

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Organisation des  
Nations Unies pour  
l'alimentation et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la  
Agricultura

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Our Ref:

Your Ref:

29 December 2014

Dear Mr Hongbo,

I wish to refer to your letter dated 23 October 2014, addressed to the Director-General, inviting FAO to contribute to the preparations for the fourteenth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), which has been referred to me for reply.

Please find attached the compiled questionnaire with the information regarding the action undertaken and planned by FAO regarding indigenous peoples' issues.

Looking forward to FAO's participation in the fourteenth session of the Permanent Forum.

Yours sincerely,

for Marcela Villarreal  
Director

Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development

Mr Wu Hongbo  
Under-Secretary-General  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)  
New York

## **Questionnaire to the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations**

The report of the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues provides a number of recommendations within its mandated areas, some of which are addressed to the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations.

The secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues invites the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations to complete the attached questionnaire on any action taken or planned in response to the Permanent Forum's recommendations. All questionnaire responses will be placed on the Permanent Forum's website and also compiled into one report for the Forum's fourteenth session.

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **1 January 2015** to:

Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
Division for Social Policy and Development  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Room: S- 2954  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, USA 10017  
Telephone : 917-367-5100; fax : 917- 367-5102  
Email: [smallacombe@un.org](mailto:smallacombe@un.org)

The full questionnaire can be downloaded from this site :

<http://undesadspd.org/IndigenousPeoples/UNPFIIISessions/Fourteenth/Questionnaire.aspx>

**The provisional agenda for the Permanent Forum's fourteenth session in 2015 includes:**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up on the recommendations of the Permanent Forum:
  - (a) Outcome of the high-level plenary meeting also known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples;
  - (b) Post-2015 development agenda;
  - (c) Youth, self-harm and suicide.
4. Half-day discussion on the Pacific region.
5. Half-day discussion on the expert group meeting on the theme "Dialogue on an optional protocol to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People".
6. Comprehensive dialogue with United Nations agencies and funds.
7. Human rights:
  - (a) Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
  - (b) Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
8. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.
9. Draft agenda for the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum.
10. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its fourteenth session.

## Questionnaire

At its fourteenth session in 2015, the Permanent Forum will review the following: (a) Outcome of the high-level plenary also known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples; (b) Post-2015 Development Agenda; (c) Youth, self-harm and suicide.

1. Please provide information on how your agency is working with these important issues in the seven socio-cultural regions of the Permanent Forum<sup>1</sup>. Where possible, please include information on the situation of indigenous women in your responses.

FAO, together with the rest of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, is fully participating in the discussions and preparation of the System-wide action plan (SWAP) to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the UNDRIP, as requested in the Outcome document of the WCIP.

The core of the SWAP will be to integrate the action plan within key regional initiatives and relevant national programmes.

At the national level, it was discussed together with IASG that the UNDAF should accommodate an additional objective in key countries with significant indigenous population in order to include an objective related to the SWAP.

The SWAP will be integrated in the Post 2015 efforts that the different UN agencies are leading.

FAO will work on the Governance of tenure of lands, territories, natural resources and fisheries, as well as on indigenous food systems and traditional knowledge.

In addition, FAO has started a capacity development programme of indigenous women leaders in 4 countries (Bolivia, Peru, Philippines and India) and during the 2015 additional capacity efforts will take place on the Governance of land with 4 additional countries already targeted (Panama, Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala).

2. With respect to the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your agency:

- (i) What are some of the obstacles your agency has encountered in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, including those addressed specifically to your agency?

The Permanent Forum recommended that FAO and other agencies, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, organize a workshop on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in order to strengthen indigenous peoples' rights to land, territories and resources. The major obstacle encountered on this issue has been the lack of knowledge and understanding of the relevance of the guidelines for Indigenous Peoples.

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<sup>1</sup> UNPFII's seven socio-cultural regions are Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; the Arctic; Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific.

However, several national workshops on the guidelines have been carried out throughout 2014 and will continue to be organized for 2015, and Indigenous Peoples have been increasingly involved in these. Moreover, a study on the relevance of the guidelines for Indigenous Peoples is currently being conducted and a technical meeting with a session on the guidelines and how they can be used by indigenous communities to address the main issues they encounter in relation to tenure will be held in FAO's headquarters in February 2015.

(ii) What are some of the factors that facilitate your agency's implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, including those addressed specifically to your agency?

In relation to the recommendation to include pastoralism in the development agenda<sup>2</sup>, the launch, at the beginning of 2015, of FAO's Pastoralist Knowledge Hub, whose main objective is to enhance the capacity of pastoralists to improve their livelihoods, strengthen their networks and influence policy, will contribute to provide the opportunity to work globally towards building the enabling conditions for capturing the opportunities of sustainable development for pastoralists and nomadic peoples.

