



ENGLISH

**Information Document on the
United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous
Issues (UNPFII)**

**18th session
New York, 22 April–3 May 2019**

This document has been prepared in order to introduce this session of the Permanent Forum (PFII) to all the indigenous delegates. It contains a summary of the most important and useful information about the 18th Session and presents practical information, a list of reference documents and a list of useful contacts.

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The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

Mandate

The UNPFII is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, the environment, culture, education, health and human rights. In particular, the UNPFII should:

- Provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Economic and Social Council, as well as to programmes, funds and agencies of the UN, through the Council
- 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

The first meeting of the Permanent Forum took place in May 2002 in New York, and sessions consisting of 10 working days continue to be held there each year. The PFII is one of three UN bodies charged with dealing specifically with indigenous issues. The other two are the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

As of 2018, the PF members have made changes to the structure of the session (see page 5).

For further information, please see:

PLEASE NOTE: The Permanent Forum is not a complaint mechanism for exposing violations to your rights. These violations constitute an important part of composing your statement, but the statement must contain one or more recommendations to Member States in order to allow for the experts to integrate them **into the final report**.

The report on the work of the 17th session of the UNPFII is accessible through the following link:
<https://undocs.org/en/E/2018/43>

Information on the 18th session of the Permanent Forum

The theme of the 18th session is: “Traditional knowledge: generation, transmission and protection”.

Provisional agenda of the 18th session of the Permanent Forum

1. Election of Officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum:
http://bit.ly/UNPFII_Recommendations
4. Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
5. Discussion on the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages.
6. Dialogue with indigenous peoples: collective rights to lands, territories and resources.
7. Dialogue with Member States.
8. Dialogue with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.
9. Discussion on the theme "Traditional knowledge: generation, transmission and protection".
10. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
11. Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
12. Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples:
 - a. Implementation of national action plans, strategies and other measures;
 - b. Ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations;
 - c. Implementation of the United Nations system-wide action plan on indigenous peoples.
13. Regional dialogues between indigenous peoples and Member States.
14. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.
15. Provisional agenda for the nineteenth session.
16. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its eighteenth session.

Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2017-2019

- The Permanent Forum is comprised of sixteen independent experts, functioning in their personal capacity, who serve for a term of three years as Members and who may be re-elected or re-appointed for one additional term.
- Eight of the Members are nominated by governments and eight are nominated directly by indigenous organizations in their respective regions.
- The Members nominated by indigenous organizations are appointed by the President of ECOSOC and represent seven socio-cultural global regions in order to provide the broadest possible representation of Indigenous Peoples throughout the world.

These regions are the following:

- Africa
- Asia
- Central and South America, and the Caribbean
- Arctic
- Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia
- North America
- Pacific

Indigenous experts nominated and appointed by the ECOSOC president (8):

Ms. Mariam WALLEY ABOUBAKRINE (Africa)
Mr. Elifuraha LALTAIKA (Africa)
Ms. Anne NUORGAM (Arctic)
Ms. Terri HENRY (North America)
Mr. Phoolman CHAUDHARY (Asia)
Mr. Dimitri HAKAKA-ZAITSEV (Russian Federation, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Transcaucasia)
Ms. Lourdes TIBAN GUALA (South and Central America, and the Caribbean)
Mr. Les MALEZER (Pacific)

Experts nominated by States and appointed by ECOSOC (8):

Mr. Gervais NZOA (Cameroon)
Mr. Tarcila RIVERA ZEA (Peru)
Mr. Javad SAFAEI (Iran)
Mr. Zhan XIAOAN (China)
Mr. Jesús Guadalupe FUENTES BLANCO (Mexico)
Ms. Aisa MUKABENOVA (Russian Federation)
Mr. Jens DAHL (Denmark)
Mr. Brian KEANE (USA)

Practical information on working methods of the PFII

Newly incorporated working methods as of 2018

In 2018, the members of the Forum decided to modify the structure of the annual session:

The first week will consist of open plenary sessions. A condensed schedule has been established to address all substantive agenda items.

