

# Questionnaire to the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations in preparation of the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the UN

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Department of Public Information continues to promote indigenous peoples' issues through all of its multilingual platforms and tools, including online news stories, radio and television programming, press briefings, and social media, as well as live webcasting and summaries of official meetings and conferences.

The 63 United Nations information centres (UNICs) spread across the globe are key to the Organization's ability to reach people in all regions of the world and to share the UN story and messages with them in their own languages.

Issues relating to indigenous peoples remain a priority for the Department entering 2016, especially with respect to the development and implementation of a communications strategy for the system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the objectives of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

DPI looks forward to continuing to play an active part in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and to raise awareness for the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through the system-wide action plan.

At its fifteenth session in 2016, the Permanent Forum's theme will be Indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution.

1. Please provide information on how your agency is working on issues of conflict, peace and resolution for indigenous peoples in the seven socio-cultural regions of the Permanent Forum<sup>1</sup>. In particular, the situation of indigenous women should be highlighted in your responses.

**The Department of Public Information (DPI) continues to work on these issues through various communications means, including through multilingual print, television, radio, online and social media platforms. For example, the plight of indigenous women was highlighted in UN News Centre stories on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (<http://bit.ly/1TSfL62>) and on the Special Rapporteur's visit to Honduras (<http://bit.ly/1QvfSGP>). Another example was a feature produced by the UN Radio Spanish Unit on "Women, Indigenous People and Climate Change (<http://bit.ly/1Nq3mEX>).**

**Further, UN information centres continue to reach out to the media and educational institutions; engage in partnerships with governments, local civil society organizations and the private sector; and maintain libraries and electronic information resources to promote these issues.**

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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.

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

- (i) Please provide information on the status of implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your agency
- (ii) What are some of the obstacles your agency has encountered in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum?
- (iii) What are some of the drivers that facilitate your agency's implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum?

**There were no recommendations addressed to DPI.**

3. Please provide information on the following:

a) Please include information on programs, projects or other activities that are specifically aimed at promoting the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, or activities where indigenous peoples are among the major beneficiaries. Where possible, please provide links to websites, publications or other sources of relevant information.

**DPI works with DESA and other UN system partners on the development and implementation of a communications strategy for the system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the objectives of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The action plan calls for a media and outreach strategy to raise awareness and build support for the Declaration and promote its implementation.**

b) How is your organization planning to support Indigenous Peoples within its programs, projects or any other activities in line with the aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

**DPI promotes indigenous peoples' issues as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, and seeks to highlight cross-cutting issues and linkages between the two. The October 2015 expert group meeting on indigenous peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for example, allowed DPI to highlight the importance of including indigenous peoples in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through a press conference, an online news story, and social media. The Department will continue to focus on those issues in its future communications activities in this area.**

c) Any capacity development initiatives your organization is involved in that is aimed at indigenous peoples, governments, UN agencies or others which feature the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples

**With regular stories on iSeek, in English and French, on indigenous issues, DPI continues to raise awareness of indigenous issues among staff members, including those away from UN Headquarters.**

**UN information centres regularly receive outreach materials and key messages to publicize relevant issues at the national level.**

d) Any activities to raise awareness on indigenous peoples, including publications, films, audio material, maps, or other materials that feature or focus on indigenous peoples. Include the name, a brief description and information on how to access the material.

**Indigenous peoples feature among the Department's priorities for 2016 as reflected in the annual communications guidance sent to UN system partners and UN information centres at the end of 2015.**

**DPI supported the 14th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (20 April-1 May 2015) with a wide range of multilingual communications activities on all platforms, including TV, Radio, News Centre, webcast, and social media. The activities included press conferences, design and production of pins and posters, and a social media advocacy campaign and portrait photography project titled "We Are Indigenous." The Department also promoted and ensured media coverage of the annual event organized by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August).**

**Media coverage of the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Permanent Forum and the International Day included articles by *The Guardian*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, Al Jazeera, Telesur, Prensa Latina, Xinhua, *National Geographic*, and other international media outlets.**

**Materials produced by DPI from April to December 2015 include:**

- **A total of 30 press releases (12 in French and 18 in English) by the Meetings Coverage Section, including summary coverage of all the meetings of the 14th session of the Permanent Forum, as well as statements and remarks by the Secretary-General.**
- **Live and on-demand webcast coverage of several meetings and events related to indigenous issues, with a total of 36 videos related to indigenous issues on the UN Web TV website (<http://webtv.un.org/search?term=Indigenous>).**
- **A series of brief videos of participants at the 14th session of the Permanent Forum, answering the question: "What is the most important issue facing your group and what do you hope to achieve at the United Nations?"**

**(<http://www.un.org/apps/news/html/Indigenous.asp>)**

- **A multimedia story on indigenous youth suicide and self-harm (<http://bit.ly/1mpL2my>).**
- **The website for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples – in the six official UN languages (<http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday>).**
- **UN Radio interviews, special reports and news stories – in all eight broadcast languages – on the session of the Permanent Forum and the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, as well as on major issues affecting indigenous peoples, such as climate change. Some examples include:**

