

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 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) 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

Subject: Response to SWAP questionnaire

Questionnaire to UN system

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.

- Following the last update to the Forum in 2022, the World Food Programme undertook a number of different initiatives in country offices across the regional bureaus to further advance the agency's work with Indigenous Peoples. The regional assessments which were discussed in the previous update are now widely shared across the agency and serve as guidance for country offices undertaking similar assessments.
- WFP co-authored a **Special Report** with the Latin American regional focal points of the Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems Coalition titled *Towards an Intercultural Approach to School Meals in the Region* in the [State of School Feeding in Latin America and the Caribbean](#). The report was launched in August 2023 at a high-level event, the *Power of Human Capital* in Brasilia where the issues were also addressed during a moderated session.
- An MOU with the University of Kalemie was extended to develop an in-depth assessment on the situation of the Twa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to address livelihoods and vulnerabilities to food insecurity and inform programming.
- WFP's Indigenous Peoples evidence-based assessments collection continues to grow and includes an assessment on the Naga in Myanmar.
- WFP participates in the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) and supports the working group on the System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) Indicators.
- WFP organized a side event at the 2023 Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues with other Rome-based agencies (RBAs) and FILAC, titled *La resiliencia de los Pueblos Indígenas frente a las crisis mundiales* to generate dialogue on the transformation of food systems, climate change adaptation, and water.
- WFP collaborated with its Disability Inclusion team and Trinity College Dublin on panel discussions for the General Day of Discussion of the Committee of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Conference of State Parties to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on events focusing on reaching under-represented groups of persons with disabilities in efforts to combat hunger. .

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

Questionnaire to UN system

publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.

Findings in WFP's evidence-based assessments highlight the exclusion of Indigenous youth in decision-making processes at the community-level and beyond.

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.

- In accordance with the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, WFP Somalia's Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) is available in minority language dialects. In Myanmar, helplines and communication between communities and WFP take place in Indigenous languages as well.
- Additionally, in the Latin America and Caribbean region, WFP field officers expressed interest in language capacity strengthening to ensure better communication with project participants and partners, and to further increase trust among communities. This request and recommendation emerged from a study in partnership with *the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean* (FILAC) looking at barriers Indigenous persons face in accessing employment in WFP, in addition to sensitization workshops on Indigenous Peoples.
- In response to CEDAW General recommendation 39 on Indigenous women and girls and in support of the IASG, WFP sent out an open call to WFP staff to translate the General Recommendation 39 to Indigenous languages.

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

WFP seeks to respond to the recommendation through this means. WFP does not use the term local communities in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples to address issues concerning biodiversity, climate and the environment. WFP adheres to the recommendation and specifies communities by name to ensure clear, precise, and accurate communication in official documents and communication.

If yes, please explain your response in further detail.

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.

¹ E/2022/43-E/C.19/2022/11

Questionnaire to UN system

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 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 Forum³.

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that WFP's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean signed with FILAC in August 2022 is framed within SDGs 2 and 17. In addition to the MOU, a Field Level Agreement (FLA) was signed to undertake initiatives focused on awareness raising and capacity development of WFP employees.
- These include: 1) a diagnostic study on the barriers Indigenous persons face in accessing employment in WFP followed by recommendations to address shortcomings; and 2) a series of awareness raising and sensitization workshops on engagement with Indigenous Peoples for WFP personnel across country offices in LAC. Moreover, a capacity strengthening workshop was held with the country directors in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Bureau on engagement with Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants.
- In recognition of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2023, the Assistant Executive Director affirmed WFP's commitment to strengthening the participation, inclusion, and engagement with Indigenous Peoples across the agency's areas of work. WFP Myanmar held events in Nagaland and Pankam in celebration of the day, sharing key messages in the local language and encouraging intergenerational exchange between youth and elders on Indigenous knowledge and practices in the community.
- In honor of the International Year of Millet, WFP held a webinar with organizations from India and Australia to share practices in millet use and consumption based on Indigenous knowledge and practices.
- WFP issued an internal *Focus Group Discussion Guidance* for assessments on the livelihoods and food security of Indigenous Peoples, as well as a supplemental piece to the existing FPIC guidance, on *WFP Country Office Experiences with FPIC*; demonstrating how FPIC has been applied in different contexts.
- WFP updated its Programme Guidance Manual to enable better engagement with Indigenous Peoples throughout the programme cycle.
- WFP initiated a case study collection highlighting projects that work with Indigenous Peoples' communities in Latin America and Caribbean focusing on impact and lessons learned.
- WFP is set to complete a Position Paper on engagement with Indigenous Peoples for the Latin America and Caribbean region by December 2023.
- Funding has been secured for three countries in Asia to sensitize and strengthen staff capacity to work with Indigenous Peoples with activities set to take place in 2024.

