

## Questionnaire to UN system

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World Health Organization (WHO)

Contributions to the Report of the  
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
Twenty-Third Session, 2024

## Questionnaire to UN system

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### **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.*

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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](mailto:indigenous_un@un.org)

Subject: Response to SWAP questionnaire

### Executive summary

Member States participating in the 76th Session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted the [Resolution 76.16 on the Health of Indigenous Peoples](#). This groundbreaking Resolution represents the first time the WHA has addressed the health disparities faced by Indigenous Peoples globally. The Resolution outlines specific calls to Member States, relevant actors, and WHO Director-General, emphasizing consultation with Indigenous Peoples and their free, prior, and informed consent. Notably, it mandates the development of a Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous Peoples (GPA), set to be presented at the 79<sup>th</sup> WHA in 2026.

The Human Rights Unit of the Gender, Human Rights, and Health Equity Department in WHO/HQ, spearheads the implementation of the Resolution 76.16. WHO is committed to applying a human rights-based approach, ensuring a meaningful consultative process with Indigenous Peoples at every stage of the GPA's development. This commitment aims to incorporate Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and cosmovision from the outset.

Since the adoption of the Resolution 76.16, WHO Secretariat has initiated the production of a global situation analysis on the health of Indigenous Peoples for the GPA and set up a dedicated webpage to communicate progress. At the time of submission of this report (November 2023), a consultative mechanisms to engage Indigenous Peoples in the process to develop the GPA was being designed.

In alignment with WHO's commitment to scale up efforts for the advancement of Indigenous Peoples' health globally and to support collective initiatives promoting Indigenous Peoples' rights, and the implementation of the SWAP, WHO is pleased to serve in the role of co-chair to the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) on indigenous issues in 2024. In this capacity, WHO aims to collectively advance the health agenda for Indigenous Peoples.

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In the realm of health, well-being, and planetary health, WHO takes an active stance in promoting the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples. These perspectives serve as fundamental pillars in WHO's efforts to address the triple planetary crisis encompassing biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution. WHO supports the involvement of Indigenous Peoples in shaping and implementing holistic, multi-stakeholder approaches to health and sustainable development. This commitment is evidenced in a range of activities, including consultations, capacity-building workshops, webinars, the establishment of strategic partnerships, and active participation in global UN processes such as Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, among others. WHO's dedication extends further to include the collaborative co-design and publication of reports that address Indigenous health, traditional knowledge, and traditional medicine. Furthermore, WHO places a strong emphasis on ensuring that the voices of youth, including Indigenous youth, are integrated in the co-development of inclusive, equitable, and sustainable planetary health solutions.

The first [WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit](#), entitled "Towards health and well-being for all" also promoted the participation of the Indigenous Peoples. The outcome of the summit was marked by the [Gujarat Declaration](#), formulated with the participation of Indigenous Peoples and endorsed a series of recommendations, encompassing key considerations on the integration of biodiversity and sustainability, as well as the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights.

WHO appreciates the opportunity to submit this report and expresses its commitment to advancing Indigenous Peoples' health globally in collaboration with the UNPFII.

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### Questionnaire

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 UNPFII.

The World Health Organization (WHO) welcomes the recommendations of the 22nd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and would like to provide the following information regarding the measures taken or planned in response.

UNPFII recommendation	The Permanent Forum urges Member States and United Nations entities, in particular WHO, to recognize that Indigenous views of human and planetary health must be central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and emphasizes the central need to stabilize and regenerate the biosphere as essential for protecting humanity.
	<p>WHO has actively promoted the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' perspectives at the core of actions addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis—intersecting biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution. This is realized through consultations, capacity-building activities, and partnerships, as well as in the drafting of reports. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the participation of Indigenous Peoples, WHO organized a Side Meeting for the 15th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) focusing on <a href="#">Health, Climate and Biodiversity: Mainstreaming biodiversity and climate solutions for sustainable and healthy food system</a>.</li> <li>• Under the umbrella of <i>WHO - International Union for the Conservation of Nature (WHO-IUCN) Expert working group on Biodiversity, Climate, One Health and Nature-based Solutions</i>, the first “<a href="#">Global Workshop on biodiversity, traditional knowledges and health</a>” was held in Brazil, Rio de Janeiro in</li> </ul>

