

## Questionnaire to UN system

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### 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/unpfii-sessions-2/unpfii-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](mailto:indigenous_un@un.org) and [dogank@un.org](mailto:dogank@un.org)

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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

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**

**Note: The following answers and comments were provided by the Secretariat of WIPO in December 2016. Unless expressly stated, they do not necessarily reflect the views of WIPO Member States, taken as a whole or individually.**

### **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:<sup>1</sup>

- i.* Please provide information on measures taken or planned to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your organization.

**None of the recommendations that are listed in the attached document is addressed specifically to WIPO.**

**Regarding Recommendation 72 a), the WIPO Secretariat remains in regular contact with both the UNPFII and the UNPFII Secretariat, including in terms of cooperating on specific initiatives (see for example under item B6 below). Members of the UNPFII have been invited as panellists or as participants to seminars and workshops organized by WIPO in the past. The UNPFII is an observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore ("the WIPO IGC") and is specially and systematically invited to attend the IGC sessions.**

**The answers provided to the SWAP-related questions (see under B, below) may serve as reference insofar as Recommendation 72 b) as well as Recommendation 73 are concerned.**

**For Recommendation 15, please refer to the answers provided under B6 below.**

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

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**Answers to B2 (answer 3) and B3 relate as well to Recommendations 28 and Recommendation 72 c).**

- ii. What are the enabling factors that facilitate your agency's implementation of the Forum's recommendations?

**The WIPO Secretariat has implemented recommendations made by the UNPFII in the past, within the framework of its mandate, program of activities and budget as approved by its Member States and relevant procedures.**

**The preparation of recommendations in consultation with the relevant agencies, well before their adoption by the UNPFII, would facilitate follow up.**

- iii. What are some of the obstacles your agency has encountered in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum?

**As noted above, no recommendations from the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the UNPFII were specifically addressed to WIPO. However, as a general comment, and based on past experience, recommendations that are less able to be followed up on would include recommendations drafted in such a way that they do not take WIPO's mandate and approved program and budget into account, and/or recommendations addressed simultaneously to two or more agencies and organizations.**

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

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.<sup>2</sup> 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 (UNDRIP), including key messages, advocacy and other media and

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

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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.

**In accordance with its mandate, WIPO is committed to shaping a balanced and effective international intellectual property system for the benefit of all, including Indigenous Peoples.**

**Indigenous Peoples create, maintain and develop their traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs), as part of their core identities and as a rich foundation of their well-being and own development. Article 31 of the UNDRIP, which refers to the right of Indigenous Peoples to “maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions”, recognizes the legitimate sense that Indigenous Peoples have of ownership of, and the essential value inherent in, their own TK and TCEs.**

**Through norm-setting negotiations taking place within the WIPO IGC, the WIPO Secretariat facilitates the intergovernmental negotiations over the development, at the international level, of an intellectual property-related legal instrument or instruments that would ensure the balanced and effective protection of genetic resources (GRs), TK and TCEs.**

**Awareness of the UNDRIP within the IGC has contributed to UNDRIP’s resonance internationally. References to the UNDRIP are included within the working documentation of the IGC and it has been regularly advocated for in the IGC negotiations, particularly, but not exclusively by, Indigenous Peoples’ representatives. An explicit reference to the UNDRIP is included in the preamble of the draft text on the protection of TK as it stands as work-in-progress in December 2016.**

**The UNDRIP is one of the key resources mentioned on the Indigenous Portal of the WIPO website: see <http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/indigenous/>.**

### **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.
- 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

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national development plans and in the Common Country Assessment (CCA/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs)).

- 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.

