

*Questionnaire to the UN system and other
intergovernmental organizations*

Please submit your completed questionnaire at your earliest convenience but no later than **31 January 2014** to:

Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Division for Social Policy and Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
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Introduction

This questionnaire is divided into two sections and is designed to obtain information for the United Nations Permanent Forum's thirteenth session 12 - 23 May 2014 as well as information on the achievements of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005 – 2014) in accordance with General Assembly A/RES/67/153, para 13, adopted on 20 December 2012.

This resolution requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with Member States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a comprehensive last report on the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second Decade, and its impact on the Millennium Development Goals, which shall serve as an input to the preparatory process for the World Conference and to the discussion on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015

SECTION 1 - Evaluation of the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Q1. In accordance with the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, please provide information on:

- **Challenges and institutional limitations in the agency's / organizations' capacity to approach indigenous issues;**
- **Inclusion of indigenous peoples' issues in the agenda, strategic or policy framework of your organization, and in the work of the agency/organization, including at country level;**
- **Existence of guidelines or policies on engagement with indigenous peoples in the work of your organization;**
- **Strategies, policies and activities to support the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at international and country level;**
- **Budgetary allocations for projects/activities on indigenous peoples' issues;**
- **Identify good practices.**

The promotion and protection of indigenous peoples' rights is central to UNFPA's mandate. The Fund's mandate, as guided by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA), is clearly aligned with the goals of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, with particular reference to Chapter VI of the PoA: "the strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous peoples in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health."

UNFPA's work in promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples involves interventions at the global, regional and country level.

At the global level, UNFPA supports the voice of indigenous peoples at the UN Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues as well as in other global fora in respect to their sexual and reproductive health and rights and in the interests of their sustainable overall sustainable development. For instance, in the context of the ICPD review process in 2014, UNFPA will promote the participation of indigenous women and youth at the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission of Population and Development. This is undertaken also with a view to positioning the rights of indigenous peoples in the lead up to the UNGA Special Session on ICPD beyond 2014 and the post-2015 development agenda and as key to preparations for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in September 2014.

UNFPA regional offices are actively engaged in the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples' rights. Particularly our Regional Offices for Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, West and Central Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa have developed programmes and partnerships with indigenous peoples' organizations and networks on issues pertaining to sexual and reproductive

health and rights. The promotion of indigenous peoples' rights is part of the portfolio of UNFPA regional Gender and Human Rights Advisors.

At least 26 UNFPA country offices are also undertaking work on indigenous peoples' issues in their respective country programmes. This work covers a range of issues, including: the promotion of access to inter-cultural sexual and reproductive health services and information; HIV prevention, treatment and care, addressing gender based violence and harmful practices; and the design and roll-out of population censuses and household surveys. The promotion of indigenous peoples' rights is part of the portfolio of national Gender and Human Rights officers. In a few instances, these posts are filled by indigenous persons.

Indigenous issues cut across all of UNFPA's mandate areas making it difficult to track the resources allocated to advance this agenda. We do know, however, that in recent years the work on indigenous issues has reduced at the country level due to a reduction of resources from international donors to the middle income countries; even though in regions such as Latin America indigenous populations are facing increasingly structural inequalities. This reduction of funding is affecting the sustainability of key development interventions in the area of intercultural maternal health and HIV prevention and treatment.

Following an extensive consultation process with regional and country offices and indigenous organizations, UNFPA developed a corporate strategy on Indigenous Peoples Issues in 2011. This strategy will now be revised to reflect UNFPA's new strategic plan 2014-2017, which has a stronger focus on addressing inequalities affecting specific marginalized groups. Given UNFPA's focus on the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights, the new corporate strategy on Indigenous Peoples Issues will prioritize the implementation of articles 20 to 24 of the UN Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The outcome of the UN Permanent Forum Expert Group Meeting on the sexual health and reproductive rights of indigenous peoples will be a valuable input in guiding UNFPA's work in this area over the next four years.

