

**Contribution of the  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)**

**To the Report of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
Twenty-first Session, 2022**

## Executive Summary

Based on the requests of indigenous peoples' representatives for strengthened capacities in conflict resolution, and on the recommendation of UN Special Rapporteurs to enhance indigenous abilities to engage in dialogue, negotiation and the realization of rights, the *UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives* was developed in 2000. The programme provides training for indigenous representatives in conflict analysis, negotiation, conflict transformation and reconciliation, coupled with information on UN and regional human rights mechanisms to further the promotion and protection of rights, and to contribute to the realization of the implementation of the UN Declaration.

Indigenous experts and UNITAR indigenous alumni teach in programmes presenting case studies on land and resource negotiations, empowerment and participation in political and peace processes, and on effective engagement with UN bodies. In each programme a session is conducted by an indigenous expert on challenges and successes in implementation of the Declaration. Recent training programmes have focused on Africa, North America, the Pacific, and internationally. Indigenous representatives are trained in ILO Convention 169, and on constructive negotiation processes to use in dialogue at the local, country, national, regional and international levels to further their rights and enhance well-being.

Thirteen alumni, including UN Permanent Forum and EMRIP Members, have served as resource persons in the UNITAR training programmes sharing knowledge, lessons and experience. Alumni worked at the national, regional and international levels towards the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and continue to work at multiple levels for its implementation communicating needs and concerns and engaging in dialogue with partners to forge mutually-beneficial solutions to challenges.

Indigenous representatives enhance their capacities to contribute to inclusive peace, development and governance processes and to leave no one behind. The active engagement of indigenous women is invited as resource persons and participants. Youth representatives, including OHCHR Indigenous Fellows, take part. Two of the eight UNITAR alumni named to the Permanent Forum are women. Two of the five alumni named to EMRIP are women including the current chair. Alumna also count among members of the Indigenous Youth Caucus. In the most recent international programme, two indigenous women with disabilities from Africa and Asia took part to enhance their work advancing the rights of indigenous peoples with disabilities. The UNITAR training programme strengthens capacities of indigenous peoples to engage constructively through dialogue, advocacy and negotiation including on policy reform.

The Institute's Peacemaking and Conflict Prevention Programme was developed to deepen the knowledge and strengthen the skills of key actors and institutions from grassroots to policy levels in conflict analysis, negotiation, mediation, reconciliation and conflict transformation through intensive training programmes. High-level seminars are organized to facilitate dialogue and exchange of lessons among senior peacemakers to enhance UN and regional practice.

This work contributes to achieving the 2030 Agenda goal of building peaceful, just and inclusive societies and enhancing women's participation in peace and decision-making processes. To date, 1,937 female and male mid and senior-level officials from States, regional organizations, the UN and peace missions, and 540 indigenous peoples' representatives have been trained. At the request of two incoming Members, UNITAR organized a one-week High Level Seminar for Members of the first UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2002 in advance of their first

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historic session at UN Headquarters.

The Institute is seeking funds to organize the 2022 UNITAR training on human rights, conflict prevention and peacemaking for indigenous representatives. The UN Secretary-General has identified conflict prevention, the forging of political solutions to address conflict, and strengthening capacities and partnerships to leave no one behind as top priorities.

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### **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](mailto:indigenous_un@un.org) and [requesens@un.org](mailto: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.

The 2016 Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues issued the following recommendation regarding the *UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives*:

*“The United Nations Institute for Training and Research established training on peace and conflict resolution for indigenous peoples in 2000 at indigenous peoples’ request. It is one of the most important human rights training programmes in the United Nations system that examines the root causes of conflict.*

*The Permanent Forum urges Member States to contribute support to make possible the annual UNITAR training programme to enhance the conflict prevention and peacemaking capacities of indigenous peoples’ representatives so as to strengthen indigenous capacity to engage in negotiation, dialogue and peace processes to contribute to sustainable peace.”*

The *UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives* was developed in 2000 based on the requests of indigenous representatives for strengthened capacities in conflict resolution, and on the recommendation of UN Special Rapporteurs to enhance indigenous abilities to engage in dialogue, negotiation and the realization of rights. The programme provides intensive training for indigenous representatives in conflict analysis, negotiation, conflict transformation and reconciliation, coupled with information on UN and regional human rights mechanisms to further the promotion and protection of rights, and to contribute to the realization of the implementation of the UN Declaration.

