Questionnaire to UN system

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 Indigenous Peoples Development Branch/Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues invites UN system agencies, funds and programmes and other intergovernmental organizations to complete the attached questionnaire on any action taken or planned in response to the Permanent Forum’s recommendations and other relevant issues, including the system-wide action plan on rights of indigenous peoples/SWAP and the 2030 Development Agenda.

The responses will be compiled into two separate reports for the 2021 session of the Permanent Forum: (a) System Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Implementation by the United Nations System; and (b) Update on the Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda.

All responses will be placed on the DESA/DISD 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 20 December 2020 to:

Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch
Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Division for Inclusive Social Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Headquarters
New York. USA 10017
Telephone: +1-917-367-5100
Email: indigenous_un@un.org and requesens@un.org
The Twentieth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled to take place at United Nations Headquarters from 19 - 30 April 2021.

**Provisional Agenda**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Dialogues:
   a. Dialogue with indigenous peoples;
   b. Dialogue with Member States;
   c. Dialogue with the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes;
   d. Human rights dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
   e. Regional dialogues;
   f. Thematic dialogues.
7. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.
8. Provisional agenda for the twentieth-first session of the Permanent Forum.
9. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its twentieth session.
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:

i. Please provide information on measures taken or planned to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.

ii. The theme of the 2021 PFII session is “Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”. Please include information on any publications, projects, report or activities that are of relevance to this theme.

The Department of Global Communications (DGC) published the revised edition of the booklet entitled “Women and Girls of African Descent, Human Rights Achievements and Challenges.” The Spanish version was made available in January 2020, with the French and English versions released in July 2020. The publication highlights the intersectional challenges faced by indigenous and Afro-descendent women and girls.


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

Executive summary:
Please provide an overview of actions taken or planned to implement the System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This summary will form the basis of the compilation report of UN activities to implement the SWAP and the Declaration. [Word limit: 600]

As the lead entity for implementation of Element 1 of the System-Wide Action Plan, the Department chairs a working group of communications professionals from across the UN system (including DESA, DPPA, FAO, IFAD, IOM, OHCHR, PAHO/WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF and UN Women) to raise awareness of the rights of indigenous peoples through consistent messaging and coordinated outreach. The inter-agency working group shared communications messages and assets and a range of promotional products in multiple languages, such as digital cards, videos, and backgrounders. A shared online platform serves as the main tool for sharing and cross-promoting content.

The Department has continued to raise awareness of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the global and local level and through its range of multimedia and multilingual platforms, including video, audio, web and social media and virtual seminars, design assets, tours and briefings. DGC’s network of UN Information Centres (UNICs), now working alongside the larger UN Resident Coordinators’ network, have
continued to reach out to the media and educational institutions; engage in partnerships with governmental authorities as well as local civil society organizations and the private sector; and maintain libraries and electronic information resources on a wide range of indigenous issues.

As requested in the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/69/2), 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.

In August 2020, the United Nations Executive Committee agreed on the need for accelerated and collective action to strengthen the implementation of UN System Wide Action Plan (SWAP) on indigenous peoples. In November 2020, the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination issued a Call to Action: Building an Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Future with Indigenous Peoples, to ensure collaborative and coherent UN system action to support the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples with focus on furthering the implementation of the SWAP.

The Permanent Forum will follow up on progress made in the implementation of the system-wide action plan during its 2021 session. 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 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 relevant websites and other sources, including contact details of focal points.

The Department has continued to raise awareness of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including through its range of multimedia and multilingual platforms, such as video, audio, web and social media. It also held virtual seminars, design assets, tours and briefings. DGC provided media and promotional support to the virtual observance of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples (9 August).

Due to the limitations presented by the COVID pandemic, focus was placed on virtual events and the production of online materials, including through:

- **Webcast of meetings and events live and on-demand**, including the speech by the Secretary-General for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples; sessions of the World Urban Forum focusing on indigenous peoples; and the Human Rights Council. These meetings and events are available on the UN's WebTV website, as well as the UN’s YouTube channel. [http://webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org)
- **Working in the six UN official languages** as well as Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese, UN News produced multimedia content on the International Day and the high-level period of the General Assembly, where issues of indigenous rights were spotlighted in
meetings on climate change and biodiversity. Indigenous issues were covered over the past year by all nine UN News language units in over 230 stories.

