

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.
- 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.

UNDP implements a wealth of programmes in countries promoting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), ranging from stand-alone targeted programmes to mainstreaming indigenous people’s rights in programmes related to governance, environment and climate change, national planning, and other sectors.

As part of the Business and Human Rights in Asia ([B+HR](#)) programme partnership with the Government of Sweden, UNDP launched a ‘Human Rights Due Diligence Training Facilitation Guide and Human Rights Self-Assessment Training Tool’ ([Sept 2021](#)). The Guide provides flexible training modules which clarify what is required for companies to conduct human rights due diligence. It is complemented by an online Training Tool featuring 99 potential business-related human rights risks with references to international human rights instruments and relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries ([UN-REDD](#)) is a UN collaborative initiative launched in 2008. It builds on the convening role and technical expertise of UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Operational in 55 countries, UN-REDD has a specific focus on indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, while also encouraging broader multi-stakeholder processes. The Programme supports indigenous peoples through its governance structure and through its stakeholder engagement work plan, which includes consultative design and implementation of guidelines and normative tools, and via support to their capacity building, engagement, and participation.

UNDP is the lead agency for national REDD+ governance, engagement of indigenous peoples, local communities and other relevant stakeholders, and transparent, equitable and accountable management of REDD+ payments. In order to uphold basic human rights and to contribute to the success of REDD+, UNDP’s work aims to enable these groups to participate in REDD+ decision-making at local, national, and international levels.

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

Questionnaire to UN system

In Colombia, UNDP and UN-REDD continued to support indigenous peoples with digital means for participation in public policy dialogues. The inclusive digital engagement was publicised through a report on the virtual working sessions between government authorities and indigenous peoples since the Covid-19 pandemic started. These digital systems and sessions have underpinned the creation of the National Indigenous Environmental Commission (*Comisión Nacional Ambiental Indígena*, or CNAI), a critical indigenous platform to inform and monitor public policy on environmental affairs. UNDP Colombia also provided technical assistance for the design of a National Restoration Program in Indigenous Reservations (*resguardos*). These community forestry efforts have advanced ensuring coordination across efforts by other agencies and agreeing on next steps for continued support to local efforts.

In Costa Rica, UNDP supported analytical work and institutional arrangements to respect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples in emerging carbon markets for nature-based and forest-based solutions to the climate crisis. In Peru, UN-REDD provided technical support for the definition of a protocol for include indigenous forest monitoring systems, which was validated by the government (MINAM and SERFOR). Across the LAC region, UNDP and UN-REDD supported South-South exchange on free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and forest affairs between Costa Rica, Ecuador and Suriname.

The UNDP Equator Initiative team supported the coordination, promotion, and production of the [Nature for Life Hub 2021](#), a four-day virtual event (Oct 2021) that curated over 15 hours of content across ten sessions that made a compelling case for how to put nature at the heart of the UN SDGs. Throughout the Nature for Life Hub, the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) was paramount, including the voices, stories, and calls to action from Indigenous Peoples from around the world. Some of the key sessions that prominently featured Indigenous Peoples are presented below:

- [Session 1.1](#) '*Creating a Global Safety Net for People and Planet*' featuring videos on the work of Indigenous Peoples in creating a global safety net from partners and Equator Prize winners including the Pachamama Alliance, Dayak Iban, Yurok Tribe, Pueblo Originario Kichwa de Sarayaku, Girringun Region Aboriginal Corporation, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), and others.
- [Session 1.2](#) '*Equator Prize 2021: Indigenous Peoples' and Local Community Responses to our Planetary Crises*' dedicated to celebrating the achievements of ten IPLC organizations awarded the Equator Prize 2021, as well as the celebrities, government officials, and musical acts featured in the event. Full report [here](#).
- [Session 2.1](#) '*Transforming Food Production Systems*'. Case studies of sustainable food systems from Indigenous Peoples with a segment dedicated to Indigenous food systems. Produced by the Equator Initiative partner the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), the segment featured representatives of nine Indigenous tribes and nations discussing the importance of respecting food sovereignty from a local to multilateral level.
- [Session 2.3](#) '*Shifting the balance: putting communities at the center of sustainable production*' focused on the importance of fostering just relationships with nature-

Questionnaire to UN system

positive community enterprises, featuring Indigenous-led businesses such as [Kemitto Ene](#), [Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited](#), and [Community Tours Sian Ka'an](#).

