

Questionnaire on Indigenous Issues / PFII

Questionnaire to Indigenous Peoples' Organizations

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was established by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 2000/22. The Permanent Forum is mandated to provide expert advice and recommendations on Indigenous issues to 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 with the UN system; and prepare and disseminate information on Indigenous issues.

The Permanent Forum's report of the fifteenth session of 2016 includes a number of recommendations within its mandated areas, some of which are addressed to Indigenous peoples' organizations and institutions (attached).

The report can be found at : <https://www.un.org/development/desa/Indigenouspeoples/unpfi-sessions-2/unpfi-fifteenth-session.html>

The secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues invites Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and institutions to complete the attached questionnaire on any action taken or planned related to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The responses will be compiled into one report for the sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum which will take place from 24 April to 5 May 2017. Responses will be placed on the UN's website at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/Indigenouspeoples>

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **1 January 2017** to:

Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Division for Social Policy and Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
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The sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held at United Nations Headquarters from **24 April to 5 May 2017**.

Draft Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum:
 - (a) Empowerment of Indigenous women;
 - (b) Indigenous youth.
4. Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
5. Dialogue with Indigenous peoples.
6. Dialogue with Member States.
7. Dialogue with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.
8. Discussion on the theme “Tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: measures taken to implement the Declaration”.
9. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
10. Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with regard to Indigenous human rights defenders.
11. Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples:
 - (a) Implementation of national action plans, strategies or other measures;
 - (b) Ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous peoples at the United Nations;
 - (c) Implementation of the United Nations system-wide action plan on Indigenous peoples.
12. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council, and emerging issues.
13. Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session.
14. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its sixteenth session

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Questionnaire to Indigenous Peoples' Organizations

A. General information and background on your organization/institution

1. Please provide the name of your organization/entity and where it is based. Please also provide details on the objectives and goals of your organization.

National Indian Youth Council, Inc., Albuquerque, NM, USA.

NIYC's mission is to improve the economic, educational and social welfare of American Indians in the USA. Additionally, NIYC's current strategic priorities are: Healthcare, Education, and Homelessness. NIYC addresses these issues by advocating for equitable access to programs and services, while supporting culturally-relevant and sensitive solutions, in national and international forums.

2. What is the total number of Indigenous peoples in your country? Please also include official sources/references.

Indigenous Peoples (total figures)		
Indigenous Peoples (please provide the names of different groups)	Country	Total Indigenous population (Indicate source)
There are over 560 federally recognized Indigenous groups in the USA.	USA	The US 2010 Census indicates 5.2 million Indigenous people.

3. Which Indigenous peoples/communities does your organization represent and/or work with?

Indigenous Peoples (represented by your organization)			
Indigenous Peoples	Country	Region and areas	Total Indigenous population represented
All Indigenous peoples residing in the USA, especially those who live in urban areas. It is estimated that 2/3 of all Native Americans live outside of their tribal lands, often in larger urban areas.	USA	Entire USA and its territories.	5.2 million

4. Has your organization/institution participated in any sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues? If yes, please indicate the year(s).

Yes: 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2016

B. Recommendations of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

5. Has the work of the Permanent Forum supported Indigenous peoples? Please provide details with specific examples.

The Permanent Forum provides the American Indigenous people, and other Indigenous peoples from around the world, a forum to have their voices and concerns heard and addressed regarding economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.

Most recently, here in the United States, the Chair of the PFII and two Expert Members of the PFII issued a statement urging the US Government to take urgent action and protect the traditional lands and sacred sites of the Standing Rock Sioux and uphold their human rights commitments, including under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This kind of international support, along with the dedication of the protestors encamped at Standing Rock, was instrumental in getting the US Army Corps of Engineers to finally make the decision to not grant an easement that would have allowed that pipeline to go through/under the tribal lands/waters.

At the 2017 session, the Permanent Forum will focus on the follow-up of its recommendations on: a) Empowerment of Indigenous women; and b) Indigenous youth. In this context, and regarding the situation in your country:

6. Please provide information on any measures your organization has taken to strengthen the role and rights of Indigenous women. Please also include information on any steps to address sexual and gender-based violence against Indigenous women and girls, in particular in conflict situations (para. 57 of 2016 Report).