In addition, UN News coverage this year including stories on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on indigenous peoples and communities, as follows:

- UN News covered WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus’ expression of deep concern about indigenous communities as the coronavirus case load began to increase in the Americas in July 2020. https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/07/1068681
- UN News’ coverage in July of the Secretary-General’s policy brief on COVID-19 and Latin America and the Caribbean region, which included special focus on indigenous women and families.
- In May, coverage of the statement by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, José Francisco Cali Tzay, who warned that the virus was having a devastating impact far beyond the immediate health crisis. https://news.un.org/es/story/2020/05/1474532
- As part of its coverage of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, UN News Portuguese interviewed Brazilian indigenous leader Marcos Terena, who described the devastating effect COVID-19 had on his community. In particular, about the indigenous elders, who are the source of traditional language and cultural practices. https://news.un.org/pt/story/2020/08/1722642
- UN News produced an audio interview with Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications and Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which touched on the impact of COVID-19 in the region and on indigenous communities. https://news.un.org/en/audio/2020/07/1069271
- As part of ongoing cooperation between UN News and the UN Resident Coordinator system, a blogpost from the UN Resident Coordinator in Guatemala, Rebeca Arias Flores, explained how sustainable development is not new, but simply a new name that draws on ancient wisdom that is renewed with each generation of indigenous people. https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/08/1070862
- A collaborative project between UN News and the International Labour Organization (ILO), marking the agency’s centenary, “Dignity at Work: The American Experience” which documents the working life of people across the United States, yielded several feature products related to indigenous peoples: among them, an audio interview from Hawaii on tattoo culture; an interview with a cultural practitioner who teaches Hawaiian Studies at the Island School on the island of Kauai https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/08/1068801; and an interview with the General Manager of the Kauai Coffee Company on the island of Kauai, who discussed the need to learn from indigenous Hawaiian culture and practices. https://news.un.org/en/audio/2020/06/1066512
- To mark International Mother Language Day this year, UN News Russian interviewed Alexy Tsykerev, then a member of the UN expert mechanism on the
rights of indigenous peoples, about efforts to preserve the Karelian language.  

- Based on a UN News Hindi interview with Indian climate activist Archana Soreng from the Sundargarh district of Odisha state, several teams, including Chinese 

- The UN's flagship social media accounts covered a range of issues related to indigenous peoples, including the UN Declaration, in the six official languages, as well as Hindi, Kiswahili, and Portuguese. These included posts on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and promoting actions undertaken toward Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda. The Social Media Section partnered with TikTok to promote #IndigenousDay on the platform; one video was viewed more than 320,000 times.

- DGC's Meetings Coverage Section published four press releases/meetings summaries (2 English and 2 French) on indigenous issues as of 11 November 2020, and anticipated 4 more by the end of 2020, for an expected total of 8 press releases/meeting summaries in 2020.

- The Department continues to maintain the fully accessible and mobile-compliant website for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in the six official languages, which is updated regularly with information on the year's theme, background, messages from the Secretary-General, and other high-ranking officials, events, resources and videos.  

UN Video highlighted the voices and stories of indigenous peoples around the world. Videos produced during this period included:

- A social media video on indigenous youth and their perspectives on preserving culture and language, which was posted on UN News’ Twitter account: https://twitter.com/UN/status/1170729255644344320

- A UN in Action short feature called ‘Zero Budget Natural Farming: An Agricultural Revolution is Taking Shape in India’. The main subject and her community are part of an indigenous community in India called the Konda Dora tribe https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vF40gF-PUcs


The Department continued to provide services to media and other clients seeking to cover indigenous issues. Requests received and completed by the AV Library for UN archival footage included:

- The UN Foundation, seeking footage of the 16th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for its UN75 campaign.

- The French director Théodore Berg, requesting footage of the Special Ceremony for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People in 1992 for a
documentary on Davi Kopenawa Yanomami, spokesperson for the Yanomami people.

- Contour Films’ request of footage of indigenous activist Autumn Peltier addressing the UN General Assembly in 2018, for a film that profiles this 17-year-old Canadian water activist.

The Department’s support to media also included accreditation and escort for in-person meetings, notification of events through a daily media alert and provision to journalists of timely copies of statements and documents.