As marginalization from political and economic processes, and conflict over land and resource issues are two of the most challenging areas indigenous peoples continue to face, the majority of cases and negotiation simulations focus on these. The programme reviews both rights-based and problem-solving negotiation processes to strengthen indigenous capacities to analyze root causes of conflict, and engage in negotiation and dialogue with governments, the private sector and other communities to address priorities and resolve conflict in a mutually-beneficial, sustainable manner.

The training programme invites UN Special Rapporteurs and Permanent Forum Members and other senior indigenous experts to conduct sessions on successful negotiation on land and resource issues and on political participation. Initiatives to facilitate dialogue between indigenous representatives, governments and the private sector are also highlighted. Senior experts from the ILO and World Bank also regularly contribute to the programme.

UNITAR actively seeks the participation and contribution of indigenous women both as resource persons and participants. Women compose over 40% of programme alumni. Some of the senior

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indigenous women who have taught in programmes at the regional or international level include UN Permanent Forum Members and Chairpersons, Ministers, Senators, and Parliamentarians. Female participants have included a Paramount Chief, an Attorney-General and a Traditional Chief from the Pacific, Presidents of Provincial and National Women's Councils in Africa, the Americas and the Pacific, advisors and other leaders and practitioners, advocates, managers, and community workers from around the world.

The previous UN Special Rapporteur, Professor James Anaya, who has contributed to 12 of the 17 UNITAR training programmes at both the international and regional levels, before his nomination, has also engaged in important dialogue sessions as SR during a regional training in the Pacific. Also appreciated was the important contribution of Dr. Megan Davis as former Permanent Forum Member and previous Chairperson to several international training programmes and to two regional training programmes conducted in the Pacific. This was of special significance as she was a graduate of the first UNITAR training programme in 2000. Appreciated as well is the important contribution of Mr. Alexey Tsykarev, former chairperson of EMRIP and current Permanent Forum Member as resource person to a number of international training programmes.

Five hundred and forty indigenous peoples' representatives from around the world have deepened their knowledge and strengthened their skills through participation in the training programme. Eight alumni of the UNITAR programme have served as Expert Members of the Permanent Forum including two former chairpersons, and three currently serving members. Five alumni have been named Members of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including three chairpersons (from Burundi, Malaysia, Russia). A number of UNITAR alumni have been Co-chairs and Members of the Indigenous Youth Caucus as well. Thirteen graduates have served as resource persons in the training programmes to date sharing their knowledge, lessons and experience. Alumni worked at the national, regional and international levels towards the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and continue to work at multiple levels for its implementation communicating needs and concerns and engaging in dialogue with partners to forge mutually-beneficial solutions to challenges.

Thirty indigenous representatives, including 17 indigenous women, from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Pacific took part in the *UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives* organized in Geneva in July 2019 after the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Eleven OHCHR Indigenous Fellows were among those who completed the programme strengthening knowledge and skills for their strategic work to enhance the well-being of indigenous peoples at the national, regional and international levels. Three of the female indigenous representatives were persons living with disabilities, and in the case of one representative, accompanier to an indigenous woman living with disabilities. These indigenous leaders head local and international organizations and networks to advance the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities in Africa, Asia and internationally.

A number of female and male indigenous representatives came from areas of active, violent conflict and said the conflict analysis and negotiation tools would assist them in their efforts to work for peace in their regions including those in areas where armed movements are active. During the training, important links and exchanges were made to enhance collaboration and exchange of views and experience within and across regions.

The publication *Strengthening the Practice of Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy in the United Nations: The UNITAR Approach* was provided to each indigenous representative as well as an electronic copy of *A Manual for UN Mediators: Advice from UN Representatives and*

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*Envoys*, based on interviews conducted by the Institute. UNITAR is grateful to the Governments of Canada and Sweden which provided the funding that made the 2019 intensive international training programme possible. The Institute is currently seeking support to be able to organize and conduct the requested 2022 international training programme in peacemaking and conflict prevention to deepen the knowledge and strengthen the skills of female and male indigenous representatives in dialogue, negotiation and conflict analysis, as well as a requested national programme in Asia for Indigenous Women Leaders to strengthen negotiation and peacemaking capacities.

- 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”<sup>1</sup>. Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.