For the Asia-Pacific region, UNDP and UN-REDD have collaborated with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and the Forest Peoples' Programme (FPP) to analyse linkages and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) of ten countries in the region – the aim is to create baseline analyses that will support monitoring of IPs roles during NDC implementation as well as identify opportunities to strengthen indigenous inclusion. These country and regional analyses will also inform the works of the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) Platform – where UNDP has been sharing with the LCIPP its suite of climate finance programmes offered to Indigenous Peoples at the national, regional, and global levels.

UNDP and UN-REDD have contributed to the works and indigenous participation of the LICPP with regards to forest solutions and climate action, helping channel indigenous knowledge into national climate policy processes, such as REDD+ investment plans and NDC reviews. UN-REDD have helped to compile and assess lessons and approaches for the digital participation of IPs in policy/institutional processes, building on the pilot case of Colombia. UNDP and UN-REDD provided guidance to the UK COP26 Presidency on the flagship event '*Forests & People: How REDD+ can support Indigenous and Local Forest communities, and what we have learned so far*' ([Nov 2021](#)), including support for the participation of Ms. Lola Cabnal (Guatemala) who was a keynote speaker.

Over the course of 2021, the New York Declaration on Forests ([NYDF](#)) platform, hosted by UNDP, has developed an 'IPLC Action Plan' as a response to Indigenous Peoples' requests. In particular, UNDP has collaborated with the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) which includes key indigenous networks such as COICA, AMAN, REPALEAC and AMPB, to acknowledge requests for the platform and engage IPLCs in the 'NYDF refresh' process including two indigenous networks (Foro Indigena Abya Yala and Tebtebba) who were invited to join the 'Endorser Working Group'.

During UNFCCC COP26 (Nov 2021), the NYDF supported the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) climate conference and invited a Tebtebba representative at the side event '[NYDF: A Renewed Call to Action](#)'. As a contribution to the IPLC Pavilion, the UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) presented its partnership with the HLPF Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) on the 'Right Energy Partnership' (REP) in seven countries (Cameroon, Cambodia, DR Congo, El Salvador, Honduras, Nepal, Timor Leste). A short video on the micro-hydro watershed project supported through the REP by SGP in Honduras is available [here](#). As part of the overall collaboration with the GATC, UNDP NYDF has also supported the Voluntary Carbon Market Initiative ([VCMI](#)) in engaging with IPLCs by securing GATC's leader to participate in the Steering Committee and advise on IPLC engagement across VCMI's activities.

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.

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).

UNDP contributes to the IASG SWAP efforts for harmonized and system wide messaging and awareness raising on the UNDRIP, contributing to system wide advocacy and social media as well as widely sharing stories on indigenous peoples, especially on International Day for Indigenous Peoples. See for example [GEF Small Grants Programme: 25 Years of Engagement with Indigenous People](#) summarizing a broad suite of partnerships and delivery mechanisms engaging indigenous peoples at national, regional and global levels.

Over the course of 2021, DPPA, UNDP, OHCHR, DESA, ILO, UNEP, UN Women and RCOs in the LAC region convened and agreed to produce a series of seminars for UNCTs, over a 12 month period, to build harmonized and coherent approaches for promoting Indigenous Peoples' rights based on a common understanding of the UN Declaration, ILO Convention 169 and other relevant international instruments and to strengthen the SWAP, while also supporting the implementation of the EC recommendations to map existing resources and activities currently devoted to Indigenous Peoples at the country and regional level, and to support the building of institutions for Indigenous Peoples' participation and consultation.

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.

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.

Questionnaire to UN system

UNDP, DESA, OHCHR and ILO further agreed to provide strengthened and integrated support to UNCTs and RCs in the implementation of socioeconomic response plans, including through supporting the collection of disaggregated data (gender, age, diversity) and increased data-sharing as recommended by the EC, to ensure the full inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, including indigenous women and girls.

