

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 the 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 within 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 intergovernmental 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) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The responses will be compiled into a report for the 2024 session of the Permanent Forum. 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/>

Please note that the term “Indigenous Peoples” must be capitalized as per the UN Editorial Manual.

If you have any objections to your response being made available on our website, please inform our office accordingly.

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **15 November 2023** 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
Email: indigenous_un@un.org and requesens@un.org

Questionnaire

Please also include an **executive summary** of your inputs to the 3 main questions above (strict 500-word limit) which will be used for our compilation report submitted to the 2024 session of the PFII.

Please provide information on the following:

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2024 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.

In the context of advancing the realization of linguistic and cultural rights of Indigenous Peoples, in 2023, local authorities, local Indigenous Peoples representatives and UN-Habitat set up the first [Indigenous One Stop Youth Resource Centre in Otavalo, Ecuador](#).

One Stop Youth Centres offer safe spaces in urban settings where Indigenous (and non-Indigenous) youth can meet, access information and resources about their cultural traditions, and use youth-targeted services. It is also a space where the use of Indigenous language is promoted among young persons in the community.

The local authorities in Otavalo also partnered with UN-Habitat to accredit the Otavlango Living Museum as an [IntegrHa-bitat Centre](#) – a centre that promotes Indigenous culture and traditions, social inclusion and community empowerment for inclusive neighbourhood transformation.

This project was developed based on the recommendations of Indigenous Youth activists that promote public space as means to preserve the history of their communities.

ii. The theme of the 2024 PFII session is “Enhancing Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – emphasizing the voice of Indigenous Youth. Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.

UN-Habitat emphasized the voices of Indigenous Youth during a side event at the 2023 PFII on Indigenous Youth as key change makers for urban climate resilience. The premise of the workshop was the [Indigenous Peoples and the City Declaration](#) adopted on the sidelines of the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador in 2016. The Declaration emphasizes the inclusion and recognition of Indigenous Peoples in urban planning and development. It reaffirms commitments from previous international conferences and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, highlighting the need for Indigenous

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participation in decision-making, respect for their cultural knowledge in urban planning, and addressing challenges faced by Indigenous Youth, Women, and Communities in urban environments. It also urges Member States to align public policies and budgets with the protection and promotion of Indigenous Rights.

During the event, four Indigenous Youth activists outlined their concerns around how climate change is currently being addressed, shared examples of their activism and gave clear recommendations around what the international community should be doing to stop climate change more effectively.

Recommendations included:

- *Indigenous Peoples should benefit directly from climate funding rather than going through intermediaries;*
- *Indigenous Youth at the grassroots level should be supported so that they can work with their communities to build capacity about the impacts and causes of climate change;*
- *The work Indigenous Youth are already doing should be amplified;*
- *Indigenous Youth must be able to participate in global research on climate action so that they can contribute to the identification of solutions;*
- *The local solutions and innovations that Indigenous Youth already practice should be considered in the formulation of climate adaptation and resilience policies;*
- *Networking between national and local governments, civil society, Indigenous Youth and the UN system is important to create and maintain connections and common approaches;*
- *Tools for the promotion of the voices of Indigenous Youth developed / co-developed by Indigenous Youth should be used by all;*
- *All international agreements and policies and all levels must be based on the participation of Indigenous Youth;*
- *Inter-generational exchanges should be promoted to ensure that traditions and ways of life are maintained and promoted: Indigenous Youth are the bridge that preserves ancestral ways of life.*

Additionally, youth representative of the Kichwa Otavalo, Lenin Zambrano, joined the UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board.

iii. Please provide information on efforts to ensure the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the international decades declared by the General Assembly, such as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development,” the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and other relevant international decades and processes, including CEDAW General recommendation 39 on Indigenous women and girls.

The Youth 2030 Cities programme seeks to advance the achievement of the Decade of Action through engaging Indigenous Youth in the localization of the SDGs. Indigenous Peoples and their communities are a key focus of the programme.

iv. Has your entity responded to the 2022 UNPFII recommendation¹ paragraph 85... *The Permanent Forum urges all United Nations entities and States parties to treaties concerning the environment, biodiversity and the climate to eliminate the use of the term “local*

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communities” in conjunction with indigenous peoples, so that the term “indigenous peoples and local communities” would be abolished.

If yes, please explain your response in further detail.

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 SWAP¹.

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 2024 session. Please provide an analysis of actions taken by your agency, fund and/or programme on the six key elements of the SWAP, since your last update to the Forum².

Since the last update in 2023, UN-Habitat has continued to engage with SWAP as follows:

- *Raising awareness of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
 - *Social media engagement;*
 - *Press releases and news stories on the importance of participation of Indigenous Peoples in urban decision-making.*
 - *Online promotion of partner materials on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.*
- *Incorporated indigenous issues into programming to implement the 2030 Agenda*
 - *UN-Habitat’s Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit worked with Regional and Country teams on all project proposals to ensure the rights*

¹ Reporting on the activities to implement the CEB Call to Action is through task groups and should not be included in the responses to this questionnaire.

² 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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of Indigenous Peoples are appropriately considered at all stages of projects.

- *Development of programmes such as Youth 2030 Cities which address the rights of Indigenous Youth and their communities and facilitate their engagement in the localization and achievement of the SDGs.*

C. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

i. Please describe any activities your entity has organized since the last reporting period to accelerate progress across a range of SDGs, demonstrating the interlinkages across goals and targets and if applicable, providing examples of translating global goals into local actions. In your response, please consider referring to SDGs relevant to the theme of the 2023 session of the Forum.

In 2023, UN-Habitat promoted and supported the rights of Indigenous Peoples throughout its projects and programmes.

As a field example, in Guinea-Bissau, UN-Habitat partnered with Indigenous Peoples and local and national authorities on a project on inclusive, peaceful land management in areas of conflict around land borders. This involved the facilitation of discussions between parties disagreeing over land boundaries, participatory workshops on land, zoning and interventions for priority community development in the future, which were consolidated into local Territorial Development Plans to ensure that the rights and views of Indigenous Peoples are appropriately reflected. These activities resulted in the delivery of Land Recognition Plans and Titles. Trainings on land rights and mediation, non-violence communication and awareness-raising also took place at the level of the local authorities.

In terms of high level events, an Indigenous Youth representative participated in the High Level Dialogue on multi-level governance and SDG localization during the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023.

ii. Please describe any activities your entity organized in support of the 2023 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.

UN-Habitat, in cooperation with its partners such as United Cities and Local Governments, has done extensive research on Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to support local and national governments worldwide with localizing the SDGs and carrying out reviews at the local level. This has resulted in, for example, a Handbook on Building Participatory Accountability Systems for City Policies, guidebooks, and toolboxes.

To strengthen multi-level governance for SDG implementation, UN-Habitat also directly assists national and local governments to better articulate their efforts to monitor and report

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on the SDGs, specifically looking at enhancing the link between VLRs and VNRs. In 2023 for example, UN-Habitat worked with the Cities of Brisbane (Australia) and Puriscal (Costa Rica), ensuring that the rights of Indigenous Peoples were reported on.

ANNEX 1

Agenda of the twenty-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Twentieth-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled to take place from **17 to 28 April 2023**

Provisional Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion on the theme “Indigenous peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach”.
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;
 - (f) Dialogue on indigenous platforms established within United Nations entities;
 - (g) Thematic dialogues;
6. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and emerging issues.
7. Provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the Permanent Forum.
8. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its twenty-second session.