The Institute is currently seeking support to organize the next international training on peacemaking and conflict prevention to deepen the knowledge and strengthen the skills of female and male indigenous representatives in dialogue, negotiation and conflict analysis. As marginalization from political and economic processes, and conflict over land and resource issues are two of the most challenging areas indigenous peoples continue to face, the majority of cases and negotiation simulations focus on these. The programme reviews both rights-based and problem-solving negotiation processes to strengthen indigenous capacities to analyze root causes of conflict, and engage in negotiation and dialogue with governments, the private sector and other communities to address priorities and resolve conflict in a mutually-beneficial, sustainable manner. Indigenous alumni and resource persons have worked together to engage in dialogue with companies to inform and help create more constructive policies around mining and other areas. These cases are highlighted during the training programmes so that lessons and constructive processes may be shared.

Sessions in recent programmes also focused on “Using the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to Protect Sacred Lands and Religious Rights in Government and Extractive Industry Development Projects” and a two-hour session with dialogue on “Identity, Dignity and Inclusion: Access to Information and FPIC as Important Factors to Engage Women, Youth and Civil Society in Peaceful Dialogue and Conflict Prevention”.

### **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

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well-being of indigenous peoples with a focus on furthering the implementation of the SWAP<sup>2</sup>.

- 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 Forum<sup>3</sup>. Please also include an executive summary (600-word limit).

### **1. Raising awareness of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

1. UNITAR indigenous training programme alumni contributed to constructive negotiation efforts in the lead up to the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and are working at multiple levels towards its implementation. Each *UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives* includes a session conducted by an indigenous expert focusing on challenges and successes in implementation of the UN Declaration at the national, regional or international level, as well as providing documentation and reports on the UN Declaration. Recent UNITAR training programmes and briefings have included a review of progress and challenges to its implementation in Africa, North America, the Pacific and internationally.
2. A current or former Expert Member of the UN Permanent Forum or of EMRIP conducts a session during the each UNITAR training on “United Nations Mechanisms to Promote Dialogue and Action on Human Rights and Indigenous Issues” and with a focus as well on “The Mandate and Strategies to Work with the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.” Sessions in recent programmes also focused on “Using the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to Protect Sacred Lands and Religious Rights in Government and Extractive Industry Development Projects” and a two-hour session with dialogue on “Identity, Dignity and Inclusion: Access to Information and FPIC as Important Factors to Engage Women, Youth and Civil Society in Peaceful Dialogue and Conflict Prevention.” The Declaration and related UN documents and reports are provided in each participant’s handbook of readings and reference materials along with an extensive bibliography.

### **2. Supporting the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly at the country level**

Please provide information on actions taken or planned by your agency, fund, programme, entity on the following:

- i. 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. Please also include information related to include indigenous women in your responses.
- ii. 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 in national development

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plans and in the UN Development Assistance Frameworks and Common Country Assessments (CCA/UNDAFs).

- iii.* Support for consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogue including under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators.
3. To contribute to the overall implementation of the UN Declaration, the main objectives of the *UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives* are: to strengthen indigenous participants' capacities to analyze conflict; to identify the needs, fears, concerns and aspirations of all parties to a conflict; and based upon this and engaged in dialogue with partners, to formulate mutually-beneficial and sustainable options to address problems. The focus is on the process of analyzing and dealing with conflict in a constructive manner. This methodology is then applied by indigenous representatives to their key areas of concern and priorities in negotiations with counterparts at multiple levels.
4. UNITAR actively seeks the participation and contribution of indigenous women both as resource persons and participants. Women compose over 40% of training participants. Some of the senior indigenous women who have taught in programmes at the regional or international levels include UN Permanent Forum Members and Chairs, Ministers, Senators, and Parliamentarians and the sole female negotiator in the Bougainville peace process. Female participants have included a Paramount Chief, an Attorney-General and a Traditional Chief from the Pacific, Presidents of Provincial and National Women's Councils in Africa, the Americas and the Pacific, advisors and other leaders and practitioners, advocates, managers, and community workers from around the world. The Participant Forum session of each training programme invites two female and two male participants from different sectors and regions, to present on their initiatives advancing indigenous rights, negotiations on land and resource issues, empowerment and political participation and is always chaired by an indigenous female participant.
5. In each UNITAR Training Programme, indigenous representatives are trained in ILO Convention 169 by a top ILO expert, and the theory and practice of constructive negotiation processes to use in dialogue at the country, regional and international levels to further rights, and well-being and seek mutually-beneficial sustainable solutions. The UNITAR training is conducted at the international or regional level on an annual basis contingent on funding being secured.
6. With strengthened tools of conflict analysis, negotiation and relationship-building, indigenous representatives are further equipped to engage in dialogue on issues to address the priorities of their communities and to improve the lives of their peoples. The training aims to strengthen indigenous representatives' abilities to negotiate to improve the situations of their peoples in all of the areas under the mandate of the Permanent Forum: health, education, culture, environment, economic and social development, human rights and in the realization of the UN Declaration.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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

