

### 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 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, 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

Email: [indigenous\\_un@un.org](mailto:indigenous_un@un.org) and [requesens@un.org](mailto:requesens@un.org)

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The Twentieth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled to take place from **19 - 30 April 2021**.

### **Provisional Agenda**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion on the theme: “Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”
4. Discussion on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights) with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.
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.
6. Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
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.

## **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 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

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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 [International Telecommunication Union \(ITU\)](#), promotes access to, use and knowledge of ICTs, as accelerators and amplifiers of change, that have the potential to improve indigenous people's lives and to contribute to the socio-economic self-sustainability of their communities. ITU, has carried out since 2005, a series of training programs for indigenous leaders, " *to achieve the goal of digital inclusion, enabling universal, sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to ICTs for all, including indigenous peoples, and to facilitate accessibility of ICTs for all, in the framework of access to information and knowledge*" (as indicated in ITU related resolutions), thus contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) .

Through the [knowledge development programme for Indigenous People](#) created within the Development Bureau of the ITU ( ITU-D) work in [Digital Inclusion](#), and in collaboration with [FILAC](#), ITU seeks to develop capacity in the use of ICTs by indigenous peoples in specific topics of their interest and in response of their specific needs, while respecting their cultural heritage and traditions. For over 15 years ITU on-line trainings are delivered yearly to about 300 indigenous in topics of their interest for socio-economic development and to about 80 indigenous in more technical trainings.

Among the areas identified as a priority in the last few years has been related to the development and maintenance of indigenous local (radio) networks and in the development of indigenous technicians, to ensure technical maintenance of these networks at the community level.

Within this framework, ITU-D developed since 2017 (the last World Telecommunication Development Conference) two on-line and blended training courses on these topics to support self-employment and sustainability of the indigenous communities, in accordance with Resolution 46 (CMDT 2017). The BDT related work is also supporting the fulfilment and implementation of Article 16 of the UN Declaration, by providing indigenous peoples the means to own, administrate and operate their communication networks, and to ensure creation of local digital content.

During the last two years ITU, has trained over 300 indigenous in these two complementary trainings:

- Online training course "*Innovative Communication Tools for the Strengthening of Indigenous Communities*" with a special focus on how to develop, manage and operate an Indigenous Radio Network.
- Blended training programme (yearlong) for the development of "*Technical Promoters in Indigenous Communities in Telecommunications and Broadcasting*".

Additionally, before the Covid-19 pandemic, ITU also did an annual side event at the UN in New York during the Permanent Forum to raise awareness of the challenges related to lack of access to ICTs by indigenous peoples and communities and the opportunities that ICTs can

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bring to bust development and self-sustainability of indigenous communities. We plan to resume /continue this practice in 2021.

Links for more information :

- ITU-D Website Digital Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Indigenous-Peoples/Pages/default.aspx>

- Video Training Program for Technical Promoters in Indigenous Communities in Telecommunications and Broadcasting: <https://youtu.be/iPgLFQQAdhU>

Contacts & ITU Focal Points:

HQ-Geneva [roxana.widmer-iliescu@itu.int](mailto:roxana.widmer-iliescu@itu.int)

in the region (AMS) [randall.trevino@itu.int](mailto:randall.trevino@itu.int) ;

at UN-NY [ursula.wynhoven@itu.int](mailto:ursula.wynhoven@itu.int)

### **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.

In response to Covid 19 pandemic, the online course on Innovative Communication Tools, was updated and redesigned to also include a dedicated module on emergency communications, designed for indigenous communicators. The module included an interactive session with indigenous communicators to exchange on the indigenous communities' experiences during pandemic. ( See webinar on emergency communications for indigenous peoples during the Covid-19 crisis -in Spanish:

[https://youtu.be/ 9MI4QiKjw8](https://youtu.be/9MI4QiKjw8))

- 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.

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ITU has been developing since 2014 regional development knowledge platforms that are celebrated yearly through a face to face regional event (exception during 2020 due to Covid 19 pandemic – when was done remotely). These events aim to raise awareness, promote, and engage policy makers and stakeholders in the implementation of digital accessibility as an enabler to ensure digital inclusion of all vulnerable groups, including indigenous people in the Americas region. The final target of the ITU work related to “Accessible Americas – ICT for ALL” is to ensure that no one is left behind in the digital transformation and to support regional development of inclusive digital communities ensuring that everyone regardless of gender, age, ability or location is equally and equitably empowered through the ICTs.

- [Accessible Americas ICT for ALL 2020](#) - remote
- [Accessible Americas ICT for ALL 2019](#) – Ecuador
- [Accessible Americas ICT for ALL 2018](#) – Jamaica
- [Accessible Americas ICT for ALL 2017](#) – Costa Rica
- [Accessible Americas ICT for ALL 2016](#)- Mexico
- [Accessible Americas ICT for ALL 2015](#)- Colombia
- [Accessible Americas- ICT for ALL 2014](#) - Brazil

- 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.

### **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?  
[Yes. See details in point 1](#)
- 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?

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- 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).

#### **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.

#### **ITU has 3 dedicated resolutions on Indigenous People adopted within the work of:**

- The Development Bureau (ITU-D) at the World Telecommunication Development Conference – WTDC and,
- At ITU level (all sectors) within the framework of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference

as follows:

1. [WTDC RESOLUTION 11 \(Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017\)](#) -Telecommunication/information and communication technology services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities
2. [WTDC RESOLUTION 46 \(Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017\)](#) - Assistance to indigenous peoples and communities through information and communication technology
3. [PP RESOLUTION 184 \(Guadalajara, 2010\)](#) - Facilitating digital inclusion initiatives for indigenous peoples

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

The ITU (blended) training course/programme for the development of *“Technical Promoters in Indigenous Communities in Telecommunications and Broadcasting”* includes a specific module on media regulation, where the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is one of the subjects studied specially regarding Article 16, which states:

*“1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination.*

*2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that State-owned media duly reflect indigenous cultural diversity. States, without prejudice to ensuring full freedom of expression, should encourage privately owned media to adequately reflect indigenous cultural diversity.”*

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The module also includes information on what to do and how to implement the conditions stated by the above indicated article.

- 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.

ITU has joined the recently created Inter-Agency Group on Sport for Development and Peace led by UNDESA, which aims to promote peace and accelerate social and economic development of all vulnerable groups, including Indigenous people.

### **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;

#### **Detailed information provided in the first point.**

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

Yearly, through its dedicated [capacity-building trainings for indigenous communities](#), BDT in collaboration with FILAC empowers Indigenous people and communities through technology to support educational, social and economic development as well as self-sustainability of indigenous communities and their cultural legacy . In the last 3 years (2018 to end of 2020), about 550 indigenous (approx. 53% men, 47% women) benefitted from these ITU trainings.

Also, through the regional Accessible Americas- ICT for ALL who looks from the perspective of digital accessibility all vulnerable groups are covered (indigenous women, children, and youth, as well as indigenous people with disabilities).

### **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;

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- 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.

**Thank you very much**