

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 the 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 within 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 a report for the 2023 session of the Permanent Forum. 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 to your response being made available on our website, please inform our office accordingly.

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **15 November 2022** 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

Questionnaire

Please provide information on the following:

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2023 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 2023 PFII session is “Indigenous peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach”¹. Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.

iii. Please provide information on efforts to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in the international decades declared by the General Assembly, such as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development,” the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and other relevant international decades and processes

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 2023 session. Please provide an analysis of actions taken by your agency, fund

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

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

and/or programme on the six key elements of the SWAP, since your last update to the Forum³. Please also include an executive summary (500-word limit).

Executive Summary

In response to the implementation of the SWAP, the Department of Global Communications (DGC) has collaborated with communications counterparts in DESA and beyond to raise awareness of the rights of indigenous peoples through shared messaging, coordinated outreach activities and the development of multilingual promotional materials. A shared Trello board serves as the main tool for sharing and cross-promoting content in multiple languages among UN entities, including promotional assets such as digital cards, videos, and backgrounders.

During the reporting period, the Department raised awareness of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the global and local levels. It did so through its range of multimedia and multilingual platforms, including video, audio, web, and social media, as well as via virtual seminars, design assets, tours, and briefings. The Department's global network of UN information centres (UNICs), working with the UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and their offices, reached out to local media and educational institutions; engaged in partnerships with governments, civil society and the private sector; and maintained libraries and electronic information resources on a wide range of indigenous issues.

The Department provided, in English and French, accurate and newsworthy press releases on the annual session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). The Department co-organized and moderated the opening press conference for the Forum and facilitated media interviews with some of the speakers.

The Department also provided live and on-demand multilingual streaming coverage (webtv.un.org) of the Forum, held from 25 April to 6 May 2022. A total of 12 meetings on the theme, "Indigenous peoples, business, autonomy and the human rights principles of due diligence including free, prior and informed consent," were made available to a global audience in the six official languages. In addition, UN Web TV provided live coverage of related press briefings, including by the Forum's Chair. Coverage of the Forum garnered a total number of 10,138 views on UN Web TV.

The Department continues to give priority to promoting the rights of indigenous peoples, through producing videos by UN Video that aim to raise awareness of the contributions made by indigenous peoples and the challenges they face. UNifeed, the video news service of the UN, covers all official events related to the UN Declaration and indigenous peoples at UN Headquarters. UNifeed packages are shared with major video news agencies, including Reuters and AP, and broadcasters around the world.

During a trip by the UN Secretary-General to Suriname in July, UN Video filmed and produced a video on his visit to the indigenous village of Pierre Kondre. The video highlighted his meeting with a community leader of the Kaliña peoples and other residents of the settlement. The video also highlighted the Secretary-General's message of solidarity and support to the indigenous peoples and was posted on several UN social media accounts.

UN Video produced a video on the Hadzabe people of Tanzania, considered one of the last remaining hunter-gatherer groups. This received tens of thousands of views and engagements across the UN's social media platforms. Additionally, UN Video seeks to mainstream the views and voices of indigenous peoples in its productions. It produced a curtain-raiser video for the

Ocean Conference, held in Portugal in June 2022, in which one of the main voices was that of an indigenous activist.

UN News covered indigenous issues widely across the six official languages, Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese. For example, UN News Russian published 45 articles related to indigenous issues; its Kiswahili counterpart produced 17 multimedia stories on indigenous people; the French Unit produced 20 articles; while the Spanish Unit had 28 articles.

Throughout the year, UN News reported on various issues related to indigenous peoples around the globe, such as a ground-breaking decision in Australia that creates a pathway for climate justice on the Torres Strait Islands; indigenous rights in Colombia; the General Assembly highlighting the right to a clean and healthy environment; a Special Rapporteur's report to the Human Rights Council focused on violence against indigenous women; and the perils that extractive projects pose to indigenous lands, cultures, languages and lives.

While highlighting CEDAW's appeal to protect indigenous women's rights in Canada, UN News English produced a listicle to tell a story on how indigenous women solar engineers have brought light to communities in rural Belize. It also carried a special feature on indigenous women in Venezuela. UN News Arabic featured a photo exhibition at the Dubai World Expo, which tells a story of how a Colombian indigenous leader contributed to social transformation through a network of organizations of Afro-descendent Indigenous young men and women.

UN News language units interviewed many indigenous persons and experts on indigenous issues. For example:

- UN News French produced a podcast based on an interview with a doctor of Tuareg descent who has worked for years for the preservation and transmission of the knowledge of indigenous people.
- UN News Portuguese interviewed Brazilian activist Cristine Takuá, who spoke on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. They also interviewed lawyer Eloy Terena who gave an overview of the importance of indigenous involvement in climate-related conversations.
- UN News Kiswahili interviewed a representative of Twa, an indigenous community in Burundi, who spelled out measures taken by that country's Government to ensure the inclusion of the Twa people in the socio-economic and political spheres.

