

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 and 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.

Questionnaire

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.

In Latin America, the indigenous population consists of approximately 50 million people, who belong to 500 different ethnic groups. UNAIDS has been expanding efforts, working closely with communities and states, to collect data and produce analyses on the current situation in the region, to support advocacy strategies for the inclusion of indigenous communities as a priority population in the AIDS response. Available data thus far show that the health and welfare of indigenous peoples throughout the region are substantially more precarious than in the general population.

UNAIDS has created a dedicated space in its regional webpage to gather researches, studies, UN documents and statements on issues related to HIV and indigenous peoples. Studies supported by UNAIDS indicate that indigenous communities in Guatemala, Ecuador, Brazil, and Paraguay have specific vulnerabilities to the HIV epidemic, including barriers to accessing services (language, culture, distance, cost, health, and discriminatory practices), high gender inequality and violence against women, and beliefs and practices that prevent condom use and antiretroviral treatment.

In face of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNAIDS LAC conducted an online survey to assess the impact of the pandemic among key populations and other vulnerable groups in the region. 2,200 answers were received from 28 LAC countries, highlighting the most significant issues around 5 areas: Protection against COVID-19; Access to HIV treatment and health services; Support and Mental Health: Social protection; and Human Rights, Stigma and Discrimination.

In-depth analyses have been produced for each population, including one for indigenous peoples. Some of the main findings were:

- Indigenous peoples are the key population with the lowest amounts of ARVs on hand during the COVID-19 pandemic
- 66% of the indigenous people who responded to the survey indicated that they were experiencing the two highest levels of anxiety.
- 9 in 10 indigenous people reported their income has decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 8 in 10 indigenous people reported they did not benefit from any social protection or support measure offered by their government.

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- Over half of the indigenous people who responded to the survey stated they had experienced stigma and discrimination during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 6 in 10 indigenous people did NOT have enough information about COVID-19.

As part of the activities for the 2020 World AIDS Day, UNAIDS LAC organized a virtual seminar to present and discuss the results of the impact and specific needs of indigenous populations in the context of Covid-19. The event had the participation of several indigenous leaders and reached almost 300 people through Zoom and Facebook. It was live broadcasted through 3 local indigenous community radio station in Chile, Venezuela and Peru.

In LAC region, UNAIDS advocates for the leadership of indigenous peoples, both in the HIV response and the COVID-19 response. In this sense, we are working with governments, advocating for indigenous people to play a leading role in sexual and reproductive health programs and facilitating their effective participation in decision making and implementation platforms.

As recommended by the Permanent Forum, UNAIDS has been working in some countries on the development of comprehensive guidelines, including best practices for culturally competent safe sex education by and for indigenous peoples. In Brazil, UNAIDS, in partnership with UNESCO, is developing HIV prevention materials for the Tikunas and Waraos indigenous peoples. These materials are part of a series of plurilingual and intercultural materials, that had already been produced for Marubo, Matis and Kanamari peoples.

Also as recommended by the Permanent Forum, UNAIDS has been working with partners to contribute to expanding access to health, including HIV services, among indigenous peoples. Since the first warnings about HIV cases in indigenous populations in Condorcanqui appeared in 2014, UNAIDS has been providing technical and financial support to the Ministries of Health of Peru and Bolivia for designing and monitoring interventions with indigenous populations in Amazonia (Condorcanqui, Datem del Marañon in Peru, Santa Cruz in Bolivia) and Andean areas as well (El Alto and Cochabamba in Bolivia), fundraising, producing evidence on STI and HIV (prevalence studies, systematic review of evidence), building capacities, designing technical regulations about HIV and indigenous people, and facilitating the exchange of good practices between national teams of Peru and Bolivia. All this support was provided in strategic alliance with the Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and UNICEF.

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]

UNAIDS is an innovative partnership of 11 United Nations (UN) Cosponsors and the UNAIDS Secretariat. Its strength derives from the diverse expertise, experience and mandate of its Cosponsors and the added value of the Secretariat in leadership, advocacy, coordination and accountability. The UNAIDS 2016–2021 Strategy is a bold call to action to accelerate the global response and reach people being left behind – including indigenous peoples - as part of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). .