NIYC is a member of the New Mexico's Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, located in New Mexico, USA. This coalition, one of 18 tribal coalitions in the country, provides support to Indigenous advocates working in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and sex trafficking in New Mexico's tribal communities.

NIYC, at its Youth Conference, entitled "Building Leaders to Empower and Inspire," held in July 2016, made sure it included several sessions that focused upon sexual and gender-based violence against Indigenous women and girls. The 2-day conference was attended by New Mexico Indigenous youth ages 15 to 24. Relevant sessions were presented by Planned Parenthood of New Mexico, the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, and the City of Albuquerque's Police Department, the topics included Safer Sex, Healthy Relationships, and Youth & Law Enforcement.

NIYC offices also maintains informational materials and brochures regarding services for victims of sexual and gender-based violence available at its offices and makes sure that all of our participants know where and how these services can be accessed, if needed.

7. Please provide information on any projects or programmes your organization has taken to support Indigenous youth. Please also provide information on any action taken to (i) prevent self-harm and suicide; and (ii) facilitate the inter-generational transfer of traditional knowledge and histories among your peoples/communities.

In July 2016, NIYC hosted a Youth Conference, entitled “Building Leaders to Empower and Inspire.” The 2-day conference was attended by New Mexico Indigenous youth, male and female, ages 15 to 24. Topics focused on issues that Indigenous youth often deal with in their communities and provided sessions geared to empower and inspire them as they deal with these issues. Topics included: homelessness, suicide prevention, sexuality, balancing life demands/stress, financial literacy, cultural and language preservation, civic engagement/voting, job readiness and education, and more. A traditional Pow Wow (dancing and drumming) was also held.

- i. The topic of Suicide Prevention was presented as a session at the 2016 Youth Conference. Additionally, NIYC maintains a webpage on its website devoted to the topic of suicide prevention.
- ii. The Youth Conference included cultural activities that brought youth and elders together. This included the Pow Wow (dancing and drumming event) and several sessions that focused upon language and cultural preservation.

NIYC also held a summer youth sports camp in Summer 2016, specifically for Indigenous/Native youth in New Mexico.

C. UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

*The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted in 2007. To mark the ten year anniversary, and assess gains and achievements, the theme of the Permanent Forum’s 2017 annual session will be: **Tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: measures taken to implement the Declaration.***

8. How has the situation of the Indigenous peoples in your country evolved since the adoption of the UN Declaration in 2007? Has the adoption of the UN Declaration made a difference? Please include information in the matrix below:

	Better	Worse	No change	Comments & details
Culture			X	
Education			X	
Environment			X	
Health			X	

Human Rights			X	
Socio-economic Development			X	
Lands, territories & Resources			X	
Participation in decision-making			X	
Law and Policy			X	
Other				

9. Do you have any examples of good/best practice in implementing the UN Declaration? If so, please provide details.

Not currently.

10. What are the major successes as well as the remaining obstacles for the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in your country?

The United States government looks to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a guiding or advisory, but not a controlling, document. Here, in the United States, an example of an obstacle is the US Government's long-standing practice of paying lip-service to such declarations and then failing to follow through. For example, had the US government followed Article 19 and provided "Free, Prior, and Informed Consent," for the Dakota Access Pipeline easement decisions, the protests and conflicts that arose this summer in North Dakota could have been averted, with the easements denied way beforehand, instead of finally deciding this December 2016.

NIYC has made some recommendations for implementation: This July 11-15, 2016, NIYC was represented at the Expert mechanism held in Geneva, Switzerland. In attendance were NIYC Board of Directors members, Dr. Bettie Kay McGowan, PhD., Mississippi Choctaw/Cherokee, and Dr. Kyle Powys Whyte, PhD., Potawatomi. At this meeting, NIYC provided written testimony with recommendations for implementing the UNDRIP that seemed well-received. These recommendations included requiring written reports and allowing Indigenous peoples to file grievances.

D. World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

In 2014, at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/69/2), Member States committed to taking a number of measures to achieve the ends of the Declaration.

