

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 intergovernmental 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

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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.

As announced in the previous report (2021) and as part of the efforts to contribute to the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032), ITU and UNESCO organised activities during the WSIS Forum 2022, to support indigenous languages and peoples as follows:

A- *WSIS&SDG TalkX to celebrate International Mother Languages Day on 21 February 2022*

On the occasion of international Mother language Day, ITU organized a WSIS&SDG TalkX, in collaboration with ITU, UNESCO and other Stakeholders, to discuss the potential role of technology in advancing multilingual education and support the development of quality learning for all. During the WSIS&SDG TalkX, High-Level panellists shared their countries best practices to ensure multilingualism, such as the creation of an Institute and a museum to preserve languages in Bangladesh or the decision to use Artificial Intelligence to tackle obstacles for digital inclusion and empowerment in India. Session recording and additional information available here <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/Agenda/Session/121>

B- *ICTs for Indigenous Languages Hackathon in 2022*

The WSIS Forum 2022 co-organized an online hackathon, in collaboration with ITU, UNESCO, Nokia and the Internet Society, under the theme of ICTs for Indigenous Languages.

The hackathon generated a lot of excitement worldwide, by gathering more than 690 participants from 67 Countries who ideated in teams of 2 to 5 members, ICT solutions addressing 3 challenges faces by Indigenous peoples, which are knowledge, empowerment and preservation. 3 winners, one for each challenge area were awarded a 1000 \$ cash prize, alongside a 6 month mentoring programme with Nokia, during a High-Level Dialogue organized as part of the WSIS Forum 2022 Final Week. More information is available here: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/Home/Hackathon>

C- *ICTs for Indigenous Languages Special Prize*

As a continuation of its efforts towards the Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages, the WSIS Forum 2023 and other stakeholders a new special prize on ICTs for Indigenous Languages, inviting all interested stakeholders to submit ICT projects and initiatives that contribute to the preservation, revitalization, and promotion of Indigenous languages. Additional information available on www.wsis.org/forum

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ITU and UNESCO are the co-facilitators of the WSIS Action Line C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity, and local content. This Action Line highlights commitments in building information and knowledge societies through a cultural diversity aspect and underlines the needs and interests of indigenous peoples.

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.

See i) above

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum co-organised annually by ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD, and UNDP, in collaboration with more than 30 UN agencies provides a multistakeholder platform for information exchange, knowledge creation, and sharing of best practices on information and communication technologies (ICTs) and fostering partnerships.

Through the WSIS Forum activities, we promote the participation of indigenous peoples in the international decades declared by the General Assembly 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

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

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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 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).

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.

ITU's work for Indigenous Peoples focuses not only on empowering Indigenous peoples, cultures and communities by enhancing digital literacy, but also on supporting these communities to learn how to develop and maintain digital environments that respond to the needs and embrace the diversity of Indigenous peoples' aspirations.

To support the achievement of this goal, ITU works through a capacity building programme created by the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) tailored for Indigenous peoples.

This programme aims to strengthen the capacity of Indigenous communities from the Americas region with digital literacy skills and knowledge applicable for their communities' needs and requirements. The ITU-D blended training program, developed in follow up to the last World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17), is also in line with ITU Resolution 46 that calls for leveraging indigenous communities' knowledge of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

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.

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 ITU-D capacity building programme for Indigenous People is also organized in close collaboration with Indigenous Organizations, experts in Indigenous issues, and Communities' representatives. The ITU has made available two certified training programmes:

1- Capacity building programme to develop indigenous technicians knowledgeable on how to design, develop and maintain telecommunications and ICT networks. *It also promotes entrepreneurship by the participants helping to ensure the sustainability of the networks in these communities. The training encompasses five (5) independent modules and a training camp.*

Unit 1: Development of web pages with content of interest to indigenous communities

Unit 2: Emergency information systems

Unit 3: Web tools for network development

Unit 4: Development of an indigenous radio network

Unit 5: Use of digital content on the indigenous radio network.

Each of the modules and the curriculum structure were designed based on ITU previous training experiences on developing technical capacities of Indigenous People in their own villages. For those who successfully completed the whole program (5 modules), the training invites the successful Indigenous participants to also take part in a face-to-face training camp, which aims to be a space that facilitates the mutual exchange of challenges and knowledge and overall generates a network of indigenous technical promoters in the Americas region.

More information about the 1st training programme:

*In collaboration with the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) the ITU-D delivered in 2022 two editions of the training programme on **Innovative communication tools to strengthen the capacities of indigenous communities with a focus on how to develop, manage, and operate a network.***

These tutor-led online trainings that were held through the ITU Academy from 16 May 31 July and from 25 July to 9 October 2022, received 200 inscriptions from Indigenous Peoples (45% women) from 16 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela). The use of digital content in the indigenous radio network, is enabling participants to follow either a part of the training in the topic of their interest or to complete the whole programme, which was the case for 68 of Indigenous participants.

(See more information about the curriculum of the training at [Formación en Herramientas Innovadoras de Comunicación para el fortalecimiento de las capacidades de comunidades indígenas, con enfoque en cómo desarrollar, administrar y operar una red | ITU Academy](#))

2- Technical Promoters in telecommunication and broadcasting in Indigenous Communities. training programme (not finished yet), but the work so far includes:

*A blended training programme (online through ITU Academy and face-to-face) that aims at developing **Technical Promoters in telecommunication and broadcasting in Indigenous Communities.***

The 2022 edition (held throughout the year in 4 sessions), will be finalised with a face-to-face, hands-on campus, that is currently ongoing - [held from 7 to 18 November in Fusagasugá, Colombia.](#)

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This training is developing professionals in the ICT field, and therefore the trainees must fulfil all the phases of the training. Therefore we work with professionals on indigenous issues and telecommunication topics. So far, 40 Indigenous have fully validated the knowledge of the 4 training modules and are eligible for the campus.

Considering the complexity of this training (a good percentage cannot arrive at the campus phase), and from previous experience, we can hope that all 40 Indigenous will also pass the hands-on campus activities.

The number might look small, but we should consider the impact that each of the technical graduated indigenous can do at the community level, which is considerable because they will not only replicate the knowledge at the community level but will also ensure the safe-sustainability of the Indigenous community's ICT-related services. More information about the training programme available here: <https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue/formacion-de-promotoras-y-promotores-tecnicos-en-comunidades-indigenas-en-telecomunicaciones-y-0>

Both training courses detailed in points 1 and 2 above, are delivered through the ITU Academy. ITU Academy provides high-quality training to anyone, from government policymakers and regulators to operational and technical staff, students, entrepreneurs as well as any citizens interested in developing skills and abilities in the field of ICT and digital development.

*ITU-D also made available a **User Guide for our ITU Academy platform – tailored for Indigenous Peoples in the Spanish language** to attract more Indigenous peoples that will benefit from these courses and facilitate their understanding of how to access and make use of the training content from this platform. The guide offers a step-by-step explanation for every procedure in the platform to facilitate, incentivize and leverage the Indigenous People learning process.*

For more information on ITU work on Indigenous Issues

please see:

ITU website on Indigenous Issues: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Indigenous-Peoples/Pages/default.aspx>

WSIS Forum 2022 Hackathon : <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/Home/Hackathon>

WSIS Forum 2023: [wsis.org/forum](https://www.wsis.org/forum)

please contact the ITU Focal Points:

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