

Questionnaire to UN system

Questionnaire to the UN system agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental organizations

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) 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 the 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; prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues; and promote respect for and full application of the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and follow up the effectiveness of the Declaration.

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, the system-wide action plan on rights of indigenous peoples (SWAP), the 2030 Development Agenda and COVID-19 recovery efforts.

The responses will be compiled into two separate reports for the 2022 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. In your responses, please, include information on progress and challenges related to indigenous women, indigenous persons with disabilities, indigenous older persons, and indigenous children and youth.

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 **15 November 2021** 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

Questionnaire

Please provide information on the following:

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2022 session

- i. Please provide information on measures taken since your last update to the Forum, on the implementation or planned implementation of the recommendations of the PFII.

At the 2012 session of the Permanent Forum, the Forum welcomed the interest of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in joining the Inter-Agency Support Group and calls upon the Special Representative to work closely with the members of the Forum in preparing a section on the situation of indigenous children in the Special Representative's annual reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

The Special Representative has included concerns for the situation of indigenous children in her reporting to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

- ii. The theme of the 2022 PFII session is “Indigenous peoples, business, autonomy and the human rights principles of due diligence, including free, prior and informed consent”¹. Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.

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

Background

As per the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/69/2), a [system-wide action plan 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 the 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](#). Its goal is to ensure collaborative and coherent UN system action to support the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples with a focus on furthering the implementation of the SWAP².

- i. The Permanent Forum will follow up on progress made on the SWAP implementation as part of its discussion on the outcome document of the World Conference on

¹ See Annex 1. Agenda of the twenty-first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

² Reporting on the activities to implement the CEB Call to Action will be through task groups and should not be included in the responses to this questionnaire.

Questionnaire to UN system

Indigenous Peoples during its 2022 session. Please provide analysis on actions taken by your agency, fund and/or programme on the six key elements of the SWAP, since your last update to the Forum³. Please also include an executive summary (600-word limit).

C. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- i. Please provide information on the main gaps and challenges your entity has identified for indigenous peoples in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The Special Representative is concerned are the continued high rates of family removals, overincarceration of indigenous children and their lower mental health with very high suicidal rates. The Special Representative particular concerned expressed in the study, that there is a real risk that in the wake of COVID-19 indigenous children will left even further behind, in particular in light of the digital divide that became evident with the school closures.

- ii. What activities have your entity undertaken since the last reporting that addresses these gaps and challenges?

The Special Representative has advocated with Member States to include in their COVID-19 recovery plans provision for the additional barriers to the enjoyment of by indigenous and other vulnerable children of their rights, including those related to their physical, mental and spiritual health.

During the 2021 World Congress on Justice with Children, the Office of the Special Representative together with UNICEF organised a session on access to justice for indigenous children. Panel members, which included Hannah McGlade from the UNFP, discussed the severe negative impacts that the lack of access to justice has on the lives of indigenous children.

- iii. Please describe any activities that your entity organized in support of the 2021 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and/or reports and activities that supported SDG reporting and monitoring or a VNR process at the national, regional, or global level.

The Office of the Special Representative has developed guidance for Member States on how to use their VNR processes to identify and report on promising practices and initiatives to prevent

³ The six key elements of the SWAP are: 1) Raise awareness of the UNDRIP; 2) Support the implementation of the UNDRIP, particularly at the country level; 3) Support the realization of indigenous peoples' rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 4) Map existing standards and guidelines, capacity, training materials and resources within the UN system, international financial institutions and the members of the IASG for the effective implementation of the UNDRIP; 5) Develop the capacity of States, indigenous peoples, civil society and UN personnel; and 6) Advance the participation of indigenous peoples in UN processes.

and respond to violence against children.⁴ The Office reviews the VNRs and presentations after each HLPF to draw out and share the main themes, messages and lessons learned on progress towards the SDG targets related to violence against children and its drivers, with a particular focus on children's involvement in the processes. In 2021, the Special Representative met with 38 Member States that were presenting VNRs at the HLPF at an early stage of their process, encouraging them to use it to raise awareness of how violence hinders progress towards the SDGs and the steps needed for effective prevention. The Special Representative also mobilized the United Nations system at country level to help ensure the availability of relevant technical support. In her discussions with Resident Coordinators and country teams, she stressed the shared responsibility of the United Nations development system in supporting Governments to reach the SDG targets on children, including their protection from violence, and the need for a comprehensive, coherent and integrated approach.

D. COVID-19 pandemic

- i. Please provide information on action taken by your agency, fund and/or programme since your last update to the Forum, to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on indigenous peoples.

The Special Representative is consistently advocating with Member States for a paradigm shift in favour of children – a shift that treats spending on integrated social services and social protection for children and their caregivers as investments that are vital for an inclusive, resilient and sustainable post-COVID recovery and ensure adequate funding for prevention and response to violence against children is integrated into the budgets of the health (including mental health), education, child protection and social welfare, justice, and inclusive social protection systems. This paradigm shift must be reflected in every national development and economic recovery plan to maximize the impact for every child and their caregivers, and to ensure that no one is left behind. An integrated, multi-sectoral and coherent national development agenda will also address the drivers of violence, such as poverty, inequality, gender discrimination, migration, exclusion and humanitarian crises, among other challenges.

Thank you very much

⁴ See Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, *Decade of Action, Voluntary National Reviews 2020: How to Highlight Promising Practices to End Violence Against Children*, New York: SRSG VAC 2020 (https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/2020/vnr_doc_final.pdf).

ANNEX 1

Agenda of the twenty-first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Twentieth-First session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled to take place from **25 April to 6 May 2022**

Provisional Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion on the theme “Indigenous peoples, business, autonomy and the human rights principles of due diligence, including free, prior and informed consent”.
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 for 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: Indigenous peoples and pandemic recovery;

Questionnaire to UN system

(f) Thematic dialogues: International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022–2032.

6. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.

7. Provisional agenda of the twenty-second session of the Permanent Forum.

8. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its twenty-first session.