

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.

This is the first time that the United Nations University (UNU) has reported on the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

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

UNU has contributed to advancing knowledge, providing evidence-based research, and impacting policy making through its projects and publications related to indigenous peoples and issues of migration, human rights, and the environment.

The UNU Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR) published several works related to contemporary issues of indigenous peoples:

- A discussion paper, part of the volume, “Reimagining Human-Environment Relationship”, covers the unique experiences of indigenous women in the Andean Amazon who are often left out of current debates on environment and climate crisis. Published in May 2022, it highlights how territorial movements have become central to climate action in the Global South through analysing indigenous movements in the Amazon and their contribution to climate justice. It emphasises the importance of a systematic integration of the voices of territorial indigenous rights groups in the global climate debate.
- In partnership with the UN Environment Programme, UNU-CPR wrote a research article, “Indigenous Philosophy and Intergenerational Justice” in May 2022. This article brings insights for the pursuit and realisation of intergenerational justice in indigenous peoples’ philosophies evident in the case of Māori concepts. Findings reveal that indigenous philosophies enhance relationships through regenerative practices that empower local communities in combating climate change.
- “Rights Literacy in the Context of Indigenous Migration” stresses the need to consider the rights literacy levels of indigenous peoples, particularly in the context of migration. The article, published in October 2021, argues that low levels of rights literacy is a key factor for exacerbating vulnerabilities and increasing likelihood of rights violations in the context of indigenous migrants. It also raises the importance

of considering indigenous interpretation of concepts such as peoplehood, territory, and sovereignty in relation to migration.

UNU-CPR has a public event related to the indigenous peoples' agenda:

- Led a collaborative event, "[Reimagining the Human-Environment Relationship: a Stockholm+50 Associated Event](#)" with the UN Environment Programme, with the support of IDRC in June 2022. The event captured alternative paradigms of human/nature relationship by elevating discussions on traditional and indigenous knowledge systems. It supported the idea that indigenous knowledge systems propose sophisticated and deeply symbolic frameworks that broaden understandings through key ideas in reciprocity and intergenerational fairness.

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.

A number of UNU-CPR's papers were authored by indigenous academics. In addition, UNU-CPR has included the participation of indigenous people in public events to ensure a diverse set of views centered on the lived experience of indigenous people.

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

UNU has not contributed to the SWAP implementation given the limited scope of its research in this field but follows the developments with interest.

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.

UNU's unique identity as both a research institution and a knowledge partner within the UN system enables it to facilitate collaboration between diverse constituencies as well as serving as a bridge between the UN system, academic communities, and international policymaking communities. UNU institutes have established multistakeholder partnerships at local, national, regional, and global levels. Since the adoption of the SDGs by the UN General Assembly in 2015, UNU and its institutions have directed its projects and programmes towards research for solutions in a wide range of SDGs. UNU's internal project management system keeps track of expenditures directed towards the achievement of SDG targets and ensures that all projects incorporate the furthering of SDGs in their designs. UNU has launched a website, the [Sustainable Development Explorer](#) which tracks all projects, publications, and researchers across the UNU system by each of the 17 SDGs.

A comprehensive view on UNU's recent progress in SDG implementation can also be found in our recent SDG report [link: <https://sdgs.un.org/un-system-sdg-implementation/united-nations-university-unu-45800>]

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.

UNU contributed to global policy dialogue on the SDGs as part of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) through the organisation of two side events, driving discussions on synergies and trade-offs between climate action and the SDGs, and ecosystem restoration to build back better from COVID-19. The events showcased the UNU research and education programmes while enhancing partnerships in these critical areas:

- **Climate Action and the SDGs — Closing Gaps and Strengthening Synergies:** an online side event organised by the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), the UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security

(UNU-EHS) and the UNU Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) that brought together diverse perspectives from the UN system, academia, and civil society to discuss challenges and opportunities in scaling up climate action while advancing sustainable development. It shared examples of synergies, trade-offs, and good practices; identified success factors; and underlined the critical role of research and education.

- **Partnership in Action for Well-being: The Satoyama Initiative and Building Back Better:** an online side event organised by UNU-IAS, Conservation International, UNDP, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), and the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ), it discussed the unique approach and value of the Satoyama Initiative, and how this can contribute to achieving the SDGs and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Speakers called for integrated approaches based on a harmonious relationship with nature to create lasting solutions to the challenges of climate change and promote well-being.

These side events underlined the deep and complex interconnections between sustainable development, climate change, and biodiversity agendas. There is an urgent need for greater ambition to close the gaps and advance integrated solutions through research and policymaking that transcends silos.

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.

In 2022, the UNU International Institute of Global Health (UNU-IIGH) published a policy brief, “Gender and COVID-19 Research Agenda”, that sets priorities and provides recommendations on integrating sex and gender into research investments and platforms on COVID-19 crisis issues. UNU-IIGH collaborated with the University of the Western Cape School of Public Health to convene a collaborative initiative on establishing a COVID-19 research agenda-setting exercise. It recognises the interactions of gendered issues on the COVID-19 pandemic with the influence of social determinants and identities, including ethnicity, and migrant status.

Thank you very much.