

Questionnaire to UN system

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

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) 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 the 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; prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues; and promote respect for and full application of the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and follow up the effectiveness of the Declaration.

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, the system-wide action plan on rights of indigenous peoples (SWAP), the 2030 Development Agenda and COVID-19 recovery efforts.

The responses will be compiled into two separate reports for the 2022 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. In your responses, please, include information on progress and challenges related to indigenous women, indigenous persons with disabilities, indigenous older persons, and indigenous children and youth.

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 **15 November 2021** 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 and requesens@un.org

Questionnaire

Please provide information on the following:

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2022 session

i. Please provide information on measures taken since your last update to the Forum, on the implementation or planned implementation of the recommendations of the PFII.

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. In support of these efforts, the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect 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. 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 2022 PFII session is “Indigenous peoples, business, autonomy and the human rights principles of due diligence, including free, prior and informed consent”¹. Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.

N/A

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

Background

As per the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/69/2), a [system-wide action plan 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 the 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](#). Its goal is to ensure collaborative and coherent UN system action to support the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples with a focus on furthering the implementation of the SWAP².

¹ See Annex 1. Agenda of the twenty-first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

² Reporting on the activities to implement the CEB Call to Action will be through task groups and should not be included in the responses to this questionnaire.

- i. The Permanent Forum will follow up on progress made on the SWAP implementation as part of its discussion on the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples during its 2022 session. Please provide analysis on actions taken by your agency, fund and/or programme on the six key elements of the SWAP, since your last update to the Forum³. Please also include an executive summary (600-word limit).

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 2021, 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 Prevention of Genocide raised concerns related to the vulnerability of indigenous peoples and the need to advance key elements in the Declaration. The Office has also continued advocating for stronger protection of indigenous peoples in its work both 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.

In parallel, the Office is coordinating the implementation of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, which involves supporting Country Teams with the development of national UN action plans to this effect. In this vein, the Office has supported the development of context specific action plans, including in Costa Rica, with a particular focus on addressing hate speech directed towards vulnerable populations, including indigenous peoples.

The Office further continues to work on assessing 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.

C. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- i. Please provide information on the main gaps and challenges your entity has identified for indigenous peoples in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

³ The six key elements of the SWAP are: 1) Raise awareness of the UNDRIP; 2) Support the implementation of the UNDRIP, particularly at the country level; 3) Support the realization of indigenous peoples' rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 4) Map existing standards and guidelines, capacity, training materials and resources within the UN system, international financial institutions and the members of the IASG for the effective implementation of the UNDRIP; 5) Develop the capacity of States, indigenous peoples, civil society and UN personnel; and 6) Advance the participation of indigenous peoples in UN processes.

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The Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility considers consistent patterns of long-term discrimination, xenophobia and hate speech as a challenge for indigenous peoples in achieving the goals of the 2030 agenda. In this regard, the concept of partnerships used in the framework of the Agenda needs to be taken forward in an inclusive way, which apart from the involvement of the private sector includes other stakeholders, such as religious leaders and actors, as well as women and youth, and their perspectives. Additionally, the principle of free, prior and informed consent, as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and essential to respect self-determination as well as other indigenous peoples' rights, is not referred to in the Agenda, which can challenge indigenous peoples in achieving its goals.

ii. What activities have your entity undertaken since the last reporting that addresses these gaps and challenges?

As part of her mandate and advocacy work, the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide has made reference to existing concerns for the vulnerability of indigenous populations in Brazil and other South American countries in a number of public engagements and briefings. This has included a briefing to the Human Rights Council, which took place 28 June 2021 as well as a briefing to the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Crimes Prevention on 28 October 2021.

The Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect has further raised concerns about the negative impact of consistent patterns of discrimination, xenophobia and hate speech on indigenous peoples, including in a meeting with the commissioners of the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights on 28 July 2021.

In their engagements both Special Advisers have advocated for the need to strengthening the rights of indigenous peoples, including by engaging and encouraging Member States to spare no effort in protecting them.

Beyond the high-level advocacy conducted by the Special Advisers, their Office has conducted regional and country-specific presentations for Country Teams in the region of the Americas on the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, aimed at offering support in the potential development of national action plans on this matter.

iii. Please describe any activities that your entity organized in support of the 2021 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and/or reports and activities that supported SDG reporting and monitoring or a VNR process at the national, regional, or global level.

N/A

D. COVID-19 pandemic

i. Please provide information on action taken by your agency, fund and/or programme since your last update to the Forum, to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on indigenous peoples.

Through engagements with Member States at the Human Rights Council, the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention as well as the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights in the Americas, the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect have stressed the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on vulnerable populations, including indigenous peoples. In their messages, they have emphasized that the pandemic has exacerbated structural inequalities and pervasive trends of discrimination, including with an increase in hate speech. The Special Advisers have encouraged dedicated action by national authorities to address these serious impacts.

Thank you very much

ANNEX 1

Agenda of the twenty-first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Twentieth-First session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled to take place from **25 April to 6 May 2022**

Provisional Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion on the theme “Indigenous peoples, business, autonomy and the human rights principles of due diligence, including free, prior and informed consent”.
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 for 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: Indigenous peoples and pandemic recovery;
 - (f) Thematic dialogues: International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022–2032.
6. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.
7. Provisional agenda of the twenty-second session of the Permanent Forum.
8. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its twenty-first session.