During **the second week**, members of the Forum will hold discussions in the form of informal and interactive dialogues with representatives of indigenous peoples, of Member States and of UN entities. The purpose of these meetings will be to draw on information presented during the first week and to channel it into policy recommendations that are strategic, focused and actionable.

Information relating to discussions on indigenous participation with the United Nations System

Following up the General Assembly (GA) commitment to promote steps for enabling greater participation of indigenous peoples in meetings of relevant UN bodies on issues affecting them, the Secretary-General is requested to seek input from indigenous peoples from all regions of the world in preparing the report to be presented at its seventy-fourth session. With this in mind, the Secretary-General is encouraged to hold regional consultations.

Interactive hearings on enhanced participation of indigenous peoples at the UN will be held on Thursday, **April 25 at 10am in the ECOSOC chamber (CR1)**

Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Development in Territories of Indigenous Peoples

A meeting of the Expert Group was held from 23–25 January 2019 in Kenya on the theme of “Conservation and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”, as had been proposed by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The goal was to identify the impacts and difficulties of conservation in order to learn good practices and the lessons needed to allow Indigenous Peoples to assert their rights, in particular, their territorial rights. More information about the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) is available on the following websites:

- Report of the Expert Group: http://bit.ly/Report_EGM
- UNPFII report on lands, territories and resources (7th session): <http://bit.ly/IndigenousPeoplesRightsLandTerritoriesResources> (only available in English)
- Summary of the World Conference Roundtable on lands, territories and resources: http://bit.ly/IP_roundtable3 (only available in English)

Preparatory Meeting of Global Caucus of Indigenous Peoples

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 relating to agenda items of the Permanent Forum session or on other topics.

The meeting of the Global Caucus of Indigenous Peoples preceding the 18th session of the UNPFII will be held on **20–21 April 2019, from 8:30am to 3:00pm** at the following address:

**Church Center for the United Nations,
2nd floor**

777 UN Plaza,
at the corner of E. 44th St. and First Ave.
(entrance is on 44th St.)

During the Global Caucus meetings, Docip will furnish interpretation in English, Spanish, French and Russian. Docip will also provide a work space with access to computers, printers, a photocopier and internet access.

As soon as the Caucus agenda is available, it will be published here:

<http://bit.ly/docip-pfii18-gipccp-en>

**A meeting of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus will be held
Sunday, 21 April 2019 at 8:30**

At Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, 1 E 42nd St, New York, NY
10017, USA

Reference Documents

Below you will find a list of important documents relevant to Indigenous Peoples' rights and your work during the UNPFII.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the General Assembly on Thursday, 13 September 2007.

Today, the UNDRIP is the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. It establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of Indigenous Peoples throughout the world. Based on existing human rights norms, the UNDRIP further elaborates standards that apply to their specific situation.

You will find the Declaration here: <http://bit.ly/UNDRIP-EN>

Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) was held in 2014 in New York in order to share perspectives, approaches and best practices on the realization of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including pursuing the objectives of the Declaration. The two-day conference included three roundtables and a panel discussion. The roundtables were held on the following topics:

- 1) Action within the UN system for implementation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples
- 2) Implementation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples at the national and local levels
- 3) Indigenous Peoples' lands, territories and resources

The panel discussion topic dealt with indigenous priorities for the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

The World Conference published an outcome document, available here: <http://bit.ly/outcome-document>

United Nations System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP)

At the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the General Assembly requested the development of a United Nations system-wide action plan for a coherent approach to achieving the ends of UNDRIP. The SWAP covers six elements:

- 1) Raise awareness on UNDRIP
- 2) Support the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly at the country level
- 3) Support the realisation of Indigenous Peoples' rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 4) Map existing standards and guidelines, capacities, training materials and resources within the United Nations system, international financial institutions and the members of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues for the effective implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- 5) Develop the capacities of States, Indigenous Peoples, civil society and United Nations personnel
- 6) Advance the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations processes.