Q2. In accordance with the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, please provide information on:

- **Existence of participatory mechanisms for indigenous peoples in your organization, and/or other ways for the participation by indigenous peoples' representatives in the work and decision-making processes within your organization (in the boards and/or consultative bodies, etc...)**
- **Development of guidelines on how to apply the principle of free, prior and informed consent in the work of the agency / organization;**
- **Experiences of dialogue and cooperation with indigenous peoples' organizations at international and local level;**
- **Experiences of facilitation of dialogue between indigenous peoples and governments at national level.**

Indigenous peoples' participation in UNFPA's programming takes place principally at the regional and country levels, either through the inclusion of indigenous

organizations in advisory bodies and reference groups or through participatory mechanisms set out by UN country teams. For example, in Nicaragua, UNFPA supported the development of the “National Development Plan for Indigenous Peoples and Peoples of African descent of Nicaragua” and worked to improve their sexual and reproductive health, in line with the UNDRIP principle of free, prior and informed consent. This was done in close collaboration with the UN System’s Consultative Committee on Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant Populations. In Rwanda, UNFP collaborated with indigenous peoples’ organizations, such as COPORWA, in order to reach out to indigenous communities, using a participatory approach, and involving government, CSOs and the targeted populations. Programme reviews are undertaken twice a year, also using a participatory approach, to assess progress, identify challenges and document lessons learnt. It is worth noting that as a UN Delivering as One country, consultation boards are organized through the office of the UN Resident Coordinator.

In the framework of the ICPD beyond 2014 global review, UNFPA promoted the participation of indigenous peoples’ networks, leaders and indigenous youth in a range of processes and events including the International Conference on Human Rights, which was held in the Netherlands in July 2013, and the Regional Population Conference held in Montevideo in August 2013. The Montevideo Consensus, which benefited from the active participation of the Latin American Network of Indigenous Women and the Indigenous youth initiative ‘Road to Cairo Plus 20’, is arguably the most notable intergovernmental commitment on the rights of indigenous peoples in population and development to emerge from the ICPD review process.

Q3. In accordance with the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People, please provide information on:

- **Adoption of a holistic approach to development “with culture and identity”, which takes into account the specific views and needs of indigenous peoples;**
- **Initiatives developed and/or implemented on protecting and promoting cultural diversity and inter-culturality;**
- **Initiatives to recover or preserve and protect indigenous peoples’ heritage sites and other parts of their tangible and intangible heritage;**
- **Initiatives to protect indigenous traditional knowledge and genetic resources;**
- **Has your agency/organization employed indigenous staff?**
- **Establishment of targeted policies, programmes, projects, benchmarks and budgets for indigenous peoples in the areas of education, health, environment, and social and economic development;**
- **Has your agency / organization provided priority attention to indigenous women, children and youth?**

UNFPA is at the forefront of UN efforts to promote intercultural health systems and models based on the recognition of indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge, values, spirituality and health systems, including the work of traditional midwives and healers.

The application of the UNDRIP principle on free, prior and informed consent is fundamental in designing and implementing inter-cultural health policies that ensure access to quality and culturally appropriate sexual and reproductive health services.

In Latin America, UNFPA supported strategic partnerships between governments and the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (Enlace Sur). This resulted in the development and application of intercultural standards for maternal health in Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Guatemala. A four year programme managed by the UNFPA Latin America regional office and funded by AECID focused on strengthening the capacity of indigenous women's networks to conduct advocacy on maternal and reproductive health for the provision of quality and culturally acceptable maternal health services. The programme contributed to legal reforms and the adoption of public policies and protocols on intercultural reproductive health; the recognition of the role of traditional birth attendants within the official health system; knowledge management and of methodological and advocacy tools on intercultural reproductive health; and the increase of indigenous women's access to reproductive health services in selected regions. Building on these national experiences, the Commission on Intercultural Health of the ORAS-CONHU is in the process of discussing the adoption of sub-regional standards on intercultural health. These Basic Standards define objective and measurable requirements necessary in order to provide and monitor quality and acceptable intercultural maternal health services.

UNFPA will draw lessons from this ground-breaking experience with a view to expanding the development of intercultural health standards for other components of sexual and reproductive health and to promote both South-South and indigenous-to-indigenous cooperation between and with-in other countries and regions across the globe.

