

Questionnaire to UN system

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 and 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.
- 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”¹. Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.

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 well-being of indigenous peoples with a focus on furthering the implementation of the SWAP².

- 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 Forum³. Please also include an executive summary (600-word limit).

Executive Summary

In response to the implementation of Element 1 of the SWAP, the Department has collaborated with communications counterparts from across the UN system to raise awareness of the rights of indigenous peoples through consistent messaging and coordinated outreach. Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and the postponement or cancellation of events in 2021, these efforts have taken place as part of virtual Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) meetings. A shared

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

² 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.

³ 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 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.

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Trello board established in 2016 serves as the main tool for sharing and cross-promoting content and a range of promotional assets, such as digital cards, videos, and backgrounders, in multiple languages. High-level messaging on key issues is being developed with DESA for 2022.

During the reporting period, the Department raised awareness of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the issues therein at the global and local levels. It did so through its range of multimedia and multilingual platforms, including video, audio, web and social media, as well as via virtual seminars, an exhibit, design assets, virtual tours and briefings. The Department's global network of UN information centres (UNICs), now integrated with the UN Resident Coordinators and their offices, reached out to the media and educational institutions; engaged in partnerships with governments, civil society organizations and the private sector; and maintained libraries and electronic information resources on a wide range of indigenous issues.

The Department provided media and promotional support to the virtual marking of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August). Working in the six official languages as well as Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese, UN News produced multimedia content on the Day and a host of relevant themes, resulting in 245 stories in 2021, as follows: Arabic: 8 stories; Chinese: 12; English: 40; French: 19; Hindi: 12; Kiswahili: 33; Russian: 51; Spanish: 35; Portuguese: 35.

Coverage of the opening of the 2021 UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was augmented by [an interview](#) with Anne Nuorgam, the body's Chair, on her experiences as a young Saami girl. UN News Russian [interviewed](#) co-Chair Alexei Tsykarev as well. Coverage of the Biodiversity Summit this past September also touched on indigenous issues, as [highlighted](#) by UN News Hindi, among other teams.

Another highlight was coverage of the [strong stand](#) for climate action taken by indigenous civil society during COP26, the UN climate summit in Glasgow, with the relevant story receiving more than 4,000 pageviews across all languages. In addition a [special interview](#) with indigenous activists from Latin America was produced by UN News Spanish. UN News French produced an [audio interview](#) about the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with Patrick Saidi, the coordinator of the Dynamics of Indigenous Peoples.

As part of a collaboration with UNICs to support the Durban +20 campaign, UN News produced a [feature](#) on Brazilian activist Joênia Wapixana, the country's first indigenous lawyer and member of Congress. This story appeared on a micro-site highlighting character sketches of changemakers and anti-racism activists created by UN News in the six official UN languages. UN News Arabic produced a multimedia [feature](#) on the Nuba people and their fight to protect their customs and rights.

Also, as part of this campaign, many teams produced region-specific stories, as was the case with UN News Spanish, which produced a multimedia feature on two Mexican rappers who faced racism and discrimination for singing in their indigenous language and wearing the typical clothes of their people. UN News' Chinese team produced a [special report](#) on the inherent sacred rights of indigenous people to own land and natural resources.

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The agreement by a 46-strong group of countries across Europe to establish a new legally binding mechanism to protect environmental defenders was widely covered by UN News, as was the call by UN independent experts for ‘full-fledged investigations’ into a mass grave at an indigenous school in Canada.

UN News Kiswahili produced a story and audio interview on the thousands of indigenous people in the Republic of Congo in danger of losing their citizenship because of lost documentation, and how UNHCR’s ‘IBelong’ campaign is seeking to help them. UN News Kiswahili was also among teams that covered an FAO report on the challenges facing indigenous food systems. The Portuguese unit reported on UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet’s statement sounding the alarm about the impact of illegal mining on indigenous communities in Brazil.

DGC’s Web Services Section (WSS) maintains the website for the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples (9 August) in all six UN languages (<https://www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day>). The website provides comprehensive background information on the observance, updates on related events, messages from senior officials, stories and useful links. The website receives on average 200,000 page views.

The UN’s flagship social media accounts covered a range of issues related to indigenous peoples in the six official languages plus Hindi, Kiswahili, and Portuguese. These included posts on the International Day and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and promoting actions undertaken towards the 2030 Agenda. The hashtag *#WeAreIndigenous* resonated on social media platforms in multiple languages, resulting in the following analytics: Engagement on mentions were 380.7k (Twitter 237.6k, Instagram 126.3k, Facebook 15.2k, LinkedIn 806, YouTube 612, blogs 51).

DGC’s outreach efforts also focused on the production and curation of, and access to, paper and digital publications, briefings and virtual tours and an exhibit: The Yearbook of the United Nations regularly covers the human rights of indigenous peoples along with related Human Rights Council action, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as well as relevant high-level meetings and other UN efforts.