**In response to sub-questions (i), (ii) and (iii):**

**In furtherance of Article 31 of the UNDRIP, WIPO's program of work in support of Indigenous Peoples includes training activities and information resources that aim at enabling Indigenous Peoples to make more effective use of intellectual property principles and tools in order to prevent the misuse of TK and TCEs by third parties and protect them for their (Indigenous Peoples') own benefit, if they so wish.**

**Until now, WIPO has been focusing on the development of activities and tools that benefit Indigenous Peoples globally or that involve Indigenous persons from different countries, instead of focusing on projects that are developed within a particular country, although there are some exceptions. Those tools or activities are available on WIPO's website or provided through practical training initiatives, either in Geneva or abroad. The WIPO Advanced Distance Learning Course on IP, TK and TCEs provides technical information on key concepts and international, regional and national experiences, policy options and legal mechanisms available or under consideration for the intellectual property-like protection of TK and TCEs. The Advanced Distance Learning Course is available for Indigenous Peoples at no cost.**

**The WIPO Secretariat provides intellectual property-related legal and policy information to Member States that wish to develop national strategies, legislation or other measures with a view to protecting TK and TCEs from an intellectual property perspective. The need to consult with, and receive the prior and informed consent of, Indigenous Peoples in the decision-making process is included within the principles that are suggested to be implemented by Member States receiving WIPO's support.**

### **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.

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- 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?
- 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.
- 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).

### **In response to sub-questions (i), (ii) and (iii):**

**The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (“the SDGs”) will be considered, from different angles, in the work of the WIPO Secretariat in support of Indigenous Peoples’ needs and interests.**

**The empowerment of Indigenous Peoples, as vulnerable peoples, as referred to in paragraph 23 of the UN Declaration “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, is a key element of the commitment made by UN Member States vis-à-vis Indigenous Peoples within the SDGs framework.**

**Paragraph 25 of 2030 Agenda reflects the further commitment of UN Member States to provide them with “access to life-long learning opportunities that help them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society”.**

**In the same line, ensuring equal access to education for Indigenous Peoples (Goal 4, Target 5) is also relevant to the work of WIPO insofar it relates to intellectual property issues.**

**Most of the practical tools and initiatives, as well as information resources available under the WIPO work program, to the extent that they relate to the protection of TK and TCEs, are in line with this commitment, as they may contribute to the practical empowerment of Indigenous Peoples.**

**The IGC draft texts for the protection of TK and TCEs that are presently under negotiation at the IGC clearly envisage Indigenous Peoples as beneficiaries of the provisions and/or measures that are being negotiated. A**

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**result from those negotiations could contribute to the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples as beneficiaries, should Member States so agree.**

#### 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.
- 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.

**In response to sub-questions (i), (ii) and (iii):**

**The WIPO TK Documentation Toolkit contains guidelines that have been designed in support of Indigenous Peoples' specific interests relating to the documentation of TK (see <http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/resources/tkdocumentation.html>).**

**Most of our WIPO training material relate to Article 31 of the UNDRIP as they address the protection of TK and TCEs. They are available on the following webpage:  
<http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/resources/publications.html#1>.**

**Information regarding the resources that are allocated by WIPO for its work program in relation to TK, TCEs and GRs is available in the WIPO Program and Budget 2016-2017 (see Program 4 in particular) ([http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/about-wipo/en/budget/pdf/budget\\_2016\\_2017.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/about-wipo/en/budget/pdf/budget_2016_2017.pdf)).**

#### 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.



One of the core principles of WIPO's capacity-building program for Indigenous Peoples is that the effective exercise of their rights partly depends on their ability to:

- grasp the issues that lack of protection raises;
- understand the nature and scope of the existing intellectual property-related tools that they may use in protecting their TK and TCEs; and
- define their approach as they best consider in line with their own objectives and for their own development.

WIPO's program of work in this field includes practical workshops, distance learning courses and trainings, as well as the dissemination of briefs, studies and toolkits. Those resources are accessible through a specific indigenous portal on the WIPO website. (<http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/indigenous/>)

The WIPO TK Documentation Toolkit (see above under B4) is an example of a publication that has been designed in support of Indigenous Peoples' specific interests.

Regional multi-stakeholder practical workshops, involving invited Indigenous Peoples' representatives during their whole duration, were organized in 2015 in Namibia (for English-speaking African representatives), Panama (for Central and South American representatives) and Samoa (for representatives from Pacific Islands), and in Morocco in 2016 (for French-speaking African representatives). Invited government officials have also participated in those workshops side-by-side with Indigenous Peoples' representatives, as a way to promote and facilitate dialogue, interaction and common understanding of the mechanisms and issues between both groups.