UN News also produced **special features** on indigenous issues. UN News English made a first-person feature on indigenous entrepreneurship from an Argentine leader sharing indigenous knowledge with tourists. UN News French ran a feature story, including a video, about an indigenous group in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UN News Portuguese worked collaboratively with the celebrity activist Alok, who has a combined 30 million social media followers, on the heritage-based film and album *Ancestral Future*. It also led to a tweet with one of the highest rates of engagement for that unit this year.

On the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August), UN News, in the six official languages plus Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese, covered the video messages by the UN Secretary-General and other senior UN officials, as well as remarks by the panel members in the virtual commemoration event.

DGC's continued to maintain the website for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August) in all six UN official languages (www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day). The website was updated with the theme for the year -- "The role of indigenous women in the preservation and transmission of traditional knowledge" -- and included the Secretary-General's 2022 message in both print and video. Details and links to the virtual commemoration were provided as well as background information on the observance, updates on related events, messages from senior officials, stories, and useful links. Between 1 January and 20 October 2022, the website was viewed more than 266,000 times.

The UN's flagship social media accounts – representing the six official languages plus Hindi, Kiswahili, and Portuguese – promoted a range of issues and actions related to indigenous peoples and the 2030 Agenda. These included dates and events like the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as critical themes such as the preservation of cultural and intellectual heritage; women's empowerment; and Indigenous contributions to tackling biodiversity loss & the climate crisis. The hashtag *#WeAreIndigenous* resonated on social media platforms over the past 12 months, with about 5,600 mentions resulting in nearly 275,000 engagements.

The global digital campaign to counter hate speech, launched in May 2022 ahead of the first International Day for Countering Hate Speech, includes references to Indigenous Peoples as targets of hateful rhetoric. A dedicated section on the newly developed [UN Hate Speech portal](#) is in development in cooperation with DESA.

For the International Day of Peace youth observance, held at UN Headquarters in New York on 16 September 2022, the Department, in collaboration with the NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, invited an indigenous speaker/performer, who addressed the 2022 theme: “End racism. Build peace.” The Department also collaborated with the Zihuatanejo Peace Committee to bring two young Mexican students, one of whom was indigenous, to the event, where they both presented peace projects they had undertaken to assist indigenous communities in their country's state of Guerrero.

The *Yearbook of the United Nations* (www.un.org/en/yearbook) covers the human rights of indigenous peoples along with related Human Rights Council action, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum as well as relevant high-level meetings and other UN efforts.

UN Information Centres (UNICs) continue to reach out to the media and educational institutions; engage in partnerships with governments, civil society and the private sector; and maintain libraries and electronic information resources on a wide range of indigenous issues. During the reporting period, this included the following:

- **UNIC Asunción** - A workshop was held in the Senate with the representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Jan Jarabe. It was organized by the Chamber of Senators of the Republic of Paraguay, Codehupy, Tierraviva, the Indigenous Peoples of the Chaco, Human Rights in Alto Paraguay, Human Rights Commission in Honduras, UN Human Rights - South America, the Human Rights Commission in Honduras and the UN Human Rights Commission in South America, and was organized by the Chamber of Senators of the Republic of Paraguay, Codehupy, Tierraviva, the Indigenous Peoples of the Chaco, Human Rights in Alto Paraguay, Human Rights Commission in Honduras, UN Human Rights - South America.

UNIC Asunción also collaborated in the publication and dissemination in social networks of an online hackathon to preserve indigenous languages, organized in the framework of the 2022 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The main topic was the progressive disappearance of languages, particularly indigenous languages, and how it is linked to the structural discrimination to which they have been subjected and to the vulnerability of their users. It was organized by UNESCO in collaboration with other institutions. The final winners were announced during the WSIS 2022 Forum Final Week.

Lastly, the UNIC supported a field visit and workshop involving leaders of indigenous and peasant communities of Colonia Yernut and Marina Cué with the Regional Director of the UN Human Rights Office.

- **UNIC Bogotá** held a high-level dialogue on the International Day of World's Indigenous peoples, and with the presence of the President of the Republic, Gustavo Petro, the Resident Coordinator Mireia Villar, Sara Ferrer of UNDP and Italo Cardona of ILO, with the indigenous peoples, national government, and UN entities in Colombia.
- **UNIC Buenos Aires** interviewed Laurentia Nicacio, a 27-year-old activist for the rights of indigenous peoples. Laurentina is part of the Wichí community in Salta, where she has become a leader for her people. Laurentina's story was shared on UN Argentina's website and social media.
- **UNRIC Brussels** produced and published an article on the Inuits of Greenland and interviewed actor and activist Svend Hardenberg on the International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples, in addition to an interview with award-winning Sami author Ann-Helén Laestadius. UNRIC published an article on its social media platforms on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.
- **UNIC Canberra** interviewed Yessie Mosby, best known as one of the "Torres Strait Eight", the activists from the islands north of the Australian mainland, who complained to the UN Human Rights Council that the Government was not doing enough to protect them from the effects of the climate crisis. The UNIC also interviewed Rhianna Patrick, a journalist from the Torres Strait who on World Radio Day, and at the start of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, she calls for more funding for Indigenous broadcasting.

