

Questionnaire to the UN system agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental 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 UN system agencies, funds and programmes (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 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 and other relevant issues.

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. All responses will be placed on the DESA/DSPD website on Indigenous at:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples>

If you have any objection for your response to be made available on our website, please inform our offices accordingly.

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
Room: S-2954
United Nations Headquarters
New York, USA 10017
Telephone: 917-367-5100
Email: indigenous_un@un.org and dogank@un.org

Questionnaire to UN system

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

Questionnaire

The theme of the Permanent Forum's session in 2017 will be:

Tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Measures taken to implement the Declaration

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

With respect to the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your agency, fund and/or programme:¹

- i.* Please provide information on measures taken or planned to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your organization.
The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) is actively involved in responding to the recommendations that have been addressed by the UNPFII with regard to health. Specific recommendations during different sessions have been made on the mental health of indigenous peoples and suicide prevention in particular. The Permanent Forum has welcomed the efforts and information received by the Pan American Health Organization on initiatives being conducted in the Americas but has reiterated the need to strengthen and coordinate efforts at the global level.
The last report of the UNPFII addresses specific recommendations to UN Agencies on health with a particular emphasis on maternal, sexual and reproductive health. PAHO is currently leading important efforts to reduce maternal mortality among indigenous women in the Latin American region through its different programs.
- ii.* What are the enabling factors that facilitate your agency's implementation of the Forum's recommendations?
There are several PAHO's resolutions approved by the Ministries of Health of the Region that facilitates a focus on indigenous health. Moreover, PAHO's Strategic Plan includes Ethnicity and as a cross-cutting theme together with Gender, Equity and Human Rights. In 2014, PAHO/WHO approved resolution CD53.R14 on the Strategy of Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage.
- iii.* What are some of the obstacles your agency has encountered in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum? *One of the main obstacles is the lack of available information on the health status of indigenous peoples in the region. However, efforts are being coordinated to improve the disaggregated information on health.*

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

¹ See attached document entitled 'Recommendations addressed to the UN Agencies' to facilitate your responses.

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As requested in the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (2014), a system-wide action plan (SWAP) to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was launched by the Secretary General at the UN Permanent Forum in May 2016. The Permanent Forum will follow up on progress made in the implementation of the system-wide action plan during its 2017 session.² For ease of reference, the questions have been framed under the six key elements of the SWAP-Indigenous Peoples as follows:

1. Raising awareness of the UN Declaration

Please provide information on any activities that raise awareness of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including key messages, advocacy and other media and outreach initiatives. Please provide information on publications, films, audio material, maps, or other materials that feature or focus on the UN Declaration and on indigenous peoples. Please also provide links to the relevant websites and other sources.

The Declaration is available on the Cultural Diversity and Health topic page. It is promoted via regional PAHO/WHO social media accounts on relevant advocacy days recognized by PAHO/WHO. Key messages about indigenous health, focusing on inequalities, were developed and shared with the UNSWAP communications secretariat.

2. Supporting the implementation of the UN Declaration, particularly at the country level

- i.* Please provide information on the measures that have been taken by your agency, fund or programme to support national partners in reform and implementation of legal frameworks, policies, strategies and plans to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples including through joint programming. Please also include information on indigenous women in your responses.

PAHO/WHO is currently working in the development of a Policy on Ethnicity and Health which addresses not only the need to contemplate the different determinants that have an impact in the health of indigenous peoples in the Region but also the need to take into account intercultural approaches to health. This policy will be presented to the Ministries of Health of the Region and will serve, once approved, as a guide for the Region of the Americas. Such Policy incorporates the principles of the UN Declaration and other relevant key instruments to indigenous peoples.

- ii.* Please provide information on any support provided to Member States to mainstream the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention No. 169 in national development plans and in the Common Country Assessment (CCA/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs)).

² See Report of the 15th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2016/43) at para. 73.

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- iii. Please provide information on any measures taken or planned to promote the establishment or strengthening of consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogue under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators.

3. Supporting indigenous peoples' rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will continue to address indigenous issues in the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- i. Has your agency/organization taken any measures to incorporate indigenous issues into programming to implement the 2030 Agenda in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

As earlier mentioned, PAHO/WHO is currently developing a Policy on Ethnicity and health which is in line with the 2030 Agenda. This document has as its frame of reference the global commitment to sustainable development made in the 2030 Agenda, in order to leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind first. Moreover PAHO's Strategic Plan includes Ethnicity as one of the four cross-cutting themes for the Organization.

- ii. Have indigenous peoples participated in programs, projects or any other activities related to the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? Please also include information on indigenous women, persons with disabilities, older persons and children and youth in your responses.

All programs and projects at PAHO that involve indigenous health take into account a life course approach as well as specific conditions in which Indigenous peoples live.

- iii. Please include information on reports or other documents prepared by your agency on progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda for indigenous peoples. Also include information on any measures taken or planned to gather or assist with the collection of statistical data on indigenous peoples, in particular as related to the SDG indicators for target 1.4 (secure tenure rights to land), target 2.3 (income of small-scale food producers), target 4.5 (parity in access to education) and target 10.3/16.b (experience of discrimination).