Contacts:

For UN News:
Ben Malor, Chief Editor, Dailies, UN News (malor@un.org)
Victor Evans-Harvey, Acting Chief Editor, Planning and Assignments (evans-harvey@un.org)

For Social Media:
Joachim Harris, OIC for Social Media and Deputy Director, Digital and Promotion Branch (joachim.harris@un.org)

For Webcast:
Andreas Damianou, Chief of Webcast Unit (damianou@un.org)

For Meetings Coverage:
Isabelle Broyer, OIC for Meetings Coverage and Acting Deputy Director, Coverage and Media Services Branch (broyer@un.org)

For www.un.org:
Peter Dawkins, Chief of the Web Services Section (dawkins@un.org)

For UN Video:
Jessica Jiji, OIC for UN Video (jiji@un.org)

For AV Libraries:
Antonio Silva, Chief of Multimedia Resources Uni (silva@un.org)

For media liaison and services:
Tal Mekel, Chief of the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit (mekel@un.org)

The Department’s outreach efforts also focused on the production and curation of, and access to, paper and digital publications, and graphic design services:
• UN Publications is finalizing a book in its Essential Documents series on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for release in early 2021, which will be accessible on the UN iLibrary digital platform (un-ilibrary.org) in English.

• The UN iLibrary (un-ilibrary.org) provides user-friendly, fully searchable access to digital content on indigenous peoples in all official UN languages, including the UN Declaration and DESA’s State of the World’s Indigenous Peoples (4th edition). (Contact: Sherri Aldis, aldis@un.org)

• The Dag Hammarskjöld Library maintains a research guide on indigenous issues (http://research.un.org/en/indigenous), including a collection of key UN documents related to the UN Declaration and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. (Contact: Thanos Giannakopoulos, thanos.giannakopoulos@un.org)

• The Department’s Graphic Design Unit designed the logo for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022–2032 in the six official languages. They also produced social media cards for the following initiatives: UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (in the six official languages); the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples; the 64th Commission on the Status of Women (in regard to indigenous women); and COVID-19-related information for indigenous peoples. The Unit designed the layout of the CEB document “Building an Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Future with Indigenous Peoples: A Call to Action”. It will be made available on the CEB website and shared with stakeholders. (Contact: Helga Leifsdottir, leifsdottir@un.org)

The Department undertook targeted outreach and educational activities to educate and engage external audiences, including:

• In response to rising demand among young people for mental health and psychosocial support resources amid the pandemic, the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, in partnership with UNICEF and WHO, created the #CopingWithCOVID webinar. One episode was fully dedicated to conversations with indigenous youth and how COVID-19 specifically impacted indigenous youth’s mental health and well-being. (Contact: Jayathma Wickramanayake, jayathma.wickramanayake@un.org)

• Through the Department's guided tours and briefings (offered virtually/online since the closure of UN Headquarters in New York due to the pandemic), Visitors Services educated the general public and especially schools and youth about the UN Declaration and the recognition and protection of indigenous peoples’ rights. (Contact: Elisabeth Waechter, waechter@un.org)

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

The role of the new Resident Coordinators and UN Country Team framework is an integral component of the UN’s commitment to support the rights of those at risk of being left behind, including indigenous peoples.

The Chief Executives Board committed to redouble efforts to help Resident Coordinators and UNCTs ensure more systematic participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations country processes.
Please provide information on actions taken or planned by your agency/ fund/ programme/ entity on the following:

i. Any activities or support provided to indigenous peoples both during the COVID-19 pandemic and after, to ensure their inclusion in addressing the impacts of the pandemic, as well as in building back better.

ii. 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.

iii. 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, where ratified, in national development plans and in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and Common Country Analysis.

iv. Support for consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogue including under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators.

v. Support provided to Resident Coordinators, UNCTs, SRSGs, UN field operations or Special Envoys in their engagement with indigenous peoples.

UNICs continue to reach out to the media and educational institutions; engage in partnerships with governments as well as local civil society organizations and the private sector; and maintain libraries and electronic information resources on a wide range of indigenous issues. During the reporting period, this included the following:

UNIC Bogotá produced and broadcasted radio messages and published videos related to COVID-19 in 18 indigenous languages, potentially reaching 700,000 people. It produced, for example, a series of 50-minute radio programmes on cultural intangible heritage in Colombia. They were broadcasted on Radio Nacional de Colombia and 320 community radio station (reaching 90% of the Colombian territory). A dialogue was also held on 12 August with indigenous leaders from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru in commemoration of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples.

The Nordic Desk of the UN Regional Information Centre for Western Europe published a story on its website about the indigenous language of the Sami. Separately, an article focused on the Sami and the Inuits -- the indigenous peoples of the Nordic countries -- was published.