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	<p>July 2023 with the participation of Indigenous Peoples and members from the UNPFII.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first <a href="#">WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit</a>, entitled "<i>Towards health and well-being for all</i>," took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India, in August 2023. The culmination of Summit was marked by the <a href="#">Gujarat Declaration</a>, which was drafted with the participation of Indigenous Peoples and endorsed a series of recommendations, encompassing key considerations on the integration of biodiversity and sustainability, as well as the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights.</li> <li>• In relation to nutrition and food safety, WHO has taken it as a priority to promote healthy and sustainable diets, including for Indigenous Peoples. This implies that food systems need to be transformed to ensure human and planetary health. With this view, all efforts are focused in emphasizing the relationship between health and nature in all related activities, events and <a href="#">publications</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>UNPFII Recommendation</p>	<p>The Permanent Forum calls upon Member States and United Nations entities, particularly WHO, to adopt indigeneity as an overarching determinant of health, including in relation to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and in policies and practices across the United Nations system.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO takes note of this recommendation for the elaboration of the World Report on Social Determinants of Health Equity, which is expected to be launched in 2024.</li> <li>• In regard to Indigenous Peoples and disability, the <a href="#">Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities</a> recognizes that Indigenous persons with disabilities experience health inequities and marginalization. The report highlights the importance of indigeneity and the additional barriers that Indigenous Peoples face in terms of access to health care services. The report also highlights that achieving the SDGs requires the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and especially those at a high risk of marginalization such as Indigenous Peoples with disabilities.</li> </ul>

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<p>UNPFII Recommendation</p>	<p>The Permanent Forum recommends that WHO establish a high-level consultative body with representatives of Indigenous Peoples to guide its work on human and planetary health. The Permanent Forum calls upon WHO to adopt an Indigenous Peoples policy and mandate to approach the health of Indigenous Peoples in all its regions.</p>
	<p>With respect to the call to WHO to adopt an Indigenous Peoples policy and mandate to approach the health of Indigenous Peoples in all its regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Member States participating in the 76th Session of the World Health Assembly in May 2023 adopted the <a href="#">Resolution 76.16 on the Health of Indigenous Peoples</a>. This groundbreaking Resolution has specific calls to Member States, to relevant actors and specific requests to WHO Director-General (DG), all to be implemented in consultation with Indigenous Peoples, with their free, prior and informed consent. The Resolution specially calls the DG to develop a Global Plan of Action for the health of Indigenous Peoples (GPA) in consultation with Member States, Indigenous Peoples, United Nations and multilateral system agencies, as well as civil society, academia and other key actors. The GPA is called to be presented at the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly in 2026. The Resolution 76.16 is a historic one, marking the first time the World Health Assembly has passed a resolution specifically addressing the health disparities faced by Indigenous Peoples worldwide.</li> <li>• The implementation of the Resolution 76.16 is led by the Human Rights Unit of the Gender, Human Rights and Health Equity (GRE) Department under the Director-General's Office in WHO/HQ. WHO is committed to applying a human rights-based approach to the development of the GPA and to ensure a meaningful consultative process with Indigenous Peoples in all stages of its development so that their perspectives and cosmovision are incorporated from the outset. At the time of submission of this report (November 2023), the mechanisms for consultation were being designed.</li> <li>• Since the adoption of the Resolution 76.16, the Secretariat has been dedicated to undertaking the following steps:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Developed a webpage page to communicate progress in the implementation of the Resolution (under development).</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

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	<p>b) Initiated the production of a global situation analysis on the health of Indigenous Peoples for the GPA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the time of submission of this report (November 2023), the Resolution 76.16 was unfunded and the immediate next steps taken by the Secretariat toward building the Global Action Plan involve seeking fundraising opportunities for securing the necessary financial resources for its implementation. ,</li> <li>• WHO will also serve as co-chair to the IASG in 2024 and will scale up the work on Indigenous issues across the three levels of the organization, ensuring the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples.</li> </ul>
	<p>The Permanent Forum acknowledges the progress made on its recommendation to FAO and WHO to revise the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management to include Indigenous Peoples' views. The Permanent Forum urges FAO and WHO to develop guidance notes on the risk of pesticide use in Indigenous Peoples' territories in consultation with Indigenous Peoples.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the 16th FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM)<sup>1</sup> held in November 2023, the JMPM panel members, in conjunction with the FAO and WHO Secretariat, agreed on the need to integrate a human rights-based approach to pesticide management within the JMPM's work. This included the incorporation of the rights and views of Indigenous Peoples and gender mainstreaming in the JMPM's activities.</li> <li>• The JMPM and FAO and WHO Secretariat welcomed the UNPFII recommendation to revise the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (CoC), incorporating the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples. Important progress has been achieved, FAO and WHO have initiated a series of</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>The FAO/WHO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management (JMPM) advises on matters pertaining to pesticide regulation, management and use, and alerts to new developments, problems or issues that otherwise merit attention. The JMPM combines the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management and the WHO Panel of Experts on Vector Biology and Control. Both are statutory bodies of their respective Organizations. Panel Members are internationally recognized specialists who serve in personal capacity.