The Draft Policy on Ethnicity and Health, currently being developed, builds upon the global commitment to sustainable development made in the 2030 Agenda, in order to leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind first. It is particularly relevant to highlight the regional commitments reflected in the PAHO's Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage, and the Plan of Action on Health in All Policies. These instruments are in line with Goal 3, ensuring healthy lives for all at all ages, makes universal health coverage a central issue and an essential dimension in achieving this goal, based on the principles of equity, equality, and nondiscrimination.

4. Mapping of existing standards and guidelines, capacities, training materials and resources for the effective implementation of the UNDRIP

- i. Please provide information on any specific standards and guidelines on indigenous peoples adopted or planned by your agency/organization.

The promotion and protection of the health of indigenous peoples is central to PAHO's mandate. As mentioned above, PAHO/WHO Strategic Plan integrates ethnicity as one of the four cross cutting themes of the Organization. Moreover, a series of resolutions have been approved to protect and implement the right to health of indigenous peoples:

In September 1993, PAHO's 37th Directing Council passed Resolution CD37.R5, which recognized the deficits in both living conditions and health among the indigenous peoples of the Americas.

Said resolution aimed to implement the Health of the Indigenous Peoples Initiative of the Americas (called SAPIA, taken from its acronym in Spanish), urging governments to formulate policies and strategies geared towards specific indigenous populations, so as to break through the lack of information and ensure their greater access to high-quality health services and care—thus contributing to improved levels of equity.

In 1997, PAHO's 40th Directing Council passed Resolution CD40.R6, which recognized the ever-increasing inequity in the health status and access to basic health services of the indigenous peoples of the Americas. It took into account the economic, geographical, and cultural obstacles that, in the majority of the countries of the Region, block efficient, effective delivery of public health services and health care to people in isolated rural areas, as well as in marginalized urban areas. It urged Member States to persist in their efforts to detect, monitor, and eliminate inequities in health status and in access to basic health services among the most disadvantaged groups—especially indigenous populations.

In 2006, PAHO's 47th Directing Council passed Resolution CD47.R18, Health of the Indigenous Peoples in the Americas. It recognized the progress made by the SAPIA initiative, while acknowledging the existence of inequities in access to health services that affect between 40 and 50 million individuals from indigenous populations living in the Region of the Americas. It considered the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) impossible to reach without meeting the specific health needs of such excluded groups as indigenous populations.

- ii. Please provide information on any training materials prepared or planned related to the implementation of the UN Declaration.

- iii. Please provide information on current resources and funds allocated to effectively implementing the UN Declaration. Please also provide information on any joint initiatives with other UN agencies in the implementation of the UN Declaration.
PAHO/WHO is part of the SWAP Communications groups on the rights of indigenous peoples and has been actively involved providing relevant information related to the health of indigenous peoples in the Region.

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5. Developing the capacities of States, indigenous peoples, civil society and UN personnel

Please provide information on any capacity development initiatives that your organization is conducting for indigenous peoples, government officials and UN staff. Also include information on the participation of indigenous women, children and youth as well as indigenous persons with disabilities in your response.

PAHO/WHO has virtual and in-person courses on cultural diversity and health. An ethnic approach to health can be found at: <http://cursos.campusvirtualsp.org/course/view.php?id=39> PAHO/WHO has also been promoting national, sub-regional and regional technical meetings to promote intercultural approaches to health. During these technical meetings, PAHO/WHO has prioritized technical cooperation that will help Member States to build the capacity of health systems to address ethnicity in harmony with SDGs and international and regional human rights instruments.

6. Advancing the participation of indigenous peoples in UN processes

Please provide information on any support provided for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples at relevant UN bodies. Please also provide information on any consultative mechanisms, tools and other measures to obtain free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in processes that affect them.

PAHO/WHO is conducting participatory processes for the validation of the proposed Policy on Ethnicity and Health that will be presented to the Ministries of Health in September, 2017. Indigenous leaders at country, sub-regional and regional levels have been involved in this process through PAHO Country Offices. PAHO has also been promoted important spaces to promote experience exchange on intercultural health where indigenous leaders from the Region have been actively involved. Moreover, PAHO is working on different initiatives where effective participation of indigenous peoples is crucial, in particular on communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive and mental health. PAH/WHO, in collaboration with its country offices, is also working towards creating a space for indigenous youth of the region to develop their indigenous youth health plan. It is also important to highlight that, as part of the Planning Committee of the International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health, for the first time PAHO/WHO has proposed to include a panel on health experiences from Latin America for this Conference where indigenous leaders from the Region will be participating.

As Chair of the Inter-Agency Regional Group of Indigenous Peoples, PAHO/WHO will be chairing the face-to-face meeting of the Regional Inter-Agency Group, which is the only Regional Group that has a Consultative Group of Indigenous Leaders.