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In Latin America, UNAIDS has been expanding efforts, working closely with communities and states, to collect data and produce analyses on the current situation in the region, to support advocacy strategies for the inclusion of indigenous communities as a priority population in the AIDS response. UNAIDS has also been working with partners to contribute to expanding access to health, including HIV services, among indigenous peoples.

Since 2014, UNAIDS has been providing technical and financial support to the Ministries of Health of Peru and Bolivia for designing and monitoring interventions with indigenous populations in Amazonia and Andean areas. All this support was provided in strategic alliance with the Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and UNICEF.

The UN Joint Team on HIV in Guatemala supported in 2018 and 2019 the empowerment on indigenous women on knowledge, attitudes, and skills for assuming a more active role in decision-making on their health and wellbeing. In Brazil, UNAIDS, in partnership with UNESCO, is developing HIV prevention materials for the Tikunas and Waraos indigenous peoples.

Due to patterns of social and economic marginalization and discriminatory enforcement, COVID-19 affected vulnerable communities heavily, including women, LGBTI people, sex workers, homeless people, indigenous populations and people living with disabilities. In this context, UNAIDS has emphasized human rights as a core concern for HIV and COVID-19 responses.

Building upon lessons on human rights from the AIDS response, UNAIDS launched the report [Rights in a Pandemic](#), showing how COVID-19 public health orders and restrictions on movement were impacting the response to HIV and the human rights of people living with and affected by HIV, including indigenous peoples.

In Latin America, UNAIDS contributed to the development of the document [Indigenous Peoples and COVID-19 in Latin America](#). UNAIDS also conducted an online survey to assess the impact of the pandemic among key populations and other vulnerable groups in the region.

UNAIDS was the first United Nations programme to have formal civil society representation on its governing body. The position of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) is critical for the effective inclusion of community voices in the key global policy forum for AIDS. From 2016 – 2018, the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) represented North America in the NGO Delegation

With less than 10 years to go to reach our common goal of ending AIDS by 2030, UNAIDS has been tasked by the PCB to develop the next global AIDS strategy. The process for the development of the next strategy has been data-driven and consultative, involving UNAIDS' staff, the Cosponsors, governments, civil society, people living with and affected by HIV, including representatives of **indigenous peoples**. An outline of the new strategy has been presented to the PCB and it included specific mentions on indigenous communities in different result areas.

In 2021, it is expected that another UN High Level Political Meeting on HIV/AIDS will be held. At previous HLM's UNAIDS has ensured the meaningful participation of Indigenous People and this is envisaged for future HLMs as well.

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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.

Every year, UNAIDS in Latin America seizes the momentum of celebrations of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples to reiterate the urgency of strengthening national responses to HIV and redoubling efforts to reduce gaps in access to HIV prevention and treatment services for indigenous people, and to raise awareness about the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. The message for 2020 can be accessed [here](#).

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.

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- 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.

Due to patterns of social and economic marginalization and discriminatory enforcement, COVID-19 affected vulnerable communities heavily, including women, LGBTI people, sex workers, homeless people, indigenous populations and people living with disabilities.

In this context, UNAIDS has emphasised human rights as a core concern for HIV and COVID-19 responses.

Building upon lessons on human rights from the AIDS response, UNAIDS launched the report [Rights in a Pandemic](#), showing how COVID-19 public health orders and restrictions on movement were impacting the response to HIV and the human rights of people living with and affected by HIV.

The report showed that marginalized communities and communities often left behind, including some indigenous populations, have seen a lack of COVID-19-specific information and services in some cases. Information about the situation of indigenous people in Brazil, Chile, Peru, El Salvador and Colombia was included in the report.

In Latin America, within the humanitarian context of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNAIDS contributed to the development of the document [Indigenous Peoples and COVID-19 in Latin America](#). The document aimed to expose the critical situation of indigenous peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and propose actions that can be considered to improve humanitarian assistance to these populations. UNAIDS made important contributions, giving visibility to the situation of indigenous peoples with high HIV prevalence, such as the Waraos of Venezuela, that constituted an important part of the influx of Venezuelans indigenous to Brazil since 2016.