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	<p>meetings with Indigenous Peoples' organizations, notably the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), to exchange information on the impacts of pesticides on Indigenous Peoples' health and their lands and natural resources. Discussions also centred on how Indigenous Peoples' can contribute and engage in the work of the JMPM. FAO and WHO further engaged with the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights, as well as the Chair of the UNPFII, to discuss the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' issues in the CoC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The JMPM is also working on the development of a Guidance Note on Pesticide Management in Indigenous Peoples' territories, follow up actions in this regard include the establishment of a working group within the JMPM. This group will draw upon reports produced by human rights mechanisms related to Indigenous Peoples and a background document produced by the IITC on pesticides and the rights of Indigenous Peoples. This document highlights the adverse impacts of pesticides on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, identifies shortcomings in the existing normative framework and in the implementation of regulations at the national level, responds to the call from UN human rights bodies and experts for policy change, and includes testimonies from Indigenous Peoples. For the development of the Guidance Note, FAO and WHO will ensure meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples throughout the process.</li></ul>
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- 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.
- On the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2023, WHO convened a webinar on 9 August on [Indigenous Peoples' leadership for integrated, holistic approaches to health and well-being](#) with the purpose of highlighting the leadership by and for Indigenous Peoples in the health sector, as well as for activities across sectors on key determinants of health such as nutrition and environmental health.
  - WHO has taken action to ensure that the voices of Indigenous youth are present in initiatives addressing climate change. In this regard, a series of webinars has taken place with the participation of Indigenous Peoples, particularly Indigenous youth. At the time of submission of this report, the WHO Secretariat was in the process of preparing a report on nature-based solutions and health for the UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 28), with inclusion of recommendations related to ensuring the meaningful participation of Indigenous youth.
  - At the time of submission of this report, a policy brief for UNFCCC COP 28 specifically addressing biodiversity and Indigenous health was also being developed, for publication in December 2023. The policy brief will draw from the systematic umbrella review on climate change and Indigenous Peoples' health and well-being commissioned by WHO to the University of Waterloo and from the recommendations from the “[Global Workshop on biodiversity, traditional knowledges and health](#)” held in Brazil in July 2023.
  - In relation to nutrition and food safety, WHO is organizing a side event at the Food4Climate Pavilion during the UNFCCC COP28 on the importance of dietary transition, featuring the participation of Indigenous youth.
  - With regard to Indigenous Peoples and diabetes, WHO maintains an ongoing engagement with non-state actors through the [Global Diabetes Compact Forum](#). This Forum includes research groups that actively prioritize meaningful participation with Indigenous Peoples in diabetes research among Indigenous populations. WHO is in the early stages of planning a potential Diabetes Summit in 2024, where Indigenous health will be featured as a key area.

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- 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.
- WHO is committed to ensuring the ongoing and active participation of Indigenous Peoples in all activities related to supporting the UN Decades. This includes, for example, contributing dedicated key messages and sections in the upcoming report on Nature-based Solutions and Health, as well as participating in activities with the WHO-IUCN Expert Working Group on Biodiversity, Climate Change, and One Health.
  - WHO South-East Asia Regional Office has provided technical support to country offices and has promoted the participation of diverse population groups, including Indigenous Peoples, in actions related to the international decades declared by the General Assembly.
  - WHO is planning a series of dialogues to commemorate the end of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), scheduled for 2024. The engagement of Indigenous Peoples will be facilitated through the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSIPM) of the Committee on World Food Security.
- iv. Has your entity responded to the 2022 UNPFII recommendation<sup>2</sup> 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.*
- WHO is committed to promoting the implementation of the individual and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples as recognized in international human rights law, including the UNDRIP. The recent [WHA Resolution 76.16 on the Health of Indigenous Peoples](#) and the Regional [Policy for the Americas on Ethnicity and Health \(CSP29/7, Rev. 1\)](#) and its [Strategy and Plan of Action 2019-2025 \(CD57/13, Rev. 1\)](#) are anchored in the provisions of the UNDRIP.
  - In response to the recommendation of the UNPFII to refrain from conflating or equating Indigenous Peoples with non-Indigenous peoples or entities, including “local

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<sup>2</sup> E/2022/43-E/C.19/2022/11

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communities,” WHO has widely circulated this recommendation among WHO technical programs in HQ, regional and country offices.