For International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 9 Aug 2021, the Youth Co:Lab, an initiative co-led by UNDP and Citi Foundation, launched a campaign to highlight the contributions that young Indigenous Peoples across Asia and the Pacific are making through social entrepreneurship to address the challenges of their communities. The [campaign](#) included blogs, videos, a quiz and a social media campaign. To continuously highlight and promote the contributions of young Indigenous peoples to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, a [repository](#) of human-centered stories was created on the Youth Co:Lab website to which new content is added on a rolling basis. The Equator Initiative also produced a blog 'Indigenous peoples need recognition and reciprocity' authored by Martin Sommerschuh ([Aug 2021](#))

UNDP Thailand has been engaged in a project on preventing violent extremism (PVE) with Indigenous communities. The UNDP CO issued grants to the Council of Indigenous People of Thailand to organise an online seminar series and apply a 'whole-of-society' approach to promote a draft Law on the protection of the rights of ethnic minorities. The project aimed to improve the public's understanding of the emerging legislation. More than 20 discussions have been organised from Aug-Oct 2021 through an online platform between the ethnic minorities, academic and members of parliament to provide a better understanding on the impact of the draft law on people's lives. A national platform with the national media channel, to be broadcasted at the national level, is planned for Dec 2021.

Since the creation of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UNDP has been closely engaging with the UNPFII and following up on its recommendations in accordance with its mandate. This summary encompasses UNDP's progress towards recommendations made by the Permanent Forum, implementation of the UN SWAP for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the UNDRIP and mainstreaming the principles and standards contained therein.

UNDP cooperates with and supports States and indigenous peoples at country level on national action plans, strategies and other measures that aim to achieve the UNDRIP; promotes integration of the SDGs with and for Indigenous Peoples from both its global and country level work; engages and supports the Permanent Forum's indigenous media zone; and contributes to advocacy and communication with and for indigenous peoples through its programmes (GEF Small Grants Programme, Equator Initiative, Youth Co-Lab, Business and Human Rights, UNDP-GANHRI partnership, UN-REDD, New York Declaration on Forests, BES-Net and others); and works jointly with other UN entities technically and financially in supporting the implementation of the SWAP.

As part of the joint [UN Call to Action on Human Rights](#) (C2A) announced by the Secretary General in early 2020, UNDP has been actively engaged with the C2A stream on the 'Rights

Questionnaire to UN system

of Future Generations’ (Sarah Rattray, Governance; Noella Richard, Youth; Ann-Cathrin Pedersen, Environmental Governance Programme; Terence Hay-Edie; NCE/GEF Small Grants Programme), with respect to: (a) preparation of a common UN narrative framework on the human right to a healthy environment (R2HE), approved by the Human Rights Council in Oct 2021; (b) opportunities for Joint Programming between UN agencies; and (c) collaboration with OHCHR and UNEP on the rights of environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs). Within the mandate of the C2A, UNDP is also supporting UN DCO with the series of planned webinars with UN Resident Coordinators with respect to the CEB decision on the SWAP, as well as with OHCHR and UNEP on reprisals against EHRDs.

UNDP applies Social and Environmental Standards (SES) which are mandatory for all UNDP projects.⁴ The application of social and environmental safeguards and related grievance mechanisms provide tools to navigate through this complexity and ensure that integrated development solutions are identified early on and that programming does not result in inadvertent harm or conflict. The SES are comprised of several elements: overarching policy and principles; project-level standards; and the policy delivery process. The project-level standards further support implementation of UNDP’s commitments to promote respect for human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability and relate to areas such as sustainable natural resource management, displacement and resettlement, cultural heritage, and Indigenous Peoples. Over the course of 2021 UNDP has continued to apply the relevant SES standards and policies through the available mediation, stakeholder response, grievance, and other mechanisms.

