



FACT SHEET ON THE UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

1. What the Permanent Forum is

- The Permanent Forum is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council established by resolution 2000/22 on 28 July 2000. The first meeting of the Permanent Forum was held in May 2002. Since then, all sessions have taken place annually in New York.
- Its mandate deals with themes related to Indigenous Peoples' economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.
- It is a special forum for networking among indigenous delegates, and for forming alliances with other organizations, United Nations agencies, donors, representatives of Member States, NGOs, etc. The sessions also provide an opportunity to raise awareness, to inform and to share your concerns with other key actors on the issues of Indigenous Peoples.
- **What the Permanent Forum is not:** The Permanent Forum is not a body or complaint mechanism for denunciations of violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights.

2. What the Permanent Forum does

- It makes recommendations and prepares reports for the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and for the United Nations system.
- It raises awareness and promotes the integration and coordination of indigenous issues within the UN system.
- It prepares and disseminates information on indigenous themes.
- **What the Permanent Forum does not do:** It does not provide quick and immediate answers to your specific questions.

3. How to participate in the Permanent Forum

For **practical information** concerning pre-registration, visas, accreditation, accommodations, obtaining badges, and grants to cover travel costs, please see: <http://bit.ly/UNPFII18>. As of 2018, the UNPFII has changed its method of work. During the first week, indigenous delegates, Member States and UN entities may read, as usual, their statements, or they may choose to participate in interactive dialogues. For the second week, members of the Forum hold closed dialogues with UN agencies and States, as well as regional meetings with representatives of Indigenous Peoples.

4. Signing up to make an oral statement on an agenda item

- During each session, the Permanent Forum discusses items that are on its **agenda**. This session's agenda is available at: http://bit.ly/UN-agenda_EN.
- To learn when the various agenda items will be discussed, you can look at the **Programme of Work** of the current session, available at: http://bit.ly/ProgrammeOfWork_EN. According to changes in the organization of work and the speaking procedures introduced in 2016, there are two speaking procedures:
 - an **advance speakers' list**, and
 - **interactive dialogues**.
- For agenda items with an advance speakers' list, those who may register include: indigenous delegates, national human rights institutions and indigenous members of Parliaments. Speakers are only allowed to speak once under a particular agenda item.

- Participants from indigenous peoples' organizations that are accredited to attend the 18th session of the Permanent Forum can register for the speakers' list **in person** in Conference Room 4 during the following time slots:

	Morning slots	Item	Afternoon slots	Item
Monday, 22 April	1:30 – 2:15pm	<i>Item 5: Indigenous Languages</i>	3 – 5pm	<i>Item 9: Traditional knowledge</i>
Tuesday, 23 April	10 – 11:30am	<i>Item 9: Traditional knowledge, Item 14: Future work</i>	3 – 4:30pm	<i>Item 11: Dialogue with SRIP/EMRIP</i>
Wednesday, 24 April	10 – 11:30am	<i>Item 11: Dialogue with SRIP/EMRIP</i>	3 – 6pm	<i>Item 3: Follow-up to recommendations; Item 4: Implementation of 6 mandated areas</i>
Thursday, 25 April	10 – 11:30am	<i>Item 12: Follow-up to World Conference on IPs</i>		
Friday, 26 April	10 – 11:30am	<i>Item 4: Implementation of 6 mandated areas</i>		
Wednesday, 1 May	10am-1pm	<i>Discussion on Item 4: Implementation of 6 mandated areas</i>		

- Confirm** that you are on the list. When the list of speakers for the chosen agenda item is posted in the meeting room, check that your name appears there and note where on the list your name appears, in order to be prepared when you are given the floor during the meeting.

5. Delivering your oral statement

- Before making your statement during the meeting, you must provide **15 copies** of your statement to the Conference Room Officer, so that the statement may be given to the interpreters.
- Please **also provide a copy to the technical secretariat of Docip**, either in the meeting room or in our office. You can also email it to documentation@docip.org. Remember that Docip collects all of the statements for posting on its website (<http://bit.ly/STATEMENTS-UNPFII18>).
- Finally, when your name is called by the Chairperson at the session, raise your hand, turn on the microphone, cite the name of your organization and read your statement, while being sure to keep within your allotted time (3 mins).

6. Tips for making your oral statement

Attention: If you are not in the room when the Chairperson calls on you, you lose your speaking time. Please be at your place well in advance of your allotted time, as prior speakers could forfeit their time, which would move up your turn.

- Collective interventions with multiple co-signatories are given priority.** It is therefore imperative to include the recommendations adopted at your Caucus meetings with other indigenous delegates.
- The **purpose** of the statement is to make recommendations concerning the agenda item on which you speak.
- The **speaking time limit** is usually **three** minutes. **Confirm** beforehand how much time you have for your statement and plan accordingly. Remember that you must **speak slowly** because your statement will be interpreted simultaneously.
- Contents of the statement:** The statement should begin with the name of your organization and, if you wish, brief greetings. Then, read your explanation of the situation in a brief and concrete way, followed by your recommendations. Use information that has been verified since statements from the Member States involved could follow. Note that participants may make a statement only under the name of the organization that they are registered with.