UNIC Canberra hosted the 'Blue Pacific Hybrid Talks', together with the High Commission of Kenya and the Embassy of Portugal leading up to the UN Oceans Conference in Lisbon at the end of June. Heads of State, Prime Ministers and ministerial representatives spoke virtually from Australia, Fiji, Kenya, Niue, Palau, Portugal and Samoa, together with the UN Ocean Envoy Peter Thomson and the UN Resident Coordinators based in Palau, Fiji, and Samoa. The event was watched from across the region by government, the diplomatic corps and civil society.

- **UNIC Lagos** held an educational outreach event with students at Caleb British International School to commemorate Mother Language Day and promote the use of local languages. The keynote speaker, a professor of Yoruba language, stated the importance of mother language and multilingual diversity for peace and development. The students displayed the culture of three ethnic groups, Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa; recited poems; and presented dramas in different languages.
- **UNIC Dhaka** translated the UN Secretary-General's message on International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples into Bangla and placed both the translated version and the English version on 18 community radio stations for broadcasting.
- **UNIC Jakarta** - UN in Indonesia and UNESCO launched a social media competition for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, titled #UNWastra - an initiative to showcase the Indonesian traditional fabrics/wastra as a fashionable item.
- **UNIC Mexico City** wrote an article for UN News on the development of the Miyotl App, an application for mobile devices that allows users to learn up to 20,000 words in 25 Mexican indigenous languages. The app was produced by a group of nearly 100 young people, students, and teachers from the Autonomous University of Chapingo.

C. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

i. Please describe any activities your entity has organized since the last reporting period to accelerate progress across a range of SDGs, demonstrating the interlinkages across goals and targets and if applicable, providing examples of translating global goals into local actions. In your response, please consider referring to SDGs relevant to the theme of the 2023 session of the Forum.

UNIC Buenos Aires, La Paz and Asunción supported the joint mission of the Resident Coordinators of Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay, who visited the Gran Chaco Americano for the second time. The communications support aimed to make more visible the region and the follow-up programmes and initiatives carried out by UN agencies and their partners in support of local communities and authorities.

ii. Please describe any activities your entity organized in support of the 2022 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.

The Department developed and shared a digital communications package with UNICs in the lead-up to the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August 2022) to raise awareness, encourage participation in the commemoration and engage audiences on that Day, as evidenced by amplification by UNICs highlighted above. The Department further provided translation and design support for the development of multilingual social media assets.

In addition, an article was written for the UN's sustainable development website, featuring Goal 16: Peace and justice, Goal 2: Zero Hunger, and Goal 4: Quality Education, that encompassed indigenous issues:

The Department's UN Climate Action team, in contribution to indigenous and climate issues, prepared and published articles that highlighted and gave visibility to Indigenous leaders and advocates which can be accessed on the UN climate change website ([ClimateChange | United Nations](#)). Over the reporting cycle the following articles explored this topic: *Ibrahim: Living in Harmony with Nature Voices of Change*; *Interview with Archana Soreng: Our voice matters*; *International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Celebrating Indigenous communities and their ability to protect nature*; and *Showcasing nature-based solutions: Meet the UN prize winners*.

In April 2022, alongside the opening of the Forum, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY), in collaboration with the Indigenous Youth Caucus, organized a social media takeover of @UNYouthEnvoy channels on social media, featuring content from seven Indigenous youth attending the Forum. Content was featured in both English and Spanish. In total, the takeover reached more than 140,000 people online, including more than 6,100 interactions with the takeover content and more than 450 shares.

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 building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of Agenda 2030 for indigenous peoples.

The Department continued to produce material to inform global audiences about the work of the United Nations with respect to combating the pandemic.

In January 2022, the High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes was co-hosted virtually by Qatar, Finland and Colombia, and co-organized by the OSGEY together with civil society and UN partners. Some of the conference sessions underlined the complex diversity of backgrounds of young people engaged in peacebuilding, including many indigenous persons. One key takeaway emphasized that any efforts to strengthen youth participation in peace and security must ensure the inclusion and protection of young people stigmatized on the basis of their identity, including indigenous youth.

Thank you very much.

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.

ANNEX 1

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

The Twentieth-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled to take place from **17 to 28 April 2023**

Provisional Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion on the theme “Indigenous peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach”.
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;
 - (f) Dialogue on indigenous platforms established within United Nations entities;
 - (g) Thematic dialogues;
6. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and emerging issues.
7. Provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the Permanent Forum.
8. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its twenty-second session.