

THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

TECHNICAL NOTE ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TWENTIETH SESSION (19- 30 APRIL 2021)

This technical note serves to provide organizational and logistical information for participants in advance of the twentieth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The modalities are subject to revision in light of the evolving situation concerning the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2020/218 of 18 June 2020, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will hold its twentieth session at United Nations Headquarters in New York, as well as in virtual informal meetings, from 19 to 30 April 2021. The theme of the session is “Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”.

The provisional agenda and proposed organization of work for the session have been issued in documents E/C.19/2021/1 and E/C.19/2021/L.1 and are available on ODS in the official languages of the UN¹.

Due to COVID-19 related limitations on the holding of in-person meetings at UN Headquarters in New York, including the significantly reduced capacity and availability of conference rooms, the twentieth session of the Permanent Forum will consist of two in- person formal plenary meetings on Monday, 19 April and Friday, 30 April 2021. The rest of the session will be held in the format of virtual informal meetings on the Interprefy platform with remote simultaneous interpretation in the official languages of the UN. All meetings will be of two hours duration.

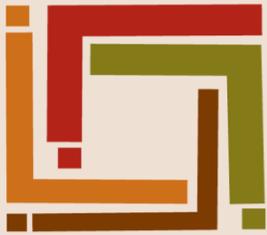
In-person formal meetings

The Permanent Forum is expected to hold in-person formal meetings on Monday, 19 April at 3 p.m. and on Friday, 30 April at 3 p.m. in the combined conference rooms 1,2 and 3. In- person participation is expected to comprise of the Forum members (with a limited number of Forum members joining remotely due to COVID 19- related travel restrictions), and the representatives of the 193 Member States, the Holy See, State of Palestine and the European Union. Each meeting will be of 2 hours duration.

All other observers, including representatives of intergovernmental organizations, non- governmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples’ organizations, and UN System entities will be able to follow the proceedings live on UN Web TV (<http://webtv.un.org>).

Virtual informal meetings

¹ Additional information on the twentieth session, including official documentation, can be obtained from the website of the Permanent Forum: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfi-sessions-2/unpfi-20th-session.html>



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The Permanent Forum will hold its substantive deliberations under the overarching theme of the twentieth session, “Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”, from Tuesday, 20 April to Friday 30 April, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the format of virtual informal meetings on the Interprefy platform using remote simultaneous interpretation (RSI).

Webcast

All virtual informal meetings will be streamed live on UN Web TV, with the exception of the closed meetings of the Permanent Forum on Monday, 26 April (AM), and Friday, 20 April (AM); as well as the Dialogue with the UN funds, agencies and programmes on Wednesday, 28 April (AM).

Access to the virtual platform

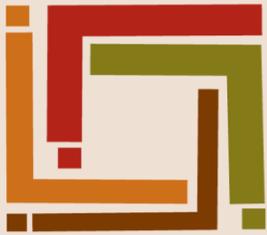
Participants should use their laptop to join the virtual informal meetings, as the Interprefy platform does not support mobile devices. The Chrome browser is recommended when accessing the virtual platform link.

The link to join the virtual platform will be sent via email to participants that are on the list of speakers.

In order to avoid overloading the platform, participating organizations should limit their participation on the virtual platform to no more than two representatives and only to those sessions where their organization is on the list of speakers. Participants are kindly encouraged to coordinate virtual participation on the platform among their representatives in order to ensure that the two-representative participation limit is respected at any given time. Only those participants intending to speak in a given meeting need to log into the Interprefy platform. All other members of the organization can watch the meetings live on UN Web TV (<http://webtv.un.org>). In case participation on the platform is close to capacity, the presiding officer may authorize the Secretariat to remove participants. There is no limit to the number of persons who can follow the discussions through UN Webcast, and the Webcast will be archived.

In order to assist the Chair in identifying participants on the virtual platform, when joining the meeting, participants are requested to follow the naming convention, that is: [ORGANIZATION] [FIRST NAME] [LAST NAME].





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If participants do not clearly identify their affiliation when joining the platform, admission to the meeting may be delayed and they may be requested to leave the meeting temporarily and re-join with the correct naming convention.

Each meeting will be open approximately one hour before the start time in order for participants to test their connections.

Onboarding sessions

The Secretariat in cooperation with Interprefy will be conducting virtual onboarding (or familiarization) sessions on 14 and 15 April 2021. The onboarding will consist of testing of individuals bandwidths and internet strength, as well as highlighting the features of the virtual Interprefy platform.

In order to minimize technical issues during the virtual informal meetings of the Permanent Forum, it is strongly recommended that participants use the same equipment that they used during the onboarding.

Invitations to participate in the onboarding have already been emailed to those on the speakers lists. All other participants may view the proceedings of the virtual informal meetings on the live UN webcast (<http://webtv.un.org/>) and would not need to join the platform.

General discussion

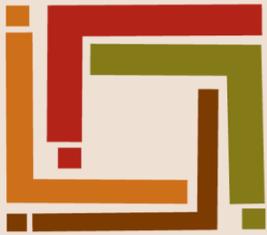
The Chair will conduct the general discussions in accordance with the practice established at past sessions. Accordingly, the list of speakers will rotate among statements by a representative of a Member State, followed by a representative of an intergovernmental organization or UN agency, followed by an indigenous representative. Speakers will only be able to speak once under an agenda item. The time limit for all statements is **two minutes**. The time limit will be strictly implemented, including through the muting of microphones once the time limit is reached. Speakers are encouraged to deliver abbreviated versions of their statements.

The Secretariat will publish the provisional list of speakers for the general discussion under each agenda item.

eStatements

Participants wishing to submit electronic versions of their statements delivered at the general debate are required to send a copy (in both PDF and Microsoft Word formats, whenever possible) to statements@un.org a day before of delivery.





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The name of the meeting and the speaker, as well as the agenda item, should be clearly indicated in the subject line of the email and in the heading of the statement. The statements will remain embargoed until their delivery. If submitters have versions in any other United Nations official languages at their disposal, they are kindly encouraged to also include them in both formats, whenever possible. Statements submitted to estatements@un.org will be available on the UN Journal website (<https://journal.un.org>)

Written statements

Participants inscribed on the lists of speakers under items 4, 5(d), 6 and 7 and who are unable to make their intervention due to the lack of time at a meeting will have the option of submitting their statement in writing to the Secretariat (bellu@un.org), for posting on the website of the Permanent Forum.

Interactive discussions

The Permanent Forum will hold interactive discussions under items 3, 5(f) and 5(c) at its virtual informal meetings on 20, 27 and 28 April respectively. Representatives of the ECOSOC- accredited non-governmental organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations have already expressed their interest in making an intervention during the interactive dialogues and they will be sent a link to join the session. Depending on the time available, some will be called by the Chair to intervene.

Given the limited time available and in order to allow the maximum number of participants to intervene, interventions should be limited to no more than two minutes each, or shorter if there is a large number of requests. The time limit will be strictly implemented, including through the muting of microphones once the time limit is reached. The Chair may intersperse the interventions of participating States with interventions by international organizations, representatives of the UN system and representatives of non- governmental organizations and Indigenous Peoples' organizations.

List of Participants

Representatives of the ECOSOC- accredited non- governmental organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations is being managed by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (For inquiries, please write to: indigenous_un.org).

