

Questionnaire to the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations in preparation of the 15th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The report of the Fourteenth 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 fifteenth session.

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **1 January 2016** 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

The full questionnaire can be downloaded from this site:

<http://undesadspd.org/IndigenousPeoples/UNPFIIISessions/Fifteenth/Questionnaire.asp>

[x](#)

The fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues shall be held at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 20 May 2016.

The provisional agenda for the Permanent Forum's fifteenth session includes:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.
4. Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
5. Discussion on the theme "Indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution".
6. Dialogue with indigenous peoples.
7. Dialogue with Member States.
8. Dialogue with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.
9. Coordination among the three United Nations mechanisms pertaining to indigenous peoples:
 - (a) Coordination among the three United Nations mechanisms pertaining to 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.
10. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.
11. Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session.
12. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its fifteenth session.

Questionnaire

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 Forum¹. In particular, the situation of indigenous women should be highlighted in your responses.

FAO is not working directly in conflict, peace and resolution in the seven sociocultural regions. However FAO is working firmly on indigenous peoples women empowerment. In 2015 FAO has launched together with FIMI National Programmes of leadership for indigenous women. FIMI had developed for several years the methodology of the Global schools of indigenous women and we are proud to have partnered with them to, for the first time, apply the methodology of the Global leadership school for indigenous women at the National level. In 2015, capacity building programmes started in India, Bolivia and in 2016 Peru, the Philippines, El Salvador, Panama and Paraguay are already under preparation.

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

With respect to recommendations 25, 27 and 28 in the UNPFII fourteenth session report, FAO thanks the UNPFII for commending the work of our Agency on Indigenous peoples (25) and has undertaken the following actions with respect to recommendations 27 and 28:

27. FAO has organized a series of trainings and capacity development activities targeted to indigenous peoples. These are:

- i) two regional capacity development programmes on the Voluntary Guidelines of Responsible Governance of the Tenure of Land, Natural Resources and Fisheries (VGGTs) in Central America (Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala) and Asia (India and Indonesia).
- ii) four National capacity development programmes for Indigenous Women Leadership and empowerment together with FIMI (two countries in 2015 India and Bolivia and 5 countries in 2016 Peru, The Philippines, Paraguay, Panama and El Salvador)

¹ 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.

These two large capacity development activities are co organized with Indigenous peoples organizations at the regional and national levels and are the result of the February 2015 Indigenous peoples and FAO meeting in Rome.

In February 2015 Indigenous peoples representatives coming from the seven Sociocultural regions of the World met in Rome with FAO senior management and experts from the different technical divisions to jointly agree on a four-year working plan. The resulting four years working plan <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4549e.pdf> is being co implemented by indigenous peoples and FAO. An informal caucus of seven indigenous peoples kindly agreed to monitor the implementation of this joint work plan.

FAO is coordinating with the seven indigenous peoples caucus to monitor the joint workplan. As a result of this coordination, the FAO working group on indigenous food systems requested by indigenous peoples in February 2015 has been created and started working in March 2015. Furthermore, the FAO task force on FPIC has been meeting and working in collaboration with the FAO Interdepartmental working group on Indigenous peoples.

In 2015 for the first time in FAO, an indigenous peoples organization became a member of the Steering Committee for the International Year of Soils, thus bringing the expertise and views of indigenous peoples in soil management and soil creation.

The Civil Society Mechanism representing the voices of different caucuses in the World Committee of Food Security, appointed two indigenous peoples as members of the Advisory group.

28. In Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, FAO is actively working in relief and humanitarian activities along with the rest of the UN System. FAO is actively participating in the Food Security cluster, which is co-chaired by WFP and FAO.

- (ii) What are some of the obstacles your agency has encountered in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum?

Recommendation 28 has been adequately followed by FAO with respect to the research and promotion of indigenous peoples foods and seed varieties. The multidisciplinary working group managed by FAO is working in the food composition of several indigenous foods. Many are from the Arctic region and several from the Asia region.

The main difficulty when addressing recommendation 28 to FAO lies in the ongoing debate in the Africa region about indigenous peoples.

FAO is respecting the self identification of indigenous peoples and following closely the evolution of the situation in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso.

- (iii) What are some of the drivers that facilitate your agency's implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum?

The main driver has been the involvement and work of some indigenous peoples organizations and individuals that work closely with FAO at the global, regional and national level.

The caucus of seven indigenous peoples working with FAO has had on and off engagement. Sometimes the lack of time of some of their members has delayed significantly the work and become an issue when designing activities jointly agreed in the workplan

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.

Please see the FAO indigenous peoples web site for:

i) indigenous peoples caucus

ii) FAO focal points at global, regional and national levels

iii) FAO and indigenous peoples joint workplan 2015-2018

<http://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/en/>

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**?

FAO has been a key player in the initial discussions, design and finalization of the UNSWAP on indigenous peoples. For instance, along with other UN agencies, FAO insisted in the UNSWAP being mainly practical, hands-on and focus at the country level. This approach has been kept in the final document of the SWAP. Further more, FAO will in 2016 co-chair the UN Inter Agency Support Group of Indigenous Peoples to firmly support the implementation of the UNSWAP in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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

Please see points above covering capacity development

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.

Please see our FAO web page on indigenous peoples. <http://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/en/>

Besides Videos, news and testimonials, there are two calls for indigenous peoples proposals. One to share indigenous peoples art work with FAO for our materials; the other to have indigenous peoples organizations prepare a capacity development video for indigenous peoples on the VGGTs

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.

FAO trained 17 indigenous peoples from Central and South America in the methodology of Voices of the Hungry to collect data at the community level on the perception of food insecurity in indigenous communities.

Unfortunately, the follow up and gathering of the actual data has found several difficulties that have delayed this exercise. We expect that in 2016 some of these issues will be resolved and the data for indigenous peoples will be gathered in several countries of Latin America.

Upon results in Latin America, FAO is willing to expand the training on this methodology to other regions of the World.

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.

FAO has been supporting financially the travel and participation of indigenous peoples representatives in meetings and fora related to FAO mandate both at the Global, regional and national level.

Some of these meetings are: indigenous terra madre; expert meeting in Bangkok on VGGTs and tenure of Land; sri lanka meeting on artisanal fisheries, etc...

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.

This information is not yet available since FAO close its financial biennium in December 2015 and next biennium budget is being finalized.

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?

Since 2010 FAO has been fostering partnerships with Civil Society, Academia, Private sector and Cooperatives.

In 2012, FAO adopted two new Strategies to partner with the Civil Society and the Private Sector.

Ever since, the number and depth of partnerships has multiplied significantly.

The FAO indigenous peoples team belongs to the same division and the partnership unit in FAO, the Office of Partnerships, Capacity Development and Advocacy (OPC)

For more information please see the web page: <http://www.fao.org/partnerships/en/>

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?

In 2015, FAO amended its Environmental and Social Management Guidelines and its Project cycle to incorporate Free Prior and Informed Consent as compulsory for all FAO projects, programmes and actions affecting indigenous peoples both inside the project area as well as outside the project area.

Please see: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4413e.pdf>

FAO is finalizing the training programme for FAO staff to implement FPIC in the field. This capacity development programme on FPIC is being co-designed by FAO and some of its partners in the field, such as Action Aid, Action Against Hunger, World Vision, GIZ, AECID, International Federation of Red Cross, and Plan International.

In 2016 FAO will start the training of project and programme managers in FPIC