



**ENGLISH**

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

**21<sup>st</sup> session  
New York, 25 April–6 May 2022**

This document has been prepared 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 21st 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 UNPFII 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.

**\*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 20th session of the UNPFII is accessible through the following link:  
<https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=E%2F2021%2F43&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False>

You can also access the recommendations of the 20th session of the UNPFII by clicking on the following link (available only in English):

[https://esa.un.org/unpfiidata/UNPFII\\_Recommendations\\_Database\\_list.asp](https://esa.un.org/unpfiidata/UNPFII_Recommendations_Database_list.asp)

## Information on the 21st session of the Permanent Forum

The theme of the 21st session is: “Indigenous Peoples, business, autonomy and the human rights principles of due diligence including free, prior and informed consent”.

The program of work is available at that [page](#).

### Provisional agenda of the 21st session of the Permanent Forum

[Link to the Provisional agenda in all UN languages.](#)

1. Election of Officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion on the theme “Indigenous Peoples, business, autonomy and the human rights principles of due diligence, including free, prior and informed consent”.
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: Indigenous Peoples and pandemic recovery;
  - (f) Thematic dialogues: International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022–2032.
6. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.
7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-second session.
8. Adoption of the report.

## Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2020-2022

- 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. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (Chad)

Ms. Anne NUORGAM (Finland)

Mr. Geoffrey Roth (United States)

Mr. Phoolman Chaudhary (Nepal)

Mr. Mr. Aleksei Tsykarev (Russian Federation)

Mr. Simón Freddy Condo Riveros (Bolivia)

Mr. Darío José Mejía Montalvo (Colombia)

Ms. Hannah McGlade (Australia)

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

Mr. Bornface Museke Mate (Namibia)

Mr. Vital Bambanze (Burundi)

Ms. Lourdes Tibán Guala (Ecuador)

Mr. Sven-Erik Soosaar (Estonia)

Mr. Zhan XIAOAN (China)

Ms. Irma Pineda Santiago (Mexico)

Mr. Grigory Evguenievich Lukiyantsev (Russian Federation)

Ms. Tove Søvndahl Gant (Denmark)

## Practical information on working methods of the UNPFII

### Working methods

**The first week** consists of open plenary sessions.

During **the second week**, members of the Forum will hold discussions in the form of interactive dialogues and regional 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.

### **Indigenous Peoples Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Peoples, business, autonomy and the human rights principles of due diligence, including free, prior and informed consent Indigenous Peoples**

A meeting of the Expert Group was held from 6–10 December 2021 online on the theme of “Indigenous Peoples, business, autonomy and the human rights principles of due diligence, including free, prior and informed consent Indigenous Peoples”, as had been proposed by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The goals of this meeting were to:

- Identify Indigenous Peoples’ own business initiatives and enterprises for development of their lands, territories and resources as an exercise of their self-determination and related rights.
- Analyze the principles of human rights due diligence vis-à-vis the need to obtain the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples for business operations affecting them.
- Assess the situation of reprisals against indigenous communities and their defenders, including indigenous women defenders, in relation to their activism for their rights in the context of business operations.
- Take stock of complimentary approaches to ensure respect of human rights in business contexts, including National Action Plans, regional initiatives and the proposed legally binding treaty, in relation to the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Examine access to effective remedy, or lack thereof, for Indigenous Peoples negatively affected by business activities.
- Share good practices on States’ recognition and protection of as well as engagement of businesses and investors and works of various UN mechanisms for the rights of Indigenous Peoples in business contexts.
- Put forward recommendations and next steps to ensure the respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples in business contexts Indigenous Peoples.

More information about this Expert Group Meeting (EGM) is available on the following websites:

- [Report of the Expert Group Meeting](#)
- [Concept note of the EGM](#)
- [Agenda of the EGM](#)
- [Web page of the EGM including livestream of each of the five sessions hold and presentations](#)

## **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 21st session of the UNPFII will be held on **24 April 2022, from 1PM-4PM EST time** online.

**Register in advance via this link:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuqeuN\\_3Yqs31r7Mc3yxOXq4P0XPFRd7UEI-cDC-jbgA43hA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuqeuN_3Yqs31r7Mc3yxOXq4P0XPFRd7UEI-cDC-jbgA43hA/viewform)

During the Global Caucus meetings, Docip will furnish interpretation in English, Spanish, French and Russian.

The agenda is available here: <https://aila.ngo/global-indigenous-peoples-caucus-invitation/>

## 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 24 countries.

ILO Convention 169: <http://bit.ly/ILO-CONVENTION169>

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 2030 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.