In 2021, UNAIDS Peru will contribute with PAHO, UNFPA, WFP for the implementation of the "Saving lives and protecting the rights of indigenous Amazonian women in the COVID-19 response" funded by the United Nations (UN) COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (COVID-19 MPTF). UNAIDS will participate in the project on a consultative basis, providing lessons learned from the experience of HIV Joint teams on Aids in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia and the GFATM projects with indigenous populations and HIV in the Andes and Amazonia. UNAIDS will also participate in oversight and field visits to the intervention area, to assist technically in the JP implementation

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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?

With less than 10 years to go to reach our common goal of ending AIDS by 2030, UNAIDS has been tasked by the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) to develop the next global AIDS strategy. The strategy will serve as a road map for the world to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, guiding key stakeholders to overcome the challenges and to ensure effective country-led AIDS responses.

The process for the development of the next strategy has been data-driven and consultative, involving UNAIDS' staff, the Cosponsors, governments, civil society, people living with and affected by HIV, including representatives of **indigenous peoples**.

An outline of the new strategy has been presented to the PCB and it included specific mentions on indigenous communities in different result areas.

Among actions that UNAIDS has recommended to be prioritized in the next strategy, the document includes :

- Engage parents, communities, **indigenous leaders**, religious leaders and the private sector to strengthen education and youth-friendly services for young people who are living with HIV
- Enhance the inclusion of people with disabilities and **indigenous people**, and meet their unique needs in social protection, care and support systems
- Draw on a comprehensive gender analysis and give specific attention to population groups who are most left behind (these may include adolescent girls and young women; women who are pregnant; married adolescents; women among key populations; female partners of key populations; migrants; displaced, refugee women and girls or people in conflict-affected and other humanitarian settings; racial or ethnic minorities, including **indigenous women** or women of African descent living in non-African countries).

Finally, the document highlights that UNAIDS proposes that new strategy prioritize actions to address the inequalities and inequities, which are at the root of HIV vulnerability and disparate outcomes: gender; income; geography; key population status; **indigenous** and migrant populations; and people with disabilities.

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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.
- 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.

In terms of resources, UNAIDS recognizes that components of financing interventions addressing indigenous peoples must exist to guarantee their full access to health without discrimination as defined in the Article 21 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In this regard, UNAIDS has supported several processes. For instance, in Guatemala, the current Global Fund Grant is with multicultural perspective. This grant is focused on testing and combination prevention. The local health promoters and health navigators working for the project speaks indigenous languages, assuring the full understanding of actions by the local indigenous populations. The first study in Guatemala on HIV sero-prevalence, risks and behaviors on indigenous population is on planning process and will be funded by the Global Fund.

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.

The UN Joint Team on HIV in Guatemala supported in 2018 and 2019 the empowerment on indigenous women on knowledge, attitudes, and skills for assuming a more active role in decision-making on their health and wellbeing. UNESCO provided advice and support to the Health and Wellbeing program for indigenous women and girls by developing an educational

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guide and materials on Nutrition, Comprehensive Sexuality Education and on Prevention of Gender-Based Violence.

The topics were addressed with intercultural perspective and developed in their native language. This was important to guarantee that the information provided was accessible, relevant and relatable for the indigenous women. In the framework of this program, 441 indigenous women who were already participating in the basic education programs of the UNESCO-Malala-MINEDUC educational centers were trained on nutrition, comprehensive sexuality education and on prevention of gender-based violence. Additionally, 112 indigenous women from the departments of Chiquimula and Totonicapán were trained.

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.

UNAIDS was the first United Nations programme to have formal civil society representation on its governing body. The position of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) is critical for the effective inclusion of community voices in the key global policy forum for AIDS.

The NGO representatives actively seek input from their respective communities, including indigenous peoples, on key issues related to UNAIDS policies and programs, and advocate with Members States (governments) and Cosponsoring organizations (the ten United Nations organizations that make up the UNAIDS Joint Programme) for meaningful improvements in the implementation and evaluation of AIDS policies and programmes.

From 2016 – 2018, the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) represented North America in the NGO Delegation.

In 2021, it is expected that another UN High Level Political Meeting on HIV/AIDS will be held. As in previous meetings, UNAIDS will be working to ensure the effective participation of people living with HIV and other communities affected by HIV, including indigenous peoples, through the establishment of a civil society committee.

Thank you very much