protect their cultural identity and right to self-determination. OHCHR conducted workshops with authorities and leaders of the traditional “resguardos” (reservations) of the Pastos, Jiw, Hitnu and Zenu peoples. The Office also provided technical assistance to 15 indigenous peoples in Putumayo and the Bari people in the Catatumbo region, Santander, to develop a Protocol on Free, Prior, and Informed Consultation and Consent, based on indigenous peoples’ customary law, as well as international standards and domestic case laws. These processes are being implemented in coordination with the National Ombudsman (Putumayo) and the Ministry of the Interior (the Bari people). In Honduras, the National Congress took steps in early 2020 to approve a bill on free, prior and informed consultation.

OHCHR Honduras noted that the bill did not meet international human rights standards nor recommendations from the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. OHCHR discussed the implication of the draft law with a large number of indigenous peoples’ organizations and provided technical assistance to the Congress. As of 31 December 2020, the approval process remains suspended.

In Asia, OHCHR Cambodia continued to advocate with authorities on forced eviction cases, including in support of prior consultation with affected indigenous communities, relocation procedures, access to information, and compensation. This included engagement with the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction on remedies for affected communities. The country Office also continued to work with the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of

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Environment, local authorities, the World Bank and civil society organizations to support efforts by indigenous peoples to secure collective land titles. The Office also investigated allegations of sexual violence against indigenous women in Ratanakiri Province. The continuing investigations are being conducted in partnership with the Cambodia Indigenous Women's Working Group, a local civil society organization working with indigenous peoples.

In October 2020, the Regional Office for South East Asia co-organized a virtual event focusing on "Land rights, environment and climate change in the Asian region" jointly with the former and current Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact. Following the event, which brought together 138 indigenous peoples rights activists, academia and UN staff across the region, a series of webinars were launched to strengthen the protection of indigenous peoples in Asia, offering a platform to directly engage with the Special Rapporteur, exchange information about the situation of their communities, and identify strategic interventions. More information on the work of other OHCHR field presences are available in the annual report on the rights of indigenous peoples of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which is submitted to the Human Rights Council⁵.

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

OHCHR continued to participate in the meetings of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (FWG) organized by UNFCCC, focusing on progress toward implementation of its 2020 – 2021 workplan. The workplan includes multiple activities directly related to indigenous peoples' rights. OHCHR will continue to support the work of the FWG particularly with respect to addressing issues related to indigenous peoples' right to participation in climate decision-making, including through potential support from the UN

⁵ A/HRC/45/22, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the rights of indigenous peoples.

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Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples. In addition, OHCHR participated in consultative platforms –which brought together indigenous peoples, Member States, UN agencies and mechanisms, and other key stakeholders- established by UNESCO, the lead agency for the organization for the International Decade on Indigenous Languages (IDIL2022-2032), to contribute to the development of the Global Action Plan. The Office also collaborated with UN-Women and UN-DESA to enhance inter-agency partnership with the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights.

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?**

OHCHR programming, including the Office Management Plan 2018-2021, is anchored in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, focusing on the Agenda’s human rights-based commitment to ‘leave no one behind’ and to ‘reach those furthest behind first’, and on supporting and advocating for a rights-based approach to the monitoring, reporting, and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. OHCHR is consistently advocating, at all levels, for the integration of human rights in 2030 Agenda review and follow-up, and for safe, meaningful and inclusive participation of stakeholders, with a particular emphasis on representatives of vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, in all relevant processes at the national, regional and global level. Under the leadership of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office has worked to institutionalize three principal priorities in OHCHR’s core programming: 1) promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, 2) implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, and 3) prevention of human rights crises. OHCHR’s strategic approach

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focuses on the interlinkages between the SDGs and human rights, the indivisibility of human rights, and the human rights-based approach. Furthermore, in 2020, OHCHR placed a specific emphasis in its work on the issue of inequality and on a human rights-based approach to macroeconomics, while contributing to the work on needed shifts to help expand civic space, counter climate change, and broaden the global constituency for human rights, focusing on those most marginalized, trying to lift and amplify their voices. Lastly, OHCHR is delivering on the following core commitments to bring human rights to the centre of sustainable development, each with implications for the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of the rights of indigenous peoples:

