

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 inter-governmental 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.

- No specific updates since last questionnaire.

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.

- UN-Habitat’s **Statement to the 2021 Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues** has focused on the issue right to free, prior and informed consent.

In the Statement, UN-Habitat has sent out a clear message that the right to adequate housing of indigenous peoples can only be realized through policies and measures that respect, protect and fulfill their right to free, prior and informed consent as enshrined in Article 19 of UNDRIP and Article 20 of the 1989 ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169).

UN-Habitat has also highlighted how such policies should be based on meaningful and effective consultation and participation of indigenous peoples at all stages as well as on disaggregated data that reflects the needs and opportunities of different groups including indigenous women, youth and older persons among others.

- The statement from the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Maimunah Mohd Sharif on **International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples 2021**² has further reinforced the principles of due diligence, including free, prior and informed consent and that in this time of crisis, as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the world cannot possibly build back better if indigenous peoples are left behind.

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](#)

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

² Statement by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Maimunah Mohd Sharif on International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples 2021 at <https://unhabitat.org/statement-by-the-executive-director-of-un-habitat-maimunah-mohd-sharif-on-international-day-of-the>

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[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 SWAP³.

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 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 Forum⁴. Please also include an executive summary (600-word limit).

- Since the last 2020 update, **UN-Habitat has particularly focused on key element number one of the SWAP, namely “raise awareness of the UNDRIP”**. Through the i) Statement to the 2021 Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, ii) the statement from the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Maimunah Mohd Sharif on International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples 2021 and iii) the Statement to support the drafting of the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous People to the General Assembly (see point D below), UN-Habitat has worked to mainstream the right to adequate housing of indigenous peoples as enshrined in UNDRIP across high level fora. UN-Habitat on all these occasions that this right (and all rights of indigenous peoples) can only be achieved through policies that strictly abide to the principles of free, prior and informed consent and meaningful consultation as provided for in UNDRIP.

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.

- Even before the pandemic stroke, indigenous peoples were often more likely to suffer inadequate housing. They have disproportionately high rates of homelessness and they are extremely vulnerable to forced evictions. UN-Habitat identifies a critical gap in achieving the 2030 Agenda for indigenous peoples in

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

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the fact that homelessness is not integrated in the SDGs and the related indicators framework.

Not accounting for the population in situations of homelessness - in which indigenous peoples are over represented - when reporting on SDGs will inevitably provide an inaccurate picture of for example poverty and availability of basic services in any country and in turn affect related policies.

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

- See answer below.

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.

- To address the issue highlighted above UN-Habitat organised the event “Homelessness, SDG 1 and Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19: Poverty left behind” –in partnership with the Institute of Global Homelessness – before the 2021 UN High-Level Political Forum. The event aimed to raise awareness about the need for strengthened disaggregated data collection methodologies on homelessness as preconditions for successfully reporting on progresses made on SDGs and on specific groups (including indigenous peoples) and to gather best practices on how to integrate homelessness data in the reporting process for SDGs.

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.

- UN-Habitat submitted a written statement to support the drafting of the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous People to the General Assembly on the priority theme of “Impact of the coronavirus disease on the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples”. The focus of the Statement was on the impact of COVID-19 on indigenous peoples’ right to adequate housing and on the pre-existing lack of access to adequate housing experienced by indigenous people globally, a condition now exacerbated by the pandemic.

Thank you very much

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;

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(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;

(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.