- WHO remains attentive to ensure that issues addressing Indigenous Peoples in forthcoming publications and policy briefs distinguished between Indigenous Peoples and “local communities” as a separate category of rights holders. For example, the [Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with disabilities](#) takes a human rights-based approach and it provides information about the health inequities that Indigenous persons with disabilities experience and call for action to address them. In particular, concerning the environment, biodiversity and the climate, WHO is mindful that according to the human rights normative framework, Indigenous Peoples should be explicitly distinguished from “local communities” as a distinct identity, status and rights.

### **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 SWAP.<sup>3</sup>

- 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 Forum<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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

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### Strengthening collaboration with the IASG for implementing the SWAP on Indigenous Peoples

- WHO promotes a human rights-based approach to Indigenous issues and the implementation of the elements of the SWAP on Indigenous Peoples across the three levels of the organization. Within the Interagency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG), WHO participates in the working group dedicated to developing indicators for the SWAP on Indigenous Peoples. The establishment of an indicator system for monitoring the UN's efforts in implementing the SWAP presents a unique opportunity to enhance transparency, establish baselines, collect data, and ensure accountability for advancing its elements and achieving the ends of the UNDRIP.
- In alignment with WHO's commitment to scale up efforts for the advancement of Indigenous Peoples' health globally and to support collective initiatives promoting the human rights and well-being of Indigenous Peoples, and the implementation of the SWAP, WHO is pleased to undertake the role of co-chair to the IASG in 2024-. In this capacity, WHO aims to advance the health agenda for Indigenous Peoples as we progress in the implementation of Resolution 76.16 (mentioned in section A), and in particular in the development of the GPA.

### Action taken on the key elements of the UN SWAP on Indigenous Peoples

#### Raise awareness of the UNDRIP

- The outcome document of the first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit in 2023, the "[Gujarat Declaration](#)", explicitly acknowledges the need to fully recognize, respect, and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as outlined in the UNDRIP, including the right to self-determination, the right to lands and territories, the right to free, prior, and informed consent, among others.
- WHO takes the opportunity to raise awareness of the UNDRIP and to ensure the participation of Indigenous Peoples in all webinars and events related to health, well-being and planetary health. Examples of this include: a) side event on nature and health under the umbrella of the UNFCCC Race to Zero; b) engagement with Indigenous Peoples to inform the [Expert Working Group on Biodiversity, Climate, One Health, and Nature-Based Solutions](#); c) engagement with Indigenous Peoples for

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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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the production of a systematic umbrella review on Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples and well-being to feed into the health section of the forthcoming 2024 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) State of the World's Indigenous Peoples (SOWIP) report that will focus on climate change; d) engagement with Indigenous Peoples in the [health dialogues on plastic pollution, one health and Indigenous health](#) held on 8 November 2023.

Support the implementation of the UNDRIP, particularly at the country level.

- WHO is working to implement more inclusive [One Health](#) approaches with the participation of Indigenous Peoples. For example, WHO co-organized a national One Health workshop in Liberia involving Indigenous Peoples representatives. The workshop included the participation of 12 Indigenous women networks who contributed to the development of indicators for mainstreaming biodiversity for sustainable and healthy diets. Similarly, Indigenous Peoples' participation is promoted as central to supporting country implementation of environmental determinants of [One Health](#), under the umbrella of the *Nature for Health multi-partner trust Fund*.
- WHO EURO Regional Office is exploring opportunities to collaborate with Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic. This includes collaboration to develop a National Alcohol Strategy and a Strategy on human resources for health in Greenland in 2024.

Support the realization of Indigenous Peoples' rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- WHO is actively following and contributing to the development and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its article 8J related to respect, preserve and maintain Indigenous knowledge and innovations. Likewise, WHO is contributing to the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which recognizes the contributions of Indigenous Peoples to managing biodiversity on their territories and the importance of respecting the fundamental rights that underpin these contributions.

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.