- Supporting Member States to ensure that human rights principles inform implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including empowering people and creating avenues for civil society participation, as well as taking human rights sensitive, non-discriminatory approaches to data collection, monitoring and reporting. OHCHR is committed to this approach as the surest way to bring the benefits of the ambitious and far-reaching agenda to all, leaving no one behind.
 - Encouraging stakeholders to make full use of human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review outcomes, recommendations of the treaty bodies and special procedures to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly at the national and local level.
 - Continuing efforts to help design policies that support the most vulnerable and/or excluded groups, recognizing and responding to multiple and intersecting deprivations and sources of discrimination that limit opportunities and make it harder to escape poverty, live with dignity and enjoy human rights on a healthy planet.
- 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**

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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?

OHCHR is increasingly engaging in advocating for and supporting human rights integration in the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review processes, including the voluntary national reviews (VNRs). To this end, the Office prepared [country-specific guidance for 47 countries that undertook a VNR review in 2020](#). These documents aim to promote the use of relevant data and analysis coming out of international human rights mechanisms and provide guidance on issues such as meaningful, safe and inclusive participation and human rights-based approach to data, which are of significant relevance for indigenous peoples. Building on the work conducted in 2019, OHCHR has continued its strategic engagement with the High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) and all its processes, at the regional and global level. Grounding the work in promoting integration of human rights in the implementation, reporting and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, this work also aims to advance indigenous issues in this context. Reflecting this approach, OHCHR substantively contributed to three global expert group processes organized in the run up to the 2020 HLPF and tasked with preparing background notes for the HLPF, namely on (i) advancing human well-being, (ii) sharing economic benefits, and on (iii) protecting the planet and building resilience. In its engagements, OHCHR consistently advocated for increased attention to the challenges and barriers faced by vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, and for indigenous representation in the process and at the HLPF sessions. On the margins of the 2020 HLPF, OHCHR co-organized a learning event entitled “[Preparing for the second reporting cycle: Empowering Actors, Improving Coordination and strengthening SDG Data Reporting](#)” hoping to inform contributions of various stakeholders to the 2030 Agenda reporting and follow up. Further the UN Human Rights Office co-organized several side events at the 2020 HLPF and the preceding Regional Fora on sustainable development, including on indigenous women and COVID-19 response, with the participation of Kakay Tolentino, Bai Indigenous Women’s Network, Kamala

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Thapa Magar, National Indigenous Women's Federation, and Chanda Thapa Magar, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact.⁶

OHCHR field presences also enhanced indigenous peoples' participation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For example, OHCHR Colombia has engaged with indigenous authorities and State institutions at the local and regional level to raise awareness about and increase understanding of the sustainable development goals that contribute to the effective enjoyment of indigenous rights and wellbeing. OHCHR's work with the Hitnu people in Arauca and the Bari people in the border region of Norte de Santander has focused on SDGs 2 and 4 relating to traditional medicines, renewable energies, clean water and sanitation, self-subsistence economies, and food security.

- 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).**

In the compilation of data for the SDG indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1 on discrimination on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law, including indigenous status, OHCHR collaborated with nearly 200 national statistics offices. OHCHR reported for the first time data for this indicator in the 2020 SG Report on the Progress on the SDGs for 31 countries over the period of 2014 to 2019, with disaggregation by indigenous status available for six countries (Canada, New Zealand, Suriname, Peru, Mexico, and Bolivia). OHCHR developed a pioneering compendium of survey questions to support disaggregation by multiple characteristics (e.g. sexual orientation, ethnicity, indigenous status, gender identity, socio-economic status, disabilities) in international and national censuses and surveys. This set of sample questions and

⁶ This was a virtual event taking place on 8 July 2020 with the full title as follows: "High-level Political Forum 2020 side event on indigenous women in COVID-19 to SDGs achievement: Frontline heroes' new normal with accelerated collective actions," supported by the OHCHR South-East Asia Regional Office.