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

1. As some of the main challenges indigenous peoples face are marginalization from political, economic, and planning processes, and conflict over land and resources. UNITAR seeks to raise funds each year for dedicated training to strengthen the capacities of indigenous peoples' representatives to engage in dialogue and negotiation to build constructive relations and advance their priorities. Indigenous representatives participating in the *UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives* strengthen their capacities to promote well-being and contribute to inclusive peace, development and governance processes at local, national, regional and international levels. The active engagement of indigenous women is ensured, as resource persons sharing their knowledge and experience, and as participants. Youth representatives, including OHCHR Indigenous Fellows, are also invited. In the most recent international training programme, two indigenous women with disabilities and a third indigenous woman accompanier, whose organizations work at local, national and international levels to advance the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities completed the intensive training programme. A number of elders, Chiefs and Paramount Chiefs have also completed the UNITAR Training Programme. 540 indigenous peoples' representatives from around the world have been trained to date in twelve international and six regional training programmes to further their rights and meaningful participation in processes that affect them. Funding is sought to organize the 2022 dedicated training for indigenous women and men at the international level, as well as a dedicated national programme for indigenous women leaders in Asia.
2. Two of the eight UNITAR alumni appointed/elected to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues are women, including one former chairperson. Two of the five

UNITAR alumni named to the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are women. Several past and current co-chairs and members of the international Indigenous Youth Caucus are indigenous UNITAR Training Programme alumni. Alumni also contribute to regional caucus deliberations.

3. The UNITAR training programme enhances the capacities of indigenous peoples to engage constructively through dialogue, advocacy and negotiation including on policy reform to improve the situation and well-being of indigenous peoples. Dedicated sessions are presented in each training programme by indigenous expert resource persons on UN Dialogue Mechanisms, the mandates of key UN Bodies and how to effectively engage with them to advance indigenous priorities, and on progress and challenges related to the implementation of the UN Declaration.
4. A participant handbook of related UN reports and documents, reading materials and extensive bibliography are provided in addition to publications on ILO 169. Also provided to each indigenous participant and resource person, are the publication from the twentieth anniversary of UNITAR's work enhancing the capacities of key actors, *Strengthening the Practice of Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy in the United Nations: The UNITAR Approach*, and a distillation of key lessons and practice from UNITAR interviews with heads of UN peace missions from around the world, *A Manual for UN Mediators: Advice from UN Representatives and Envoys*. The video "Lessons in Peacemaking," based on lessons distilled from these senior UN leaders, is also shared.
5. The Institute's Peacemaking and Conflict Prevention Programme was developed to deepen the knowledge and strengthen the skills of key actors and institutions from grassroots to policy levels in conflict analysis, negotiation, mediation, reconciliation and conflict transformation through intensive training programmes. High-level seminars are also organized to facilitate dialogue and exchange of lessons among senior peacemakers to enhance UN and regional practice. The UN Secretary-General has identified conflict prevention, the forging of political solutions to address conflict, and strengthening regional capacities and partnerships as top priorities.
6. These programmes contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda goal of building peaceful, just and inclusive societies and enhancing women's participation in peace and decision-making processes. 1,937 mid and senior-level officials from States, regional organizations and the United Nations and its peace missions, and 540 indigenous representatives have been trained to date. UNITAR organized a one-week High Level Seminar for Members of the first UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2002 in advance of their first historic session at UN Headquarters. Representatives of 16 UN agencies, funds and programmes, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur Dr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen all engaged in dialogue sessions with the new UN Permanent Forum Members.
7. 990 women count among the diplomats, UN and regional organization staff and indigenous representatives who have completed the UNITAR Training Programmes conducted at the international level, and in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific.