11. Has your organization been involved in any legislative, policy and/or administrative measures taken by the Government to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples? Please provide details.

There are not any governmental measures to implement that NIYC has been involved with to implement the UNDRIP but there have been efforts to educate our staff, stakeholders and participants of programs to better understand UNDRIP and its relevance to Indigenous populations in the United States of America.

12. Have any steps been taken or are planned to develop a national action plan or strategy on Indigenous peoples? Please also include information on information sharing and capacity building to strengthen awareness and action to implement the UN Declaration.

NIYC will be participating in an organizational strategic planning process in March 2017. Through this intense and comprehensive process, NIYC will, among other things, be developing its strategic vision and plan of action for the next 5 – 10 years, which will identify and prioritize NIYC’s future focus for Indigenous advocacy and programming. This plan will also include our current priorities of Homelessness, Healthcare and Education for American Indigenous peoples. The outcome will be a solid and feasible plan of action for NIYC initiatives/actions designed to support the implementation of the UN Declaration while continuing to advocate and lead the charge to improve the economic, educational and social welfare of American Indians in the USA.

To strengthen awareness and action to implement the UN Declaration, NIYC utilizes its website, social media, and monthly newsletter to provide information and resources about the Declaration itself and efforts in the USA and globally that relate to its implementation, both obstacles and successes.

13. The UN has recently developed a **system wide action plan** to promote improved support to Member States as well as Indigenous peoples themselves to achieve the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (SWAP-Indigenous Peoples). Please provide information on the **involvement of your organization/peoples in any projects, activities/dialogues and/or events of the UN** in your country to advance rights and opportunities for Indigenous peoples.

In March 2016, NIYC hosted a quarterly meeting, attended by representatives from 9 countries, to dialogue with other NGOs on activism and advocacy efforts. NIYC did this in collaboration with Global Ties, formerly the Albuquerque Council for International Visitors.

E. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets the framework for global development efforts until 2030. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will address the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda. Please provide information on the following

14. Has your government consulted you in the national level implementation, review and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda?

No.

15. Which goal/s of the 2030 Agenda are most important for your work and how you will engage in the implementation? Please describe any 2030 Agenda programmes, activities or other initiatives your organization is involved in at the community, national, regional or global level.

NIYC is particularly interested in the following goals from the 2030 Agenda because they support our most current priorities for now:

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. This is directly related one of NIYC's top priorities, healthcare. NIYC advocated at the UN and in the US for equitable access to healthcare for all Indigenous peoples.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. NIYC has also identified Education as one of its top 3 priorities for the next decade. It advocates for and promotes education as a tool for economic development for communities and for personal success nationally.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. NIYC has long been committed to empowering girls and women along with boys and men. It does not and has never treated one gender more favorably than the other. Women have always been part of NIYC leadership since it was founded. All programming and training seeks an equal balance for participation and representation. NIYC has, and will continue to advocate for women's issues though, to ensure that they are heard and provided the same opportunities and protections that men receive/benefit from. NIYC advocates for gender equality nationally and internationally.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. NIYC has long been an advocate for sustainable economic growth and full employment for all. It has continually administered an employment and training program for American Indians in New Mexico for over 20 years. NIYC advocates and supports this goal at a national level serving on a US Department of Labor advisory group and by operating a training and employment program.

Goal 11. Reduce inequality within and among countries. NIYC has been involved with the rights of Indigenous peoples, nationally since the 1960s and internationally, since the 1980s. NIYC is currently involved and active at both levels and advocates for and supports numerous efforts, in the US, and through its participation at the EMRIP and PFII.

16. Is your organization involved in the collection and dissemination of disaggregated data or culturally relevant data on Indigenous peoples? Please mention if and how you work with National Statistical Offices to integrate the data in official reports for review of the 2030 Agenda?

Yes, NIYC routinely collects such data as part of its implementation of its federally funded Workforce Employment and Training Program. Additionally, NIYC collects data from its Youth Conference and Sports Camp attendees. It currently does not integrate this data in official reports for review of the 2030 Agenda.