Executive Summary: UNDP contribution to six elements of the SWAP

SWAP six key elements		UNDP contributions (select)
1	Raise awareness of the UNDRIP	Business and Human Rights (B+HR), Youth Co:Lab, Equator Initiative
2	Implementation of the UNDRIP	UNDP participation in UN Call to Action on Human Rights (C2A), UNDP-GANHRI, SES mechanisms
3	Support the realization of IPs rights in the implementation/review of the 2030 SDGs	COVID-19 socioeconomic response and recovery plans (SERPs), GEF Small Grants Programme, UN-REDD
4	Map existing standards and guidelines, capacity, training materials	UN-REDD, BES-Net, Business and Human Rights (B+HR), Equator Initiative, GEF Small Grants Programme
5	Develop the capacity of States, indigenous peoples, civil society, and UN personnel	GEF Small Grants Programme, UNDP-GANHRI, UN-REDD, Business and Human Rights (B+HR), BES-Net, Youth Co:Lab
6	Participation of indigenous peoples in UN processes	Equator Initiative, New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF), UN-REDD, BES-Net, Youth Co:Lab

⁴ UNDP SES at <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/social-and-environmental-sustainability-in-undp/SES.html>

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

UNDP has continued its engagement with Indigenous Peoples⁵ grounded in an overall vision to assist countries to achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and reduction of inequalities and exclusion. This involves the three main areas of our work, consisting of developing sustainable development pathways, strengthening inclusive and effective democratic governance and peacebuilding, and building resilience, particularly from conflicts and natural disasters. In addition, UNDP's work on Indigenous Peoples is guided and shaped by the international human rights standards and principles, and particularly the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Engagement with Indigenous Peoples has been a focus area within UNDP's mission to mainstream a human rights-based approach into its development policies and programmes, its global advocacy efforts to fight discrimination and support marginalized minorities, as well as in its long-standing engagement with civil society. UNDP greatly values the contributions of Indigenous Peoples to humanity's cultural diversity and heritage, climate change solutions and shares their concerns about economic and social disadvantages and weak political representation. UNDP's current Strategic Plan 2018–2021 signature solution for partner countries on "promoting nature-based solutions for a sustainable planet" specifically makes reference to "addressing finance, tenure, water and land rights, with a clear understanding of the differentiated impacts, access and contributions of women and men and also of indigenous communities [which] will be critical"⁶.

As a trusted multilateral partner serving in 177 countries and territories around the world, UNDP is uniquely positioned to help advocate for the creation of civic space for the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples at the local, national, regional, and international levels to ensure that their voices are heard and that they contribute to policy-making and monitor policy implementation. Thus, guaranteeing access to opportunities and supporting an enabling environment, in which Indigenous Peoples are empowered and can

⁵ UNDP affirms that there is no one universally accepted definition of indigenous peoples. The term "indigenous peoples" refers to distinct collectives, regardless of the local, national and regional terms applied to them, who satisfy any of the more commonly accepted definitions of indigenous peoples. Depending on the national context, indigenous peoples are referred to as "tribal people", "first peoples", "scheduled tribes", "pastoralists", "hill peoples" and also "ethnic groups/minorities".

⁶ UNDP Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021 p13.

Questionnaire to UN system

develop their full potential to lead dignified lives in harmony with their world vision, are at the core of UNDP's work.

The UNDP Equator Initiative and 'Nature for Development' team has compiled a large number of communication materials, training courses, podcasts, and webinar presentations with respect to IPLCs and nature-based solutions (NbS). Some of these include inter alia: (i) Green Electronics Council Webinar 4 'Can Drones Help to Conserve the Planets' Natural Resources? ([April 2021](#)); (ii) IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) side event 'Supporting Indigenous peoples in defending nature and traditions with geospatial technologies' ([Sept 2021](#)); and (iii) Expo2020 Dubai 'Local Nature-based Solutions and Livelihoods: Spotlighting Indigenous Voices and Knowledge' ([Nov 2021](#)).