Q4. In accordance with the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, please provide information on:

- **Existence of disaggregated data and statistics on indigenous peoples;**
- **Existence of specific monitoring mechanism, official reports or research on the situation of indigenous peoples;**
- **How does your agency / organization address the issue of indigenous peoples in its targeting of the MDGs?**

Human rights-sensitive monitoring and evaluation systems need reliable, periodic, disaggregated and community owned data. Guided by these parameters, for many years UNFPA has worked in partnership with national statistic systems, indigenous organizations and other national stakeholders to bring into public domain evidence of the development challenges and deprivations faced by indigenous peoples. UNFPA has supported States to cooperate with indigenous peoples in compiling data on their demographic characteristics as well as to integrate these population and social data into national data collection systems.

In the Latin American region, UNFPA has led the development of a disaggregated database on indigenous peoples' indicators, in coordination with ECLAC and the Indigenous Fund; has supported generation of methodological instruments for the

inclusion of an ethnic perspective in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses; and invested in related capacity development of National Statistical Institutions and indigenous peoples' organizations. UNFPA advocates for the creation of commissions for institutionalizing indigenous peoples' issues into national statistical institutes and data collection processes; such commissions must include permanent agreements with indigenous peoples. The primary functions of such commissions are: to design and implement training workshops for indigenous peoples organizations and statisticians on census processes, including discussion on worldviews and the main human rights instruments; and, to form working groups for discussion and decision-making regarding the application of international standards on census concepts, operations, logistics, and organizational issues.

For example, UNFPA supported the participation of indigenous peoples in the design and roll-out of Bolivia's 2012 census. In Costa Rica, the National Statistics Office conducted a national Census in 2011, incorporating information about indigenous populations living both in and outside of indigenous territories. UNFPA was engaged from the preparatory work stage, supporting strategies for the production of census cartography, for data capturing and processing, as well as some aspects of field operations (e.g. staff training on census processing, definition of census topics, etc.), and dissemination of results. In Ecuador, UNFPA has devised culturally sensitive indicators, in partnership with the Indigenous Peoples Commission and the National Institute of Statistics, to ensure an equity perspective in public policy formulation.

Contributing to the post-2015 development agenda process, UNFPA is actively engaged in global consultations and intergovernmental discussions and bridging the outcomes of the ICPD beyond 2014 review process into these.

Coinciding with the UNFPA's chair of the UN Inter-agency support group on Indigenous Issues in 2012, an online consultation with indigenous peoples was supported in the context of the UN thematic consultation on inequalities. The consultation provided valuable inputs to better position the rights of indigenous peoples in line with the key messages developed by the Indigenous Peoples group for Rio + 20.

In the framework of the ICPD review, in 2012, UNFPA conducted a global survey of UN Member States that included a specific module on indigenous peoples' rights. The survey found that despite aggregate progress over the last 20 years in many sexual and reproductive health outcomes, there has been very little progress for the poorest women in the world. The survey noted stark health inequalities of indigenous peoples, such as more than 50 per cent of indigenous adults over 30YO suffer from type 2 diabetes in some countries; the risk of contracting tuberculosis in the USA is 600 times higher for Native Americans than for wider US population; and there are substantial life expectancy gaps between indigenous and non-indigenous children in Nepal and Australia of 20 years, in Guatemala, 13 years , and in New Zealand, 11 years.

Eighty-eight governments responded to questions in the ICPD Global Survey regarding whether and how they are addressing the needs of Indigenous Peoples, and priorities for indigenous peoples over the next 5 years. Based on responses, we can see that countries in Asia and Latin America are giving higher priority to health of

indigenous people than are countries in other regions. However, even those governments that report commitments to the sexual and reproductive health of indigenous people, acknowledged that indigenous people were not a key target group in policies and programmes on family planning, HIV and AIDS, gender-based violence, safe motherhood, and the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents. Reported government priorities for indigenous peoples over the next 5 years do *not* feature health, but give greater emphasis to needs for education, economic opportunity and employment and political participation. However, governments' commitment to respecting the principle of free, prior and informed consent in the context of extractive industries and concessions is much lower. Data on indigenous peoples is also limited, which raises a concern to deploy greater efforts for universal coverage of civil registration, and inclusion of variables to distinguish indigenous people within demographic and health surveys such as the DHS or MICS in countries with large indigenous populations.

