

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 sixteenth session of 2017 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/news/2017/06/new-16th-session-report-unpfi/>

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 two separate reports for the April 2018 session of the Permanent Forum: (a) Compilation of information received from the UN system and other entities on progress in implementation of PFII recommendations; and (b) Implementation of the System Wide Action Plan on Indigenous Peoples.

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

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

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

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **29 December 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 sigurdarson@un.org

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The seventeenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held at United Nations Headquarters from **16 to 27 April 2018**.

Provisional Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.
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 “Indigenous peoples’ collective rights to lands, territories and resources”.
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.
11. Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples:
 - (a) Implementation of national action plans, strategies and 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 eighteenth session.
14. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its seventeenth session.

Questionnaire

The theme of the Permanent Forum's session in 2018 will be:
“Indigenous peoples’ collective rights to lands, territories and resources”

Please provide information on the following:

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.
- ii.* What are the enabling factors that facilitate your agency's implementation of the Forum's recommendations?
- iii.* What are some of the obstacles your agency has encountered in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum?

The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is supporting the involvement of all the relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the convention, particularly the most vulnerable ones, including indigenous peoples, youth and women. In this regard, during the last year the secretariat has facilitated several activities aiming at raising the visibility of these stakeholders within the scope of the UNCCD.

Following decision 5/COP12 the secretariat facilitated the election of the UNCCD CSO panel representing the civil society organizations accredited to the conventions. Among the five representatives there was one member (CSO from Africa) which represented the indigenous peoples (Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee), ensuring in this way that all the relevant activities of the panel took into consideration the interests of these key stakeholders when addressing issues of land.

The CSO panel worked during the biennium (2016-2017) to bring the voices of the civil society to the negotiations of the convention, to facilitate the coordination among the accredited CSOs and to ensure an efficient communication on issues related to desertification, land degradation and drought. Among the priorities identified by the panel there were two of capital importance²:

1. Support to strengthen the involvement of disadvantaged groups in the work of the Convention, mainly women and indigenous peoples;
2. Land rights, with the Panel promoting a policy agenda on land rights and set to advocate a COP decision addressing this topic.

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

² See document http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2017-07/ICCD_COP%2813%29_15-1710712E.pdf for more detailed information on the work of the panel

Through the CSO panel the convention has also been represented in the operationalization of the UNFCCC local communities and indigenous peoples platform and the discussions held in the sidelines of the SB46, SBSTA 47 and COP23 to the UNFCCC.

The aspects related to indigenous land rights and customary land tenure were also included within the agenda of the UNCCD thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties held in Ordos in September 2017 at several stages. The most relevant one was during the high level segment where a ministerial dialogue between representatives of the civil society and Ministers hold an interactive dialogue discussing on gender and land rights. Indigenous peoples were represented at the session through the financial support provided by donor countries. Outcomes of the session are included in document ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1 which is available here http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2017-11/cop21add1_eng.pdf.

Among the civil society organizations that received financial support through the special fund for participation to attend the meeting of the governing bodies of the UNCCD (Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention – CRIC and the Conference of the Parties) several were representative of indigenous peoples, ensuring that their voice was heard at the decision making level. Furthermore, for the first time the host country for the COP organized a youth summit on the sidelines of the conference of the Parties. Several representatives of the indigenous peoples around the world received financial support to attend the meeting (<http://www2.unccd.int/actions/actions-around-world/global-youth-initiative-combating-desertification-starting-point>), indigenous peoples issues were included in the youth declaration working to combat desertification.

The accreditation process to become observer to the Conference of the Parties has been facilitating the inclusion of indigenous peoples organization. In this regard, the secretariat has supported to increase the number of these 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 adopted in November 2015, and 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 2018 session.³ 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

³ See Report of the 15th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2016/43) at para. 73.

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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.

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

Please provide information on actions taken or planned by your agency, fund, programme, entity on the following:

- i.* Measures taken or planned 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 any joint programming initiatives. Please also include information related to include indigenous women in your responses.
- ii.* Support provided to Member States to mainstream the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in national development plans and in the UN Development Assistance Frameworks and Common Country Assessments (CCA/UNDAFs).
- iii.* Promote the establishment or strengthening of consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogue including 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 policy and programming to implement the 2030 Agenda in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?
- ii.* Has your agency/organization/entity supported the participation of indigenous peoples in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including at the national level? Please also include information on indigenous women, persons with disabilities, older persons and children and youth in your responses.
- iii.* Please provide information on any reports or other documents in implementing the 2030 Agenda for indigenous peoples. Also include information on any measures taken or planned for 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).

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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 implement the UN Declaration. Please also provide information on any joint initiatives with other UN agencies in the implementation of the UN Declaration.

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.

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, including at the country level. 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.

The relation of the convention with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples focuses mainly those areas link to land protection and land rights (articles 26 and 27), traditional knowledge (article 31) and participation of indigenous peoples (article 41).

Regarding the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the adoption of target 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality, the convention has been focusing on capitalizing the commitment by countries and stakeholders to reach LDN by 2030. In this regard, the CSO panel has prepared and presented to the Conference of the Parties a policy papers trying to show how an appropriate and respectful land tenure regime could facilitate the achievement of the LDN targets.

The document entitled Land Rights for Sustainable Life on Land (www2.unccd.int/publications/civil-society-organizations-cso-panel-land-rights-sustainable-life-land) was presented at the COP13 held in September in Ordos, China. The COP in return “invited Parties to consider the recommendations made by the Civil Society Organization Panel, regarding land rights” (decision 5/COP.13 on the

participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification)

The recommendations highlight the indigenous peoples rights contained in the UNDRIP while also stresses the importance for the countries to adopt the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land potential contribution to the effective implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.

COP13 also took several decisions which contain elements that are of relevance for consideration of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The secretariat of the convention would like to highlight the following:

1. 27/COP.13 the Ordos Declaration
2. 31/COP.13 Policy Advocacy Framework to combat Sand and Dust Storms Decision
3. 30/COP.13 Gender equality and women's empowerment for the enhanced and effective implementation of the Convention