

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/indigenypeoples/>

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.

No specific updates since the last questionnaire.

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.

UN-Habitat highlighted the link between youth indigenous activism and climate change during a Community of Practice event on women as changemakers for climate action on 8 March 2022 that focused on the importance of the participation of women and girls in climate-related decision making and the centering of frontline communities in the climate movement.

One of the [projects that UN-Habitat highlighted during International Women’s Day in 2022](#) focused on building back better in the Philippines, where rebuilding sustainable communities was driven by the indigenous Marano women. Waste segregation and creating a clean environment for the whole community was an important aspect of this.

In 2022, UN-Habitat also issued a publication titled [“Urban Planning Law for Climate Smart Cities: Urban Law Module” as part of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit](#). This publication, for example, covers the need of inclusive and participatory climate smart vulnerability assessments that emphasize the participation of indigenous communities and the inclusion of their traditional knowledge and local knowledge systems at all stages of the project. 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.

The Youth 2030 Cities programme seeks to advance the achievement of the Decade of Action through engaging youth in the localization of the SDGs. Indigenous peoples and their communities are a key focus of the programme.

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

Background

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

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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 and/or programme on the six key elements of the SWAP, since your last update to the Forum³.

Since the last update in 2021, UN-Habitat has engaged with SWAP as follows:

- *Raising awareness of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
 - *Through social media engagement both from institutional UN-Habitat accounts and from the account of the Executive Director.*
 - *Press releases and news stories on the importance of participation of indigenous peoples in urban decision-making.*
 - *Online promotion of partner materials on the rights of indigenous peoples.*
- *Supported the realization of indigenous peoples' rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*
 - *As pointed out below, UN-Habitat has worked with indigenous youth organizations as part of the Youth 2030 Cities Project, which involved inspiring youth to develop national declarACTIONs towards the achievement of the SDGs.*
 - *Participation of indigenous peoples was also ensured during the 2022 World Urban Forum, discussing the implementation of the SDGs at the urban level, as well as the New Urban Agenda (see more below).*
- *Incorporated indigenous issues into programming to implement the 2030 Agenda*

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.

- *UN-Habitat's Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit worked with Regional and Country teams on all project proposals to ensure the rights of indigenous peoples are appropriately considered at all stages of projects.*
- *Development of programmes such as Youth 2030 Cities which address the rights of indigenous youth and their communities and facilitate their engagement in the localization and achievement of the SDGs.*

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.

In 2022, UN-Habitat continued its efforts to engage youth in the localization of the SDGs. Through its Youth 2030 Cities project in partnership with Fondation Botnar, six target countries were priorities in 2022, including Ecuador, where Youth 2030 partnered with Otavalango, a local Indigenous organization seeking to share, preserve, and rescue the Kechuwa culture, whose language and traditions are under threat. Otavalango hosted Youth 2030 workshops that allowed youth to learn more about the role of the UN in addressing community and local level development agendas and how the SDGs relate to Indigenous peoples.

One of the aims of these discussions was to develop local and national DeclarACTIONs to present the views and commitments of youth. The Otavalo DeclarACTION on Youth and Sustainable Urbanization was written by youth from Otavalo on behalf of indigenous youth in Ecuador, building on the Indigenous Cities Declaration adopted in Otavalo during Habitat III in 2016. The Global DeclarACTION confirms the commitment of children and youth leaders, in partnership with key stakeholders such as national governments, “to create an inclusive, democratic, diverse and participatory society for the defense of indigenous peoples to exercise their rights and preserve their traditions and language.” The DeclarACTION is followed by concrete demands at the local, national and global level. The Otavalo DeclarACTION was presented at the High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in April in New York and informed the Global DeclarACTION adopted at the UN-Habitat World Urban Forum and Children and Youth Assembly in Poland in June 2022. The Otavalo DeclarACTION was signed and endorsed by the Mayor of Otavalo and the Minister of Urbanization for Ecuador. The Mayor of Otavalo was a delegate to the World Habitat Day Inter-Regional Meeting – Latin American and Türkiye held in Balıkesir, Türkiye, where issues of sustainability and cooperation between Türkiye and Latin America were discussed

More generally for the 2022 World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat ensured the active [participation of indigenous representatives](#). The importance of the practices, knowledge, culture of indigenous peoples in the context of urban and territorial planning, including environmental protection were highlighted throughout the forum, including in its [background paper](#), and the [Katowice Declared Actions](#).

UN-Habitat is developing the Climate Changemaker programme with UNEP which will focus on the capacity building of young climate change leaders both from the Global South and from marginalized communities such as indigenous peoples and the LGBTI community. This builds on UN-Habitat's engagement of young indigenous climate change leaders such as Xiye Bastida and Emma Stevens, two indigenous youth who have presented at the previous WUF and Assemblies.

- 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.

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 UN-Habitat Professionals Forum, supported by UN-Habitat, issued a [Background Report on the 2022 Roadmap to Recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic](#). This document emphasized the need for high quality built environments in the concept of 'building back better', as these are "responsive to indigenous cultures, local history and heritage and provide innovative solutions."

In 2021, UN-Habitat served as Secretariat for the negotiation of the resolution on "[Inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID- 19\)](#)", approved by consensus during the 76th session of the General Assembly. The resolution included specific focus on addressing discrimination and barriers faced by different groups, including indigenous peoples in accessing adequate housing and services. Further, the resolution tasks UN-Habitat to prepare a biannual progress report (to be presented in 2023), in consultation with other UN bodies, mapping achievements and challenges in the implementation of inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness. The report will explore how homelessness is understood and manifests in diverse economic, social, and cultural locational, and historical contexts and will allow to consolidate research on the existing policies and strategies, develop an up-to-date gap analysis and provide Member States

with recommendations and technical support. It will consider homelessness both as serious deprivation of access to housing and as an extreme form of social exclusion, discrimination and loss of dignity. It will seek to identify and understand less visible experiences of homelessness, particularly where it intersects with gender, sexual orientation, indigenous background, migratory experiences and disability.

Thank you very much

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;

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- (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.