Q5. Please provide information on how activities aimed at implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples impact on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

UNFPA activities on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of indigenous peoples are framed under the ICPD Programme of Action (principle 14 and chapter VI.D) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (articles 20-24) are geared towards the achievement of MDG 5 to improve maternal health.

While remarkable progress has been documented in the last 20 years to reduce maternal mortality (Target 5.a) and improve access to reproductive health (Target 5.b), MDG 5 continues to be the goal most off-track. Indigenous Women and girls have been left behind in the quest for achieving MDG 5. Nevertheless, some progress in reducing maternal mortality in particular, has been achieved in countries that have implemented intercultural health programmes, such as in Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador, and in countries where traditional midwives are recognized and integrated in national health systems, such as in Guatemala and Nepal. Increased access to family planning and skilled birth attendants in rural areas with a majority indigenous population have been factors in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity and in preventing teenage pregnancy. The integration of indigenous knowledge and assets (e.g. midwives) in national health systems has contributed to an increase of birth deliveries in hospitals and clinics. While these advances are noteworthy, change in discriminatory attitudes and behavioral patterns against indigenous women and girls by health providers is still a work in progress, requiring a longer term undertaking, including the integration of intercultural perspectives from the formative years of future health professionals and service providers.

Q.6. Please provide information on how your agency envisages activities including indigenous peoples' rights into the proposed Sustainable Development Goals, in the framework of the new post-2015 development agenda.

While it is too early to propose specific sets of goals, targets and indicators to position the rights of indigenous peoples in the post-2015 development agenda, it is clear that:

- 1. The rights of indigenous peoples, as articulated in UNDRIP, should be cross-cutting to all goals and targets of the future development agenda.** Indigenous peoples' rights are relevant in all development components of the future agenda, including economic development, poverty reduction, gender equality, health, education, environment and global partnerships for development. The 5 messages developed by the Indigenous Peoples group at Rio + 20 should guide the mainstreaming of their rights in future sustainable development goals and post-2015. These messages include the right to self-determination over their land and territories and the right to participate fully in their own development.
- 2. A gender equality goal should explicitly refer to indigenous peoples, and indigenous women and girls in particular as the group most left behind in development.** This goal should address structural factors of inequality, which in the case of indigenous peoples, are related to historic patterns of discrimination and disempowerment as a result of colonization and the systematic occupation of their lands and territories.
- 3. By the same token, future health and education goals should have indicators for indigenous peoples and a clear call on governments to systematically include indigenous peoples in national statistics systems with concrete data sets to capture information on intercultural health standards and to disaggregate social data according to the indigenous variable.** Specific metrics are needed to support the advance in indigenous peoples' access to sexual and reproductive health services and information.
- 4. UNFPA is calling for a youth goal to be included in the post-2015 agenda,** which, in the case of indigenous adolescents and youth, should include specific indicators to address teenage pregnancy and harmful practices such as child marriage and FGM/C.

Q7. Does your agency have regular or ad hoc capacity-building programmes on indigenous peoples' issues for staff, or a plan for capacity-building activities in this area, at headquarters or in the field?

Every May, UNFPA organizes webinars around the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issue to raise awareness on the Permanent Forum's agenda, including recommendations addressed to UNFPA and the UN system. These webinars also present an opportunity to share experiences, challenges and lessons learned to many relevant stakeholders. .

Q8. Does your agency have a focal point on indigenous issues? If so, please provide the name and contact information of this person.

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Q9. Please provide a list of conferences and other meetings organized or supported by your agency on indigenous issues for the current year as well as next year (2014).

- UN Permanent Forum Expert Group Meeting on the sexual health and reproductive rights of Indigenous Peoples (January 2014)- UNFPA meeting rapporteur.
- CSW Side event on indigenous women and intersecting discrimination (March 2014)
- Commission on Population and Development side event on indigenous peoples and ICPD beyond 2014 (April 2014)
- UN Permanent Forum side event on the sexual and reproductive health of indigenous peoples (May 2014)
- UNIPP side event at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (September 2014)
- UNFPA side event at the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of indigenous peoples.