The United Nations iLibrary (un-ilibrary.org) continues to provide user-friendly, fully searchable access to digital content on indigenous peoples in all official UN languages, including the UN Declaration and DESA’s *State of the World’s Indigenous Peoples* (5th edition).

The Dag Hammarskjöld Library maintains a research guide on indigenous issues (<http://research.un.org/en/indigenous>), including a collection of key UN documents related to the UN Declaration and the Permanent Forum.

To mark this year’s International Day, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Visitors Services in New York held an online event to showcase indigenous culture through film, dance, song, and artworks on display at UN Headquarters. The event featured the Mola Tapestry in the General Assembly building, which was made by a collective of Kuna/Guna women and donated by Panama. Viewers were also guided around works gifted to the UN by other Member States: the Inukshuk by Kellypalik Pishuktie, from Canada; the Tukutuku panels,

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by Christina Wirihana and the Māori Weavers of Te Roopu Raranga Whatu o Aoteara, from New Zealand; and the Kusikawsay by Mario Opazo, from Colombia.

The Department's Exhibits Unit launched the online exhibit *World in Faces* on 26 April to coincide with the Twentieth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The exhibition showcases the incredible diversity of indigenous cultures throughout the world via portraits of individuals from different parts of the globe in their traditional clothing and environment. It was created and organized by the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and supported by DESA.

UNICs continue to reach out to the media and educational institutions; engage in partnerships with governments as well as local civil society and the private sector; and maintain libraries and electronic information resources on a wide range of indigenous issues. During the reporting period, this included the following:

- UNIC Bogotá - A radio programme was carried out with the participation of the UNIC, UNESCO and representatives of media or indigenous groups in Bolivia, Colombia and Ecuador. Discussants explored the activities of community radio stations broadcasting in indigenous languages and the role they play in the recovery and strengthening of indigenous languages. (Feb 2021)
- UNRIC Brussels – Published an article for International Mother Tongue Day on the status of the mother tongue of the Inuit in Greenland (Feb 2021) and another article in Italian on the drafting process for the global action plan that will serve as the framework of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.
- UNIC Pretoria - Partnered with a community library and a local municipality in South Africa to commemorate International Mother Language Day with a virtual event on 17 February 2021. Secondary school students recited Xitsonga poems and spoke in a mixture of other languages about how languages contribute to inclusive education and promote cultural diversity and intercultural dialogues fostering peace and development (March 2021).
- UNIC Rio de Janeiro produced, recorded and edited a video with Brazilian indigenous leader Joênia Wapixana, about the 20th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The video's Portuguese and English versions were shared on social media as part of the DDPA+20 campaign. (August 2021)
- UNRIC Brussels supported the public information efforts of two of its partners, FAO and the Holy See, to inform the public about the convening of a global seminar, jointly organized by Costa Rica, FAO and the Vatican, to gauge the impact of climate change on indigenous peoples of African descent and migrants. (May 2021)

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.

To mark the International Day, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth partnered with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus and the Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change to highlight the work of indigenous youth who are leading the way in fighting for a more sustainable future for all and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in their communities. The article, entitled "[Meet 13 Young Indigenous Rights Activists](#)", was shared across the Office's social media channels.

With the aim of leaving no youth behind, the Office prioritizes amplifying the voices, work, and solutions of young people across the globe, with a special focus on young persons from marginalized and vulnerable communities. With that in mind, the Office spotlighted indigenous youth across sustainable development, peace and security, human rights, and humanitarian action. This included, but was not limited to, indigenous youth participating in events organized by the Office throughout 2021. For example, three indigenous young people spoke at the plenary sessions of the Youth Forum of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) 2021 and were later spotlighted on the website of the Office and social media, under the theme "[Meet 23 Young People Leading Resilient Recovery in the Decade of Action](#)"

D. COVID-19 pandemic

- i. 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.

Due to limitations presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021 a focus was placed on virtual and hybrid events, including through:

UN News teams continued to focus on the pandemic's impact on indigenous peoples, with teams covering a [debate](#) in the UN Human Rights Council that focused on vulnerable groups and the multiple shocks being faced by indigenous women and children. UN News Chinese was also among language units covering [a story](#) by UN independent rights experts calling for the protection of indigenous rights amid the pandemic.

The [#YouthLead Innovation Festival](#) took place on 12-13 August 2021. In celebration of International Youth Day, the festival presented an opportunity for young people to showcase youth-led solutions for the achievement of the SDGs and recovery from the pandemic. It brought young innovators and solution-makers together with UN offices, policymakers, and industry leaders. Indigenous youth presented solutions and engaged in multistakeholder dialogues at the food security and climate sessions.

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UNIC Rio de Janeiro produced a story about indigenous youths who created a cartoon to teach children how to prevent themselves from COVID-19. The piece was translated to English and published on UN websites. (September 2021)

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Thank you very much

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.