With respect to diversifying engagement with Indigenous Peoples, the UNDP Equator Initiative (EI) team has hired an Indigenous facilitator (Roberto Múkaro Borrero) to produce a course entitled 'Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations: Project Access Online' and organized a variety of UNPFII side events. The Equator Initiative hired an Indigenous Programme Assistant (Florensia Bhara) who worked with the Equator Initiative from April-Oct 2021. Similarly, building on the pilot phase of the Indigenous Peoples Fellowship Initiative which engaged 4 global and 7 national IP Fellows, the GEF Small Grants Programme is developing the second phase of the programme to be implemented as part of its 7th Operational Phase (OP7) running from 2020-2024.

As part of its partnership with the German Federal Ministry of the Environment (BMU IKI), the GEF Small Grants Programme supported the Global ICCA Consortium to produce its Flagship [Territories for Life: 2021 Report](#) launched on 20 May 2021. The report includes: (i) a synthesis report; (ii) recommendations inclusive of those for CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework; (iii) 17 case studies; (iv) 5-6 national/sub-regional analysis, and (v) a global analysis led by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) on the spatial estimation of ICCAs. The report is based on many years of documenting within specific territories, consolidates the state of knowledge in Territories of Life and use evidence-based to inform decision-making processes.

Through the 'Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network' ([BES-Net](#)), also supported by the BMU IKI and SwedBio, UNDP, UNEP-WCMC and UNESCO have been supporting countries in conducting national ecosystem assessments (NEAs) to empower the full consideration of the value of nature in national policy-making. With reference to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' ([IPBES](#)) 'Guide on the production of assessments' BES-Net's NEA support applies the multiple evidence base (MEB) approach to acknowledge and embrace not only scientific knowledge systems but also indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) systems in target countries to promote cross-fertilization among a diversity of knowledge systems, contributing to the co-production of knowledge and co-creation of new evidence on BES.

At present, a total of 12 countries benefit from the UNDP BES-Net NEA support, with countries at different stages of the assessment namely: (a) Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia,

and Viet Nam (at the final validation/launch of the assessment); (b) Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia and Grenada (at the assessment evaluation stage). In addition, the Dominican Republic, Malawi, and Thailand are at the stage of initial scoping of the assessment. In the respective countries, tailored support has been provided towards, for example, the participatory mapping of the ILK holders in various key ecosystems; designing and application of the community-based ILK research tools; training of indigenous peoples and local communities on data collection methods and tools; facilitation of the dialogues between scientific and ILK knowledge holders and among the policy, science and practice communities.

In June 2021, the [Colombia NEA](#) was launched, including a dedicated chapter analyzing ILK in the country's key ecosystems. The summary for policymakers, full report, and an article on the engagement of ILK holders in the assessment are available [here](#). UNDP expects more countries to finalize their respective assessments by early 2022. Following the official launch of NEAs, BES-Net will provide countries with follow-up funding for the dissemination and socialization of the assessment results at different levels, including among IPLCs and policy uptake of the findings in 2022.

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.

With respect to the COVID-19, UNDP has formulated a comprehensive '[Roadmap for Humanity](#)' as part of the socio-economic recovery response, including a detailed '[Nature Offer](#)' within the context of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. As released in Dec 2020, the roll out of the [UNDP Human Development Report](#) in 2021 focused on the topic of the 'Anthropocene', re-examining how the relationship between people and the planet must be at the heart of 'building forward better' from the pandemic, as it is at the heart of the 2030 SDGs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing structural inequalities and pervasive discrimination against Indigenous Peoples, environmental destruction has continued to affect lands and territories, and social conflicts linked to economic development activities, particularly natural resources extraction, have contributed to increasing attacks against environmental and indigenous human rights defenders, including violence, criminalization and hate speech.

As part of its role on SDG integration, UNDP has advocated for the UN to leverage resilience strategies and traditional knowledge in programming interventions, while noting the need for international financial institutions (IFIs) to engage in the requisite consultations, including through the development of social frameworks that are inclusive of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. To this end, UNDP has examined means to strengthen its engagements with IFIs,

Questionnaire to UN system

including in data exchanges and creating consensus on programming priorities. It has also been recommended that UNCT capacities on indigenous rights and risk assessments be strengthened to ensure a mapping of existing resources, an effective mainstreaming of Indigenous Peoples rights, strengthened mechanisms for consultations in order to obtain FPIC and implementation of policies that support the agency of Indigenous Peoples at relevant fora and levels.

