

## Questionnaire to Governments

The report of the fourteenth Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues provides a number of recommendations within its mandated areas, some of which are addressed to Member States.

The Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues invites Governments to complete the attached short questionnaire on any action taken or planned in response to the Permanent Forum's recommendations and other relevant issues. All the questionnaire responses from Governments will be compiled into one report for the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum.

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **4 January 2016** to:

Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
Division for Social Policy and Development  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Room: S-2954  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, USA 10017  
Telephone number 917-367-5100; fax number 917- 367-5102  
Email: [smallacombe@un.org](mailto:smallacombe@un.org)

The questionnaire can also be downloaded from this site:

<http://undesadspd.org/IndigenousPeoples/UNPFISessions/Fifteenth/Questionnaire.aspx>

**Question 1**

*Briefly state what recommendations from the Fourteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)<sup>1</sup> or recommendations from previous sessions (not included in your previous reports) that have been addressed by your Government.*

Most of the recommendations from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) are not directly applicable for the context of Norway.

*Where possible, also provide information on the situation of indigenous women.*

As regards the situation of indigenous women, reference is made to Norway's eight report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women.

[https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/upload/bld/sla/norways\\_eight\\_periodic\\_report\\_to\\_cedaw.pdf](https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/upload/bld/sla/norways_eight_periodic_report_to_cedaw.pdf)

Norway's ninth report will be sent to UN by 1 February 2016.

**Question 2**

*What are some of the obstacles your Government has encountered in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum?*

The number of adopted recommendations per session is relatively high. Fewer, more targeted and precise recommendations would facilitate their consideration and implementation at the national level.

**Question 3**

*What are some of the factors that facilitate your Government's implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum?*

N.a.

**Question 4**

*The theme of the Permanent Forum's fifteenth session in 2016 will be "Indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution".*

*Briefly state how your Government deals with this issue in regards to indigenous peoples?*

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<sup>1</sup> The following paragraphs of the Report on the Fourteenth Session of the Permanent Forum (E/2015/43) contain recommendations addressed to Member States: 6, 8, 10, 13, 18, 22, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 40, 41.

In Norway there are established different mechanisms for dialogue. The Procedures for Consultations between the State authorities and Sámediggi (the Sami Parliament) is the most important pillar and a tool to ensure that work on matters that may affect the Sami is carried out in a satisfactory manner. For more information on the Procedures for Consultations, please see Norway's report on ILO-Convention No. 169 (2013), [https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/upload/fad/vedlegg/sami/sami\\_ilo169\\_norges\\_rapport\\_2013.pdf](https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/upload/fad/vedlegg/sami/sami_ilo169_norges_rapport_2013.pdf)

### **Question 5**

*Please provide information on how your Government currently promotes and/or implements the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*

#### National level

The rights of the Sami are protected through Norway's obligations under several international conventions, in particular Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries. Policies, laws and other measures concerning the Sami are adopted and carried out in dialogue with the Sami.

The Government has initiated a dialogue with Sámediggi on the follow up of the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples and the World Conference on Indigenous peoples.

#### International level

Norway puts considerable emphasis on promoting and protecting Sami and indigenous rights in both the international and regional arenas.

Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) was launched in 2007 with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+). Up to three billion Norwegian kroner has since been pledged annually to support such efforts both internationally and at the country level. This initiative is the largest single undertaking within Norwegian development cooperation. Indigenous rights issues are established as a central feature of the operational frameworks of the multilateral REDD+ institutions. Safeguards on indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights are addressed throughout the NICFI portfolio, with many activities that go further than 'do no harm'. A Dedicated Grant Mechanism for indigenous peoples and local communities has been established under the Forest Investment Program (FIP) to provide grants for indigenous peoples and local communities in the FIP countries.

### **Question 6**

*Does your national statistics agency or a similar public entity collect disaggregated statistical data about indigenous peoples? If so, please provide practical information on how to access this information (i.e. website address, publications or other sources of information).*

No registers are kept currently in Norway based on ethnicity. Sámediggi's electoral roll is an exception from the general rule. The electoral roll is maintained in connection with the National Population Register. Registration in Sámediggi's electoral roll is voluntary. Registration in the electoral roll is a condition for being eligible to vote in elections for Sámediggi and for being eligible for election to Sámediggi.

In the past few years, Statistics Norway has developed informative statistics on the Sami population. Every other year, the agency issues a publication, entitled Sami statistics, which contains table data on population, education, language and working life. The publication was first issued on Sami People's Day, 6 February, in 2006, and has since been issued on the same date in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014. The publication is issued in Norwegian and North Sami. Statistics Norway's page on the Sami in Norway, <http://www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/statistikker/samisk/hvert-2-aar/2014-02-06>

Furthermore, an Analysis Group for Sami Statistics, which is a central government committee in which Statistics Norway and other agencies are represented, has been established. Every year, this committee issues a publication entitled Samiske tall forteller [Sami Figures Relate], which contains articles that offer broad coverage of Sami society. So far, there have been six editions of this publication, which was first issued in 2008.

### **Question 7**

*The outcome document of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/69/2) invites the UN system to “...to support the implementation, upon request, of national action plans, strategies or other measures to achieve the ends of the...” UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (paragraph 32).*

*Please provide information on how the UN system (at all levels) could best support your Government's efforts to achieve the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*

The recently adopted *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* has established 17 global goals to promote people, planet and prosperity. Article 4 of the Agenda states that, in the implementation of these goals, no one will be left behind. Furthermore, an endeavour will be made to reach the furthest behind first. The UN system could provide guidance and technical assistance as necessary, to realise the Sustainable Development Goals for indigenous peoples, including the development of indicators and tools to measure progress at the national and international level.