The UN System-Wide Action Plan is accessible in all UN working languages through the following link: <http://bit.ly/System-wide-action-plan>

For further details on this plan, please visit: <http://bit.ly/info-SWAP>

ILO Convention 169

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is responsible for the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), the only international treaty open for ratification that deals exclusively with the rights of indigenous peoples. As of today, it has been ratified by 22 countries.

ILO Convention 169: <http://bit.ly/ILO-CONVENTION-169-EN>

For general information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/ILO-indigenouspeoples>

2030 Agenda

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on 25 September 2015. The Agenda came into effect on 1 January 2016 for a projected 15-year period. It is a broad and universal policy agenda, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets which are described as integrated and indivisible. In contrast to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs explicitly include Indigenous Peoples.

Two of the SDG targets make specific references to Indigenous Peoples, committing to double agricultural output of indigenous small-scale farmers and to ensure equal access to education for indigenous children. There is also a strong commitment in the 2030 Agenda to empower and engage indigenous peoples in implementing and reviewing progress in achieving the goals.

- The report of the 16th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has a dedicated section with recommendations related to the 2030 Agenda: <http://bit.ly/report-16thsession-agenda2030>
- In February 2019, the PFII presented a report that covers the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from the perspective of indigenous peoples: <http://bit.ly/Report-E-C-19-2019-2>
- A short introduction paper to Indigenous Peoples' Rights and the 2030 Agenda is available to download here: http://bit.ly/briefing_paper_AGENDA_2030 (available only in English).
- For more information please visit: <http://bit.ly/PermanentForum-Agenda2030>

Resolution on Participation of Indigenous Peoples at the UN

On 8 September 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, without a vote, a resolution titled, "Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them".

The resolution is available here: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/321>

For more information please visit: <http://bit.ly/participationIP>

Useful Phone Numbers and Contacts

<p>Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues</p> <p>United Nations Secretariat Building Salle S-2954 New York, NY 10017 Tel: +1 (917) 367-5100 Email: Indigenous_un@un.org</p> <p>Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Email: indigenous@ohchr.org</p> <p>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) Palais Wilson 52, rue des Pâquis CH-1201 Genève, Suisse Tel: +41 22 917 9220 Email: InfoDesk@ohchr.org</p> <p>Civil Society Section Telephone: +41 22 917 9656 Email: civilsociety@ohchr.org</p> <p>Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>Email: expertmechanism@ohchr.org</p>	<p>Voluntary Fund Tel: +41 22 928 91 64 Fax: +41 22 928 90 08 Email: indigenousfunds@ohchr.org</p> <p>World Health Organization (WHO) General: +41 22 791 21 11 Email: info@who.int</p> <p>International Labour Organization (ILO) General: +41 22 799 61 11 Project to Promote the Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (PRO 169) Tel: +41 22 799 7556 Fax: +41 22 799 6344 Email: PRO169@ilo.org</p> <p>World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) General: +41 22 338 91 11 Mrs. Rebecka Forsgren Indigenous Fellow Email: rebecka.forsgren@wipo.int</p> <p>Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Defense of Indigenous Peoples, advocacy partnerships and capacity-building Mr. Yon Fernandez-de-Larrinoa Email: yon.fernandezlarrinoa@fao.org</p>	<p>FIDA/IFAD Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Issues Ms. Antonella Cordone Senior Technical Specialist Email: a.cordone@ifad.org</p> <p>UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)</p> <p>UNDP Office in Geneva Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10 Tel: +41 22 917 85 36</p> <p>UNDP headquarters in New York One United Nations Plaza New York, NY 10017 USA Tel: +1 (212) 963-1234</p> <p>The Equator Initiative (UNDP) Global Programme on Nature for Development Tel: +1 (212) 906-6209 Email: info@equatorinitiative.org</p> <p>Small Grants Programme Phone: +1 (646) 781-4385 Email: sgp.info@undp.org</p>
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