The WIPO Indigenous Fellowship Program allows for an Indigenous person to be part of the WIPO Traditional Knowledge Division (TKD) staff (<http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/indigenous/fellowship/>). It importantly contributes to make sure that Indigenous Peoples' sensitivities and interests are duly considered by WIPO staff, within and beyond the TKD.

Ms. Hai-Yuean Tualima, from Samoa, has been the WIPO indigenous fellow in 2015 and 2016. The WIPO Fellowship Program has been renewed for 2017-2018 and the name of the new Fellow will soon be advertised.

WIPO staff is briefed on the WIPO IGC negotiations on a regular basis.

### 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.

**Implementation of Article 18 of UNDRIP on participation is of particular relevance for the WIPO IGC.**

**The WIPO Secretariat, with WIPO Member States' express support, has taken measures ensuring and enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the IGC as observers.**

**Those measures include the following:**

- **An *ad hoc* and fast-track accreditation procedure for observers at the IGC was established at the creation of the IGC;**
- **Indigenous participants in the IGC can take the floor on any agenda item and can have any of their drafting proposals reflected in the drafts, provided that at least one Member State extends its endorsement. This happens quite frequently;**
- **Further, the Chair of the IGC has systematically invited Indigenous caucus representatives, with Member States' support, to participate in informal consultations and drafting groups on the texts being negotiated at the IGC, with rights to speak and make proposals. Within such format, Indigenous Peoples do not need formal endorsement of Member States to have their proposals reflected in the draft texts;**
- **As a result and on several occasions, drafting proposals by Indigenous representatives have been taken up in the negotiating texts; several options included in the texts reflect their comments or proposals;**
- **An Indigenous Consultative Forum is organized on the day preceding IGC sessions at the WIPO premises and with the WIPO Secretariat's support, with the view to facilitate the preparation of IGC sessions by the Indigenous Caucus. The Chair of the IGC meets the Indigenous Caucus whenever requested or appropriate;**
- **WIPO has financed the logistical, secretarial, interpretation and translation support that is provided by the Indigenous Peoples' Center for Documentation, Research and Information (DoCip) during the daily meetings of the Indigenous Caucus;**
- **Each IGC session accommodates time for a panel presentation by Indigenous Peoples' and local community's experts in the plenary room;**

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- Indigenous persons have also been invited to make presentations at the Seminars that have been organized on issues relevant to the protection of GRs, TK and TCEs since 2015. (see <http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/>)
  - The WIPO General Assembly set up the WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities in 2005 in order to facilitate the participation in sessions of the IGC of representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. After years of effective funding, the Fund is currently depleted. But best efforts are being made in order to have the Fund replenished with new donations;
  - Two significant initiatives were also taken in the three last years, in close cooperation with the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in order to enhance the ability of Indigenous Peoples to analyze the issues at hand and formulate positions.
    - Following up on a decision by the IGC, the WIPO and the UNPFII Secretariats jointly organized an Indigenous Expert Workshop, in 2013, comprising seven invited indigenous experts. Its report (WIPO/GRTKF/IC/25/INF/9) was submitted by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, to the IGC. (see [http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/tk/en/wipo\\_grtkf\\_ic\\_26/wipo\\_grtkf\\_ic\\_26\\_inf\\_9.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/tk/en/wipo_grtkf_ic_26/wipo_grtkf_ic_26_inf_9.pdf))
    - Following up on a recommendation made by the Permanent Forum, the WIPO Secretariat commissioned a technical review of the IGC drafting texts by Professor James Anaya, from an indigenous rights and human rights framework in 2014. The technical review has been submitted by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum to the IGC (WIPO/GRTKF/IC/29/INF/10). (see [http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/tk/en/wipo\\_grtkf\\_ic\\_29/wipo\\_grtkf\\_ic\\_29\\_inf\\_10.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/tk/en/wipo_grtkf_ic_29/wipo_grtkf_ic_29_inf_10.pdf))
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