- **Practice in advance** by reading your statement aloud to make sure that you are well within the time limit. Plan which parts you could delete in case the time limit must be reduced instead of trying to speed up the delivery.
- Use diplomatic and non-abusive language.

7. Interactive dialogues

- To see agenda items with advance speakers' lists and agenda items with interactive dialogues, go to: http://bit.ly/ProgrammeOfWork_EN.
- At the beginning of each agenda item for the plenary session, the Chairperson will announce the speaking procedures and time limits (usually 3 minutes). To indicate your wish to participate in an interactive dialogue, listen for the information about how to indicate your wish to sign up (for example, you may be asked to raise your hand or to press your microphone button or to go to a desk designated for this purpose). The Chairperson's staff members may ask you for your name and organization.

8. Docip's technical support

Docip offers the following services to all indigenous delegates throughout the conference:

- translation of texts from and to English, Spanish, French and Russian.
- interpretation of Caucus sessions, side events and informal conversations (English, Spanish, French and Russian). To request interpretation, please contact Johanna Massa (johanna.massa@docip.org) in advance. To request translation services for your texts, please write an email to: translations@docip.org.
- photocopies and access to internet, computers and printers.
- publication of your statements on its website: <http://bit.ly/STATEMENTS-UNPFII18>.
- strategic support to indigenous delegates interested in UN and EU mechanisms through services involving documentation research, networking with other indigenous organizations or delegates, follow-up on treaty bodies and the UPR, and communications with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, etc. To request strategic support services, please contact Andres Del Castillo at: andres.delcastillo@docip.org.

The Docip technical secretariat office is located in Room C, Floor B1, Conference Building, UN Headquarters, and will be open from 9am to 7pm from Monday, 22 April, to Friday, 26 April.

9. Indigenous Peoples' Caucus sessions: participation is strongly recommended

The Indigenous Caucuses are open to all indigenous delegations present at the Permanent Forum. There are various types of caucuses: global, regional and thematic (for example, women, youth, and persons with disabilities). The Caucuses are chaired by one or several chairperson(s) representing various regions (as defined by the Permanent Forum). The Caucuses represent unique opportunities for indigenous delegates to meet and to exchange information and experiences. During the Caucus sessions, **joint statements, positions and recommendations** are put together concerning agenda items of the Permanent Forum session or on other topics.

- The Caucus sessions are held the weekend before the Permanent Forum, as well as at various times during the week (hours may vary).
- Certain Caucus sessions are interpreted in English, Spanish, French and Russian by Docip interpreters. To schedule interpretation during the session, contact the Docip technical secretariat: johanna.massa@docip.org.

The discussions held during the Caucus sessions are confidential.

10. Cultural and side events

These events typically take place between 1:15 and 2:30pm, and sometimes after 6:00pm. They can be organized by indigenous delegations, international organizations, NGOs, etc. A list of side events is distributed at the beginning of the session by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum and will also be available online at <http://bit.ly/UNPFI18>, as well as in Docip's technical secretariat office.

It is necessary for organizers to register side events in advance and to stay informed about the programme of events through the website of the Permanent Forum (<http://bit.ly/UNPFI18>) or through Docip's technical secretariat. Examples of events include: presentations on subjects covered at the Permanent Forum, art exhibitions, dance and music performances, training sessions provided by NGOs or IOs, etc.

11. Tips for effective and efficient participation in the Permanent Forum

- **Allow for several weeks in advance** of the Forum to handle all of the administrative procedures and formalities (such as visas), registration and logistics required to participate in the Permanent Forum.
- **Study the agenda, the programme of work and the documents related to the session.**
- **Prepare your oral interventions well.**
- **Participate actively in the Indigenous Caucus meetings** at all levels (global, regional and thematic) and also in as many as possible of the **side events, sessions and networking opportunities** with other indigenous delegates, NGOs, key actors on indigenous themes (experts, UN agencies, donors, representatives of Member States, etc.).
- Finally, **check the content of prior session reports** to ensure that your point of view has been taken into account. The reports are published a few months after the sessions.

For more information about the Permanent Forum, see:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples>

About Docip: Docip is a Swiss foundation, with offices in Geneva and Brussels, which has been working with Indigenous Peoples from all over the world since 1978 by facilitating their access to international and European institutions. Docip conducts its activities in accordance with the principles of impartiality, neutrality, collegiality and non-interference. We respect the right to self-determination of Indigenous Peoples.

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Twitter: [@Docip_en](https://twitter.com/docip_en)

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