The recent review of FAO's project cycle guide and Environmental and Social Management Guidelines has allowed to ensure specific reference is made to Indigenous Peoples (and not simply include them under the terms "marginalized and vulnerable groups") throughout the work of the organization.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines follow now international standards by incorporating Free, Prior and Informed Consent as a pre condition for any activity affecting indigenous peoples. This is also aligned with the 2010 FAO Policy on Indigenous Peoples.

The creation of an Indicators Working Group within the Interagency Support Group of the UN will facilitate the implementation of the recommendation to recognize indigenous peoples' views and priorities for development, including appropriate indicators and data disaggregation<sup>4</sup>. FAO is discussing internally to see how FAO's statistics department could get involved in the indicators working group

3. Given the Forum's recommendation for the adoption of policies on indigenous peoples' issues, please specify whether your agency has:

(i) A policy or other similar tool on indigenous peoples' issues;

FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (2010)

(ii) Recent programmes on indigenous peoples' issues;

FAO as a leading technical agency on Food and agriculture has been working with indigenous peoples at different levels within its technical work. For instance in forestry, fisheries and pastoralism, FAO has been working with indigenous peoples and several projects have been implemented at national level.

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph 48, Report on the thirteenth session (12-23 May 2014)

<sup>3</sup> As requested in paragraph 49 of the Report on the thirteenth session (12-23 May 2014)

<sup>4</sup> Paragraph 49, Report on the thirteenth session (12-23 May 2014)

Recently, work has started in Asia at the regional level, where FAO and indigenous peoples have undertaken an analysis of shifting cultivation in 7 countries. FAO is working at establishing a global programme as well as 3 regional programmes in Asia, Latin America and Africa. This is working progress and will not be completed before 2016.

(iii) Budgetary allocations for indigenous peoples' issues;

FAO has a cross cutting approach to Indigenous Peoples, therefore there are different budgets within different divisions.

The Unit coordinating indigenous peoples within FAO will have about US 100 000 in 2015.

(iv) Projects/activities on indigenous peoples' issues,

In 2014 the following projects on indigenous peoples were carried out:

- 1) **“Regional Support to Indigenous Peoples for Livelihood and Food Security”** focusing on the subject of shifting cultivation practices, including case studies from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Laos and Thailand.
- 2) **“Asistencia de emergencia a las comunidades indígenas de Prinzapolka, Región Autónoma Atlántico Norte (RAAN), afectadas por las inundaciones.”**
- 3) **“Land Rehabilitation and Rangelands Management in Smallholders Agro-pastoral production systems in South Western Angola”**
- 4) **“Support for sustainable land governance and the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines in communal lands of Kenya”.**

Moreover, the following seminars were organized:

- 1) Nicaragua: **“Mujeres productoras emprendedoras hacia el cuidado y conservación de la Madre Tierra.”**
- 2) Peru: **International Expert Seminar on ‘Cultural Diversity, Food Systems and Traditional Livelihoods’**
- 3) Colombia: **“Encuentro nacional de pueblos indígenas”.**
- 4) Guatemala: **“Encuentro nacional de pueblos indígenas”.**

Also, the technical guide on “Respecting Free, Prior and Informed Consent. A practical guide. Governance of tenure.” was published.

*In order to facilitate the quantification of data by the Forum, please indicate the number of programmes and projects/activities devoted to indigenous peoples issues in the past year.*

4. 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?

Awareness raising and capacity building activities on the Free, Prior and Informed Consent process to be followed for all FAO projects and programmes involving Indigenous Peoples will be carried out in 2015 for staff in HQ and in the field. These will include seminars for all relevant staff, and e-learning material, to be developed with an indigenous organization to be identified.

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

Yes:

Yon Fernandez de Larrinoa  
Advocacy Officer on Gender and Indigenous Peoples  
[Yon.FernandezLarrinoa@fao.org](mailto:Yon.FernandezLarrinoa@fao.org)  
Tel: 0039 065705 4295  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

6. Please provide a list of conferences and other meetings organized or supported by your agency on indigenous peoples' issues for 2014 and 2015.

2-3 February 2015: Indigenous Food Systems, Agroecology and the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure: A Meeting between Indigenous Peoples and FAO, Rome, Italy

- 1) Nicaragua: **"Mujeres productoras emprendedoras hacia el cuidado y conservación de la Madre Tierra."**
- 2) Peru: **International Expert Seminar on 'Cultural Diversity, Food Systems and Traditional Livelihoods'**
- 3) Colombia: **"Encuentro nacional de pueblos indígenas"**.
- 4) Guatemala: **"Encuentro nacional de pueblos indígenas"**.

All the World Committee on Food Security meetings since 2011 have seen indigenous peoples actively participating in its discussions through the Civil Society Mechanism.

Furthermore the negotiations and approval of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Governance of Tenure (2012) and the Voluntary Guidelines for Small Scale fisheries (2014) have seen active participation of indigenous leaders and representatives. FAO has been actively supporting the participation of indigenous people in these important fora.