**English:** “The ‘one shoe fits all’ approach is leaving indigenous peoples behind”. Interview with Dr. Priscilla Migiro, a pediatrician from the Maasai ethnic group in Kenya, on the launch of the State of the World’s Indigenous Peoples. (<http://bit.ly/1OwfYYQ>);

**Russian:** “Indigenous people from Russia’s northern regions want to see their agenda included in Paris agreement”. Interview. (<http://bit.ly/1NpIXje>); “Indigenous people are at the forefront of climate change”. News: (<http://bit.ly/1O8zaBH>);

**Kiswahili:** Interview with Gideon Sango, a representative of Tanzania’s Maasai community, calling for a climate change agreement that caters to indigenous peoples’ issues: (<http://bit.ly/1ZccGl7>);

**Spanish:** “Women, indigenous people and climate change”. News. (<http://bit.ly/1Nq3mEX>); “The importance of indigenous peoples’ knowledge when it comes to feeding the planet”. News. (<http://bit.ly/1m7Wjax>); “Special Rapporteur highlights the lack of compliance with Human Rights of indigenous peoples”. News. (<http://bit.ly/1RoVt6A>).

- Two *United Nations in Action* stories produced by UN Television on issues affecting indigenous peoples:

**Solomon Islands:** *The Wood for the Trees* (5'27")

In the Solomon Islands, once populated by head hunters, a struggle is under way to keep with the 21st century and at the same time protect a way of life. (Programme #1472, Apr 2015): <http://bit.ly/1QrDMmN>;

**Kenya:** *Improving Lives* (5'41")

Nomadic or pastoralist families in Kenya struggle to survive without the very basic necessities. Living a life of poverty often leads to poor nutrition which ultimately affects health and education. (Programme #1481, June 2015): <http://bit.ly/1TSceov>.

UN information centres also continued to utilize various platforms, including traditional and social media, to highlight indigenous issues. Most of the activities since April 2015 were focused on the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, with the theme “Post-2015 Agenda: Ensuring Indigenous Peoples’ Health and Well-being.”

- UNIC Windhoek showcased the country’s artistic cultural richness through the production of a video clip where students at the University of Namibia’s cultural festival were interviewed in their traditional attire and asked how the Government could improve the living standards of the indigenous people in the country.
- A photo and UN publications exhibition on the theme was mounted by UNIC Pretoria, where two video clips were screened, highlighting the challenges and solutions to indigenous peoples’ welfare.

- **The weekly UN page in the Beirut daily, *Al-Balad*, carried an article entitled *UN celebrates International Day of the World's Indigenous People* prepared by UNIC Beirut.**
- **UNIC Mexico conducted two interviews with the Director of the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples, and a professor from Valle del Mezquital University.**
- **UNIC Yaounde, on behalf of the UN Country Team, co-organized a ceremony with the Ministry of Social Affairs, where representatives of indigenous peoples in Cameroon highlighted achievements by the Government to improve their situation.**
- **Several UN information centres, including Brussels, Tehran and Warsaw, translated the Secretary-General's message and related information material into Greek, Farsi and Polish, and shared them widely with the media and through social media.**

**Some UN information centres produced information materials to promote the annual session of the Permanent Forum. Examples include:**

- **UNIC Lima made a set of banners in Spanish and distributed them electronically;**
- **UNIC Tokyo produced a 21st Century series video, *Suicide and Despair among Brazil's Indigenous*, with Japanese subtitles.**

e) Does your organization collect or assist with the collection of statistical data on indigenous peoples? If so, then please provide further information, including on how to access this information. **[Does not apply to DPI]**

f) Does your organization support the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations or elsewhere, in decision making processes that affect them? This includes financial support, policies on participation, consultative mechanisms, or any other initiative that promotes the participation of indigenous peoples. **[Does not apply to DPI]**

g) Any information on conferences and other meetings organized or supported by your organization on indigenous peoples for 2016 and 2017 or to which indigenous peoples will be invited to participate.

- **International expert group meeting on indigenous languages (19-21 January 2016): DPI to ensure coverage, organize a press conference and arrange media interviews.**
- **15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (May 2016 and 2017): DPI to ensure promotion, coverage and webcast; issue a press kit; organize press conferences and conduct outreach activities, including through social media platforms.**
- **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August 2016 and 2017): DPI to promote UN Headquarters event on the web and social media, organize coverage and webcast, issue a press release and arrange media interviews.**

- **Tenth anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (13 September 2017): DPI to issue a press release, promote the Declaration through Department's communications platforms including social media, and arrange media interviews.**

h) Does your organization support or have long standing partnerships (including of multi-stakeholder character, with non-UN partners of relevance to indigenous peoples, such as the private sector, academia and research centers as well as regional or national networks representing indigenous peoples) towards achieving the goals of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

**A number of UN information centres have had long-standing relationships with indigenous peoples' organizations in their respective areas. UNIC Mexico City, for instance, has been working with the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI) and the National Institute on Indigenous Languages (INALI).**

i) Does your organization include social safeguards at programmatic and project work which include a specific policy or principle on indigenous peoples? Has your organization adopted the principle of free, prior and informed consent as a requirement for project development with indigenous peoples? **[Does not apply to DPI]**

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