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technical guidance are being implemented in partnership with UNDP and UNODC under the ongoing [SDG 16 Household Survey Initiative](#), which includes the SDG indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1. OHCHR has worked together with the international statistics community, in partnership with national statistical offices and systems worldwide, to ensure that the best quality data and statistics are available to support decision making during and after the pandemic. It contributed to the two volumes of the report, [How Covid-19 is changing the world: a statistical perspective](#), compiled jointly by 36 international organizations, under the aegis of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), data that highlighted the risks that the pandemic will accentuate existing patterns of human rights violations and discrimination. Data on SDG indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1 on discrimination revealed that, where data is available, indigenous peoples have reported having personally experienced more discrimination than the general population.

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

The Office launched an online learning tool on the rights of indigenous peoples⁷, to enable participants to increase their knowledge and understanding of the rights of indigenous peoples, as recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in other international instruments. Participants will also learn how to cooperate with the UN's Human Rights and other Mechanisms to advocate for the rights of indigenous peoples. This UN Human Rights Office e-learning tool includes explanations on the key provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, real stories and case studies on how indigenous rights are translating into real life situations, possible actions by the United Nations mechanisms, activities and quizzes, tools and resources. Once successfully completed, participants will get a certificate

⁷ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/Pages/E-learningIP.aspx>

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from the UN Human Rights Office. The online course is free of charge. It is currently available in English only, but will be translated into other languages soon.

Other relevant materials that are of relevance to the theme of the 2021 session of the Permanent Forum are listed below:

- A guide to report on SDG 16 in voluntary national reviews (produced by the [Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies](#), OHCHR is a member of its Steering Committee.
- [Summary table on the linkages between the SDGs and relevant international human rights instruments](#)
- CESCR Statement on the pledge to "Leave No One Behind": available from [here](#)
- [SDG16 plus, and the Future We Want: Commitments table, outlining all relevant work of the UN special procedures mandate holders related to SDG 16 \(with links\)](#)
- [International human rights mechanisms' work per SDG](#)
- Report from the 3rd Human Rights Council Intersessional Meeting on human rights and the 2030 Agenda, which focused on SDG 10 and SDG 16 [pending, will be made available from <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/IntersessionalMeeting2030Agenda3rd.aspx>]
- [Gender stereotyping and the judiciary](#)
- [Human rights and traditional justice systems in Africa](#)
- Other relevant materials produced by the Global Alliance can be found from the [SDG 16 hub](#)

6. Advancing the participation of indigenous peoples at the UN

The participation of indigenous peoples at the UN remains a priority for the Office, which is supporting this goal notably through its fellowship programme and the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples. The OHCHR Fellowship programme, which has been redesigned in light of Covid-19, provided with a unique opportunity to support efforts related to the pandemic, at national level, through the deployment of 20 Indigenous Fellows in OHCHR Country and Regional Offices, Peacekeeping Missions and UN Country Team (UNCT's) and in OHCHR Senior Human Rights Advisers' Offices, in Brazil, Cameroon, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mali, Mexico, New Zealand and Paraguay. Under overall guidance and coordination of OHCHR, the indigenous Fellows organized capacity-building and training activities as well as regional consultations to discuss experiences and challenges faced by indigenous communities in the regions, and explore common strategies, with special focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples. The Senior Fellows have undertaken research, awareness raising campaigns, advocacy and monitoring work, reporting and other activities related to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on indigenous peoples. They collected examples of promising practices and provided guidance to field presences on key actions to address the impact of the pandemic on indigenous communities. The work of the fellows in Latin America contributed to increase understanding on the specific needs of indigenous communities, and prompted further commitments by the UN system to build harmonized and coherent approaches for promoting indigenous peoples' rights in accordance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Out of the 20 Senior Indigenous Fellows who were initially appointed in 2020 for a period of 2 to 4 months, 16 had their fellowship extended for another 5 months beginning 1 January to 31 May 2021.

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Following travel restrictions caused by the COVID 19 pandemic in early 2020, the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples has provided support to 3 indigenous representatives from Tuvalu and one from the Cook Islands who attended the 1st Regional Session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC 84th Extraordinary Session) in the Pacific Region. The session was held in Apia, Samoa from 2 to 6 March 2020.