UNIC Canberra co-partnered in the indigenous exhibition “Whenua Ukaipo,” which celebrated UN75 and the SDGs. It procured a video message for the exhibition from Fabrizio Hochschild Drummond, the Secretary-General’s Special Advisor on preparations for the UN75. The UNIC also conducted a Skype interview with the Resident Coordinator for Papua New Guinea, focusing on peace and sustainable development programming (30 October 2020).
UNIS Geneva held a press conference in which one of the topics addressed was the ILO Convention 169, which deals specifically with the right of indigenous and tribal peoples (28 January 2020, the Webcast for this briefing is available here: http://bit.ly/unog280120).

UNIC Panama City, UNIC Bogotá, UNIC La Paz, UNIC Lima, and UN Quito held in August 2020 an online regional dialogue on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples where indigenous leaders debated actions that need to be taken within the framework of the UN's work to guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples in the region.

UNIC Rio de Janeiro worked with UN Women to write a story in April, in Portuguese and English, about a Brazilian indigenous nurse who discusses the main challenges to fight COVID-19 on the largest indigenous territory in the country.

UNIC Rio de Janeiro also promoted a “Twitter Moment” on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, including posts from 10 UN agencies, funds and programmes in the country. The posts were seen more than 5,000 times.

UNIC Tehran translated into Farsi and subtitled the Secretary-General's message on the International Day and posted it on the UN in Iran website as well as on its social media channels. The message was also issued as a press release.

In the face of the advance of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Amazon, the UN Country Teams in Brazil, Colombia and Peru issued a joint statement in August to express concern about the situation faced by indigenous communities in those areas and calling on the international community to support them in this health crisis. This message was carried by 58 media outlets in Latin America, achieving a total reach of 85 million readers.

3. Supporting indigenous peoples’ rights in the implementation 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. Please describe how indigenous peoples have contributed to the preparation of the national plans/strategies for SDG implementation?

iii. Please provide information on 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 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 Department featured two stories on indigenous peoples on the dedicated SDG website:

- A blog post by the UN Resident Coordinator in Guatemala, Rebeca Arias Flores, on how the wisdom and knowledge of indigenous peoples in Guatemala is central to the realization of the SDGs: https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/08/1070862

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

   i. Please provide information on 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:

   i. Any capacity development initiatives that your organization is conducting for indigenous peoples, government officials and UN staff;

   ii. Please include information on the participation of indigenous women, children and youth as well as indigenous persons with disabilities in your response.

As part of the UN75 Global Dialogues with young people, which informed the Declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the UN, indigenous youth perspectives were presented through the participation of an indigenous youth activist who highlighted the importance of including indigenous young people in decision-making, promoting their access to health, protecting indigenous rights defenders, and adopting and promoting strict regulations on the protection of rights of indigenous peoples and their environment, especially the UN Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples and pesticides policies.

During the opening of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, a young activist from the Bahamas, speaking on behalf of persons residing in coastal and indigenous
communities, joined four young leaders advocating for the inclusion of young people in decision-making.

The Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth supported the Secretary-General’s Climate Action Team in the establishment of his Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, which was announced in July. One of its seven members is a young indigenous climate action activist, who will advise the Secretary-General on his approach to climate action through December 2021. In September, together with Twitter, the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth ran a campaign to create the first-ever #YouthLead emoji, designed by a young indigenous and LGBTQ+ activist. The emoji launched via a digital activation on social media to coincide with the second anniversary of the Youth2030 strategy.

6. Advancing the participation of indigenous peoples at the UN

Please provide information on:

i. Any support provided for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples at relevant UN processes, including at the country level;

ii. Any consultative mechanisms, tools and other measures to obtain free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in processes that affect them;

iii. Any consultation mechanisms established by the UNCT or support to Member States in establishing institutions and mechanisms for consultation with indigenous peoples, as well as ensuring effective participation of indigenous youth and indigenous women, in the COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery plans.

In 2020, the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) initiative remained committed to raising awareness of the UN Declaration by showcasing a collaborative six-part series with indigenous academics. “We Are Indigenous” features 13 diverse voices, ranging from youth to the global leadership level, with the aim of promoting cultural empowerment, modernity, diversity and the breakdown of indigenous stereotypes.

The “We Are Indigenous” series can be found at the following links:

To support the implementation of the UN Declaration, particularly at the country level, UNAI ensured wide geographic and multilingual representation among participants with further hopes of advancing the participation of indigenous peoples at the UN and within academic institutions.

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