Questionnaire to UN system

- WFP's internal Indigenous Peoples Website is regularly updated with resources, assessments, guidance, news stories, etc. and its Community of Practice is composed of WFP personnel working on Indigenous Peoples initiatives. The group is to encourage further collaboration across teams and to exchange work with Indigenous Peoples.
- Throughout the year, articles on WFP's work with Indigenous Peoples have been shared externally through WFP's public pages as well as through national media outlets such as the [Hindustan Times](#).
- WFP is a strong supporter and member of the Indigenous Peoples Food Systems Coalition.
- A diversity equity and inclusion focal point is working with Latin America and Caribbean Regional Bureau to advance the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants among others across the region's areas of work.
- In the Cambodia country office, an Inclusion Committee was formed to provide a strategic direction on inclusion and strengthen skills and capacities to better address persons with a disability, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth.
- In partnership with the office of the Guatemalan Vice-president and in coordination with the Women's Association for the Development of Sacatepéquez, the International Organization of Migration, and the US Agency for International Development, WFP hosted two Indigenous women interns in the country office over a two-month period to support the Programme teams. This short-term internship programme has served as a model for future internship opportunities in country offices as well as regionally.
- WFP contributed to the RBA Brochure on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples.
- WFP also ensured their engagement and attendance at the Global Indigenous Youth Forum and met with the President of the Sámi Parliament along with other RBA heads of Indigenous Peoples' units and country representatives to RBAs to discuss the role of Indigenous Peoples in food systems transformation.
- WFP co-moderated with FAO the Special Session on Indigenous Peoples during the Food Systems Summit Stocktaking in July 2023.
- A case study *Preserving Indigenous people's cultural heritage through resilience building showcasing non-economic loss and damage in the context of climate change* was included in the [Practical Action for Addressing Loss and Damage](#) publication by the Scottish government.

B. 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 2024 session of the Forum.

WFP works, in a wide range of different countries and contexts, on assessments that gather data on Indigenous issues, and that identify the drivers of food insecurity. It uses that information to inform its strategies and approaches. Advocacy and awareness raising at the corporate level have also been key factors in addressing these gaps. Moreover, the Latin America and

Questionnaire to UN system

Caribbean Bureau has identified work with Indigenous Peoples as a priority area for the region and is developing a Position Paper on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples for the region. Ensuring the inclusion of Indigenous women in rural empowerment programmes are also steps to greater engagement of women as agricultural producers and leaders.

ii. Please describe any activities your entity organized in support of the 2023 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and SDG Summit and/or reports and activities that supported SDG reporting and monitoring or a **VNR process** at the national, regional, or global level.

Following the focus of the 2023 High Level Political Forum on SDGs 6,7, 9, 11, and 17, WFP has concentrated its efforts in SDG 17. Through its partnership with FILAC in LAC, the University of Kalemie, the Odisha Millet Mission, among others, WFP demonstrates how various types of partnerships, driven by Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge contribute to achieving the SDGs. In addition to external partnerships, WFP continues to work alongside the RBAs and UN agencies to achieve the SDGs while guarding UN Normative Frameworks and improving engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

Reminder: 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.

WFP continues to expand its Indigenous Peoples Portfolio and commitment to Indigenous Peoples through cross-cutting activities, assessments, and projects across the regions, focused on food security, improved livelihoods and nutrition. Through its assessments, WFP identifies the drivers to food insecurity and the barriers to inclusion. The findings from the evidence-based assessments inform WFP approaches and the country strategic plans and are helping create pathways to improved engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

The Latin America and Caribbean Regional Bureau and the Asia and the Pacific Regional Bureau have solidified their commitment to working with Indigenous Peoples through partnerships with Indigenous Peoples organizations as well as secured funding to sensitize and strengthen staff capacity. These efforts have led to the design of a position paper to be launched in December 2023. Projects range from economic empowerment of Indigenous women in Guatemala and capacity strengthening of smallholder farmers in Ecuador to climate change adaptation practices in Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities at the border of Ecuador and Colombia. In the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, country offices continue to advance their work with Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Cambodia, Philippines, Myanmar, and India. The creation of an inclusion committee in Cambodia will contribute to the strategic development of the country office's work addressing Indigenous Peoples, among others. In Myanmar, the country office continues to strengthen its ties with Indigenous communities in the Nagaland, tailoring assistance to cultural practices and preferences in alignment with FPIC processes.

WFP continues to build new tools and guidance for its staff to improve data collection and

Questionnaire to UN system

overall engagement with Indigenous Peoples. The issuance of Focus Group Discussion Guidelines and a collection of country office experiences with FPIC, as well as a case study collection contribute to the organization's internal capacity strengthening.

As an active member of the Indigenous Food Systems Coalition, Rome Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples, and Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, WFP engages in regular exchange and dialogue with the UN family to ensure the integration of Indigenous Peoples across all mandates.

² 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.

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.

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 **15 to 26 April 2024**

Provisional Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion on the theme “Enhancing Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: emphasizing the voices of Indigenous youth”.
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 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. Dialogues:
 - (a) Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples; E/2023/43 E/C.19/2023/7 23-08492 5/24
 - (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; annual review of progress on the implementation of general recommendation No. 39 (2022);
- € Regional dialogues;
 - (f) Dialogue on Indigenous platforms established within United Nations entities;
 - (g) Thematic dialogues, including on the financing of Indigenous Peoples’ work and participation in the context of, inter alia, development, climate, environment and biodiversity.
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-fourth session of the Permanent Forum.
8. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its twenty-third session. -