The Institute has also been requested to develop dedicated training programmes in peacemaking and conflict prevention for women, as well as a programme for youth. The first *UNITAR Training Programme Strengthening the Capacities of African Women Peacemakers* was conducted in Addis Ababa in 2018 with the participation of 33 senior and mid-level women, including 7 members of FemWise, and a former Foreign Minister.

8. Government officials, as well as UN and regional organization staff in UNITAR peacemaking training programmes participate in sessions on inclusive peace and governance, and on addressing root causes of conflict. They are briefed on the Institute's dedicated training programme for indigenous representatives to enhance capacities in conflict prevention, conflict analysis, negotiation and reconciliation. The OHCHR Indigenous Fellows are regularly invited to participate in the UNITAR training in peacemaking and conflict prevention. If funding is not available in a particular year for the full training programme, a UNITAR Briefing has been organized as a Side Event at EMRIP with indigenous programme alumni speaking on a panel sharing lessons and observations on their application of the methodologies to their work on behalf of their peoples and nations as well as in their roles as Expert Members of the UN Permanent Forum or EMRIP working at regional and international levels. Indigenous experts and UNITAR indigenous alumni teach in training programs presenting case studies on land and resource negotiations, empowerment and participation in political and peace processes, and on effective engagement with UN bodies. Thirteen indigenous alumni from Australia, Colombia, Fiji, Hawai'i, Kenya, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Russia have served as resource persons to date in the international and/or regional training programmes. Senior ILO and World Bank officials also regularly present and engage in dialogue sessions with indigenous representatives from around the world. The contribution of women to peace and development processes is highlighted. Indigenous women contribute to each UNITAR training programme as expert resource persons.
9. With the purpose of bringing visibility to the resilience and leadership of indigenous peoples' representatives in their efforts to leave no one behind, to date, three of the annual *UNITAR Results Reports* have featured the work of Indigenous programme alumni to date:

*From Indigenous Fellow to Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UNITAR Alumna Works to Enhance the Rights and Well-Being of Indigenous Peoples*, Dr. Megan Davis, UNITAR Alumna, Former Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and current Chair of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

*Strengthening Capacities of Indigenous Leaders for Peace, Planet and Well-Being: Leaving No One Behind*, Mr. Aleksei Tsykarev, UNITAR Alumnus, Former Expert Member and Chair of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, current Member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;

*Indigenous Youth Leadership – Ensuring No One is Left Behind with a Focus on Indigenous Youth engaged in community mediation, civic education and health messaging and solidarity during the pandemic*, Ms. Mai Thin Yu Mon, UNITAR

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Alumna and Director of the Indigenous Peoples Development Program, Chin Human Rights Organization, Executive Council Member, Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact. Youth Caucus Representative – Asia.

10. The Institute is seeking funds to organize the 2022 UNITAR intensive training programmes on human rights and conflict resolution for indigenous representatives. The 2016 Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues issued the following specific recommendation regarding the *UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives*:

*“The United Nations Institute for Training and Research established training on peace and conflict resolution for indigenous peoples in 2000 at indigenous peoples’ request. It is one of the most important human rights training programmes in the United Nations system that examines the root causes of conflict. The Permanent Forum urges Member States to contribute support to make possible the annual UNITAR training programme to enhance the conflict prevention and peacemaking capacities of indigenous peoples’ representatives so as to strengthen indigenous capacity to engage in negotiation, dialogue and peace processes to contribute to sustainable peace.”*

### **D. COVID-19 pandemic**

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.

While an in-person training programme had not yet been organized due to the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, the work of indigenous alumni of the UNITAR training programmes in peacemaking and conflict prevention has been highlighted in the Institute's Results Report publication showcasing the initiatives of indigenous alumni and youth to engage in community mediation to decrease stigma and tensions during the pandemic; translation of health education materials in indigenous languages and through indigenous cultural arts, and provision of food and masks to affected and remote communities along with the resulting solidarity and intergenerational linkages strengthened through these processes. An internal briefing paper was also developed and posted on the Institute's intranet, and a session was conducted at a staff retreat to highlight the challenges indigenous peoples are facing, exacerbated by the pandemic, as well as the resilience and strategies indigenous peoples are developing to address them. Fundraising is underway to be able to organize remote and blended learning opportunities for female and male indigenous peoples' representatives to deepen knowledge and strengthen skills in vital priority areas to advance health, effective participation, dignity and well-being.

**Thank you very much**

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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.

## 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;
  - (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.