



THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

Agenda Item 5 (e) **Regional dialogues: North America** **Tuesday 3 May 2022, 3 pm to 5 pm (EST) online via Zoom**

Background

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will meet with representatives of indigenous peoples and Member States from the different regions during the second week of the 21st session of the Permanent Forum. UN agencies, Human Rights Institutions and academics are also welcome to attend.

The regional dialogue on North America aims to discuss issues of relevance in the countries of the region and identify how to sharpen the focus and impact of the Permanent Forum's analysis and recommendations. The objectives of these dialogues include the following:

- To identify and highlight specific issues or challenges that indigenous peoples face and need to be addressed in the region.
- To share lessons learned from the relationships established by indigenous peoples, Member States, UN agencies and other stakeholders.
- To identify specific strategic measures that can be taken to advance the rights of indigenous peoples at all levels.
- To provide a space for indigenous peoples, Member States and UN system to exchange information and perspectives in an informal and constructive setting to facilitate consensus building; and
- To identify specific thematic areas and/or emerging issues that the Permanent Forum may wish to focus on at future sessions.

The Permanent Forum will hold the North America Regional Dialogue. The dialogue will begin with opening remarks from the Permanent Forum members, who will also moderate the session. After the opening remarks, panellists will make presentations to set the scene for open discussions among the participants.

In their interventions, the panellists will, in 5 minutes, reflect on the major issues encountered by indigenous peoples within the regional and national contexts of North America, including, but not limited to environmental concerns and post-pandemic recovery, among others. The session will be

maintained as open as possible to embrace diverse issues of concern to be potentially raised by the participants. The moderator will then invite interventions and comments from the participants along the lines of the objectives.

The dialogue will be conducted in an interactive manner. The moderator will give the floor to those wishing to participate and give opportunity for indigenous peoples, Member States, Forum members and other stakeholders to engage in a dialogue. Participants are requested to register for the session of the Forum and limit their interventions to 3 minutes each.

Tentative program:

1. Welcome remarks by Geoffrey Roth, Members of the PFII and Anne Nuorgam (co-moderator of the session).
2. Remarks by a representative of the Assembly of First Nations
3. Remarks by a representative of the National Indian Health Board
4. Remarks by a representative of Canada
5. Remarks by a representative of the USA
6. Interactive discussion between Members of the Permanent Forum, Indigenous Peoples, Member States, UN Agencies, and representatives of Academia.
7. Concluding remarks.

Format:

- a. The regional dialogue on North America will be organized virtually.
- b. It will be conducted in English. No interpretation service will be provided.
- c. After the initial presentations of the panelists the floor will be opened to participants.
- d. The sessions will be facilitated by the Indigenous Peoples Development Branch / Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues of UN DESA.

Zoom link to the session:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84029119755?pwd=LzEzQzhBZUhiRXRCL3lKYlNtN2Iydz09>