- WHO conducted relevant capacity building and training initiatives related to climate change and Indigenous Peoples in 2023. For example, WHO in collaboration with PAHO, hosted the [first global workshop on biodiversity, traditional knowledge, health and well-being](#) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in July 2023. This workshop served as a platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening among Indigenous Peoples,

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ministers of health and civil society organizations. This event also served to input to the core biodiversity stream of the first [WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit](#) held on August 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India. It also supported the advancement of the Montreal Roadmap for Biodiversity, Climate and Health, in light of the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

- WHO's comprehensive strategy on traditional medicine is focused on the generation of evidence and knowledge, data analytics, sustainability and equity, and innovation and technology to optimize the contribution of traditional medicine to global health and sustainable development. It's guiding principles include the respect for local heritages and traditional knowledges, resources, and the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights, among others.
- WHO hosts the [Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems \(HDSFS\)](#) as a follow-up of the UN Food Systems Summit. Additionally, WHO is engaged with the Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems Coalition and supports opportunities that promote Indigenous diets for health. At the Food System Summit in 2023, the [Director-General, in his keynote address](#), emphasized the importance of traditions and cultural diversity within the framework of local and healthy diets.
- In its Resolution WHA74.4, the World health Assembly recognized the urgent need to tackle the growing burden of noncommunicable diseases, particularly diabetes—an alarming health issue faced by diverse population groups, including Indigenous Peoples. To address this global challenge, WHO, in collaboration with the Government of Canada, launched the [WHO Global Diabetes Compact](#). This initiative comprises six streams of work aimed at strengthening the prevention and control of diabetes globally. WHO acknowledges the importance of addressing diabetes among indigenous Peoples and promotes actions tailored to their views and needs.

Advance the participation of Indigenous peoples in UN processes.

- As noted in session A, in December 2022 WHO held a Workshop during the CBD COP15 on [Health, Climate and Biodiversity: Mainstreaming biodiversity and climate solutions for sustainable and healthy food systems](#) to help inform discussions and negotiations, with the participation of Indigenous Peoples and the CBD Conferences of the Parties related to Indigenous Peoples' rights and health.
- As mentioned in session A, in 2023 WHO initiated the production of a global literature review to produce a manuscript, that will serve as the situation analysis on the health of Indigenous Peoples for the GPA as per WHA Resolution 76.16. Through the development

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of the situation analysis WHO is committed to ensuring the participation of Indigenous Peoples from the onset and throughout its development.

- WHO has produced communication material acknowledging the importance of promoting the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples in biodiversity conservation.
- With respect to Indigenous Peoples with disabilities, the [Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities](#) calls for action for Member States to engage with organizations of persons with disabilities, including representatives of specific groups and with explicit reference to Indigenous Peoples with disabilities (p.189). The development of this report involved a comprehensive consultative process, including with *Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and the global umbrella networks of International Disability Alliance IDA and The International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC)*, as well as UN agencies. This allowed to identify the health inequities that Indigenous Peoples with disabilities experience, such as difficulties accessing health services and communication barriers.

### 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 2024 session of the Forum.
- WHO is focused in reaching the SDG targets relevant to health. In particular, addressing risk factors for noncommunicable diseases (SDG2,3,12), and to increase access to healthy diets from sustainable food systems, including for Indigenous Peoples (SDG 2,3,5,13). WHO contributes to the [Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition \(I-CAN\)](#) aimed to catalyse, mobilize, connect and advocate for integrated climate and nutrition action. In particular in relation to outcomes 2,3,5,6,12,13,14,15,17.
  - The [Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities](#) highlights the health inequities that persons with disabilities often experience and puts these inequities in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report is largely centred around SDG3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), but also demonstrates the links between health and many other SDGs, such as poverty (SDG1), education (SDG4), gender equality (SDG5), sustainable cities and communities (SDG11), climate action (SDG13), or peace (SDG16). The report provides evidence indicating that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected across these various SDGs, and with direct impact to their health. It calls for action to adopt



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an intersectional lens to address health inequities (e.g., for the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities, or Indigenous Peoples with disabilities). Following the launch of this report, WHO has been developing and piloting a Guide for Action to support governments in implementing the recommendations to promote health equity for persons with disabilities. WHO envisions ensuring that Indigenous Peoples with disabilities voices are present and involved in this initiative. WHO aims to continue efforts in this area and will continue to promote this priority in our work with governments and other activities moving forward.

- 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.](#)
  - In the context of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 78) in September 2023, WHO called for putting health for all on the highest political agenda and applying lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. [WHO Director-General urged to accelerate the achievement of health targets](#) in preparation to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit (SDG Summit) and health-focused high-level meetings held at UNGA related to strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, delivering universal health coverage (UHC) and ending TB.
  - Linked to WHO's 75th Anniversary, WHO is mindful of what the founders affirmed that "health is not only a fundamental human right but also the foundation of safe, peaceful and prosperous societies". The DG, along with senior leadership, participated in high-level meetings and in a number of events, including the launch of the updated [UHC Global Monitoring Report](#).