- In February 2019, the UNPFII 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](http://bit.ly/Report_E-C-19-2019-2)
- The report of the 20th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has a dedicated section on the follow-up on 2030 Agenda ([page 10](#))
- A short introduction paper to Indigenous Peoples' Rights and the 2030 Agenda is available to download here: [http://bit.ly/briefing\\_paper AGENDA 2030](http://bit.ly/briefing_paper_AGENDA_2030) (available only in English).
- For general information on Agenda 2030 please visit: <http://bit.ly/PermanentForum-Agenda2030>
- On January 2022, the UNPFII presented a [report](#) that provides an update on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda from the perspective of Indigenous Peoples that includes:
  - A review of outcomes of the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development
  - An outline of key elements of General Assembly resolution 76/148 on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
  - An overview of the voluntary national reviews by Member States of progress achieved towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Indigenous Peoples.
  - Reflections on the theme of the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development, "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"
  - Highlights from regional and global reports on the sustainable development of Indigenous Peoples.

## **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>

On April 2020, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a summary report of the Intersessional interactive dialogue on ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions in meetings of the Human Rights Council on issues affecting them <A/HRC/44/35>

On July 27<sup>th</sup> 2020 the Secretary-General issued a report on: Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them : <75/255>

On July 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, the Human Rights Council hold an intersessional roundtable on ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of the Human Rights Council on issues affecting them: The webcast is available on UNWEBTV at that link: <https://media.un.org/asset/k13/k137i4yvyf>

For general information on the participation of Indigenous Peoples at the UN you can consult the [Web page of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on indigenous peoples’ participation at the United Nations](#)

## Useful Phone Numbers and Contacts

<p><b>Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues</b></p> <p>United Nations Secretariat Building Salle S-2954 New York, NY 10017 Tel: +1 (917) 367-5100 Email: <a href="mailto:Indigenous_un@un.org">Indigenous_un@un.org</a></p> <p><b>M. Francisco Cali Tzay</b> Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Email: <a href="mailto:indigenous@ohchr.org">indigenous@ohchr.org</a></p> <p><b>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)</b> Palais Wilson 52, rue des Pâquis CH-1201 Genève, Suisse Tel: +41 22 917 9220 Email: <a href="mailto:InfoDesk@ohchr.org">InfoDesk@ohchr.org</a></p> <p>Civil Society Section Telephone: +41 22 917 9656 Email: <a href="mailto:civilsociety@ohchr.org">civilsociety@ohchr.org</a></p> <p><b>Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</b></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:expertmechanism@ohchr.org">expertmechanism@ohchr.org</a></p>	<p><b>Voluntary Fund</b> Tel: +41 22 928 91 64 Fax: +41 22 928 90 08 Email: <a href="mailto:indigenousfunds@ohchr.org">indigenousfunds@ohchr.org</a></p> <p><b>World Health Organization (WHO)</b> General: +41 22 791 21 11 Email: <a href="mailto:info@who.int">info@who.int</a></p> <p><b>International Labour Organization (ILO)</b> 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: <a href="mailto:PRO169@ilo.org">PRO169@ilo.org</a></p> <p><b>World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)</b> General: +41 22 338 91 11 Email: <a href="mailto:grtkf@wipo.int">grtkf@wipo.int</a></p> <p><b>Mrs. Anna Sinkhevich</b> Indigenous Fellow Email: <a href="mailto:anna.sinkevich@wipo.int">anna.sinkevich@wipo.int</a></p> <p><b>Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)</b> Defense of Indigenous Peoples, advocacy partnerships and capacity-building <b>Mr. Yon Fernandez-de-Larrinoa</b> Email: <a href="mailto:yon.fernandezlarrinoa@fao.org">yon.fernandezlarrinoa@fao.org</a></p>	<p><b>FIDA/IFAD</b> Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Issues <b>Ms. Antonella Cordone</b> Senior Technical Specialist Email: <a href="mailto:a.cordone@ifad.org">a.cordone@ifad.org</a></p> <p><b>UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)</b></p> <p><b>UNDP Office in Geneva</b> Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10 Tel: +41 22 917 85 36</p> <p><b>UNDP headquarters in New York</b> One United Nations Plaza New York, NY 10017 USA Tel: +1 212 906-5000.</p> <p><b>The Equator Initiative (UNDP)</b> Global Programme on Nature for Development Tel: +1 (212) 906-6209 Email: <a href="mailto:info@equatorinitiative.org">info@equatorinitiative.org</a></p> <p><b>Small Grants Programme</b> Phone: +1 (646) 781-4385 Email: <a href="mailto:sgp.info@undp.org">sgp.info@undp.org</a></p>
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