The UN's Framework for COVID-19 Response has a clear entry point for the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), particularly in monitoring the risks of human rights violations, acting as a bridge between excluded populations and the state, and providing rights-based advice to governments— discussed as part of the Tripartite Review Meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions ([GANHRI](#)), UNDP and OHCHR. The revised voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews (VNRs) discussed at the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2021 emphasizes the important role of NHRIs to effectively engage stakeholders in the VNR process and the 2030 Agenda implementation. UNDP has worked in over 100 countries supporting NHRIs, including with respect to indigenous peoples and environmental human rights defenders.

In Latin America, noting that almost 32% of employed indigenous adults have no formal education (compared to 13% of non-indigenous adults), Indigenous Peoples are 31% more likely to work in the informal economy (85% of indigenous women work in the informal sector), thereby having reduced access to formal social protection schemes and healthcare. Moreover, noting that Indigenous Peoples are among the hardest hit by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, an exacerbation of pre-existing poverties, accompanied by reduced fiscal space, has led policy makers to de-prioritize targeted interventions. In that context, it is likely that inequalities and social tensions along ethnic lines may continue to grow, while women continue to feel the impact of the pandemic on their ability to access their livelihoods. In that vein, as part of the COVID-19 response, UNDP has recommended that socioeconomic response and recovery plans (SERPs, coordinated and led by UNDP) are developed with the participation of and in consultations with Indigenous Peoples in line with international obligations and commitments, noting that a joint UN task force could support the establishment of mechanisms to support consultation and participation processes, in line with existing frameworks and legal obligations.

Noting the interlinked nature of priority risks across the LAC region, UNDP committed to assist the UN to take action to prevent the escalation of tensions and mitigate the risk of violence against Indigenous Peoples. In this vein, UNDP supports the UN-wide call (CEB Statement) on governments to guarantee Indigenous Peoples' collective right to participate in decision-making and to be consulted, in line with the UNDRIP and ILO Convention No. 169 and to ensure that situations, where FPIC is required but not achieved, are addressed in line with obligations and commitments.

In LAC, it was also recommended that UNDP work with other UN agencies to empower Indigenous Peoples to reduce the risk of conflict resulting from the impacts of COVID-19 and mitigate an escalation of tensions through inclusive solutions that address health,

Questionnaire to UN system

development, climate, and land-related challenges. Noting that COVID-19 fatality rates for Indigenous Peoples are much higher than other populations, UNDP will work with governments to define special measures in protection of this group. As part of the joint UN [Call to Action on Human Rights](#) (C2A), the UN is expected to develop partnerships and dialogue mechanisms with Indigenous Peoples organizations. Coordinated and led by UNDP on behalf of the UN system, COVID-19 SERPs are required to differentiate and incorporate Indigenous Peoples' needs, alongside CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks and discussions on adapting vulnerability criteria to access development financing is inclusive of Indigenous Peoples' needs and specificities.

In Oct 2020, the German Federal Ministry of the Environment (BMU) extended its partnership with the UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) for Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) and COVID-19 response needs in 45 countries. Building on the Phase 1 partnership for ICCAs in 26 countries (\$12M) running from 2013-2021, Phase 2 (\$17.1M) has been extended to include support to ICCAs in 45 countries at the global level. The participating countries are distributed with 12 in LAC; 18 in Africa and the Middle East; 3 in Europe/CIS; and 14 in Asia and the Pacific.

A Call for Proposals from Indigenous Peoples and eligible civil society organisations was initiated by the Global ICCA Support Initiative in late Nov 2020 with a deadline for concepts and proposals in April 2021. Following the Call for Proposals, as of 30 Sept 2021, a total of \$7.4m or 60% of the rapid response funds have been committed for the implementation of 244 projects in 31 countries, with 12 more countries to start implementing CSO-led small grants projects in the 4th quarter of 2021. Over the course of 2021-2023, UNDP will closely monitor the timely implementation of projects, including with respect to the South-South global knowledge sharing of lessons learned as part of the socio-economic response to COVID-19.

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.