

# Expert workshop on possible ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Human Rights Council

*Concept note (as of 17 November 2022)*

- Date and venue:** 21 to 24 November 2022, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva
- Objectives:** The expert workshop aims:
- To examine possible ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Human Rights Council
  - To make recommendations resulting from the discussion and submit them to the Human Rights Council
- Co-facilitators:**
- **H. E. Mrs. Tine MØRCH SMITH**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Norway at UNOG
  - **Ms. Mariam WALLET ABOUBAKRINE**, Adjunct Professor, University of Ottawa, former Chair Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Opening statements:**
- **Ms. Peggy HICKS**, Director, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, OHCHR
  - **H.E. Mr. Federico VILLEGAS**, President of the Human Rights Council
  - **H. E. Mrs. Tine MØRCH SMITH**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Norway at UNOG, co-facilitator
  - **Ms. Mariam WALLET ABOUBAKRINE**, Adjunct Professor, University of Ottawa, former Chair Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, co-facilitator
  - **Mr. Binota MOY DHAMAI**, Chairperson of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)
  - **Mr. Darío José MEJÍA MONTALVO**, Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
  - **Mr. José Francisco CALÍ TZAY**, Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples (video message)
- Agenda and programme:** The agenda of the workshop and the programme of the meetings will be posted on the OHCHR web page devoted to the workshop at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/indigenous-peoples/expert-workshop-participation-indigenous-peoples-work-human-rights-council>
- Outcome:** A summary report on the discussion and the resulting recommendations will be prepared by OHCHR and submitted to the Council prior to its 53rd session.
- Mandate:** This four-day expert workshop was mandated by Human Rights Council resolution [48/11](#) of 8 October 2021 (paragraph 15).
- Written contributions:** As mandated by the Human Rights Council in paragraph 15 of its resolution 48/11, OHCHR invites submissions of written contributions of a **maximum length of 2500 words, in English, French or Spanish, by 31 October 2022**. Contributions received after the deadline will not be considered. Unless requested otherwise, all submissions will be posted on the web page of the

workshop. Please consult: [Modalities to submit written contributions](#)

**Format:**

The expert workshop will be held from 21 to 24 November 2022 and consist of 8 meetings of the duration of 3 hours each.

The expert workshop will include representatives from States, and representatives of Indigenous Peoples from the seven socio-cultural regions determined to give broad representation to the world's Indigenous Peoples: Africa; Asia; Central and South America, and the Caribbean; the Arctic; Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; the Pacific (7 representatives from States and 7 representatives of Indigenous Peoples).

The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant United Nations bodies will also contribute to the workshop.

The expert workshop will be open to the participation of representatives of States, national human rights institutions, and civil society.

During the workshop, the possible measures necessary to enhance participation of Indigenous Peoples in meetings of the Human Rights Council, including the procedural and institutional steps and selection criteria that should be applied for their participation will be discussed. To do so, the discussion will be structured according to the following four topics:

- 1) **Venues of participation:** under this heading participants will discuss the opportunity for Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions to participate in meetings of the Human Rights Council, including the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples; sessions of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and annual half-day discussion, panels and intersessional activities on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- 2) **Participation modalities:** under this heading participants will assess the modalities under which Indigenous Peoples participate in other United Nations mechanisms, such as the Expert Mechanism on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, to see whether any aspects of those modalities could be applicable to the work of the Human Rights Council. This would include the right to speak at specific times, to make written submissions and adequate seating arrangements. The current participation modalities in, as well as the procedures and practices of the Human Rights Council within the existing Institution Building package, will also be considered.
- 3) **Selection mechanism:** under this heading participants will discuss the nature and composition of a body/mechanism that will determine the eligibility of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions for accreditation as well as the details of the process.
- 4) **Selection criteria:** under this heading participants will discuss the criteria for determining the eligibility of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and Institutions for accreditation as such; the type of Indigenous Peoples' institutions that may qualify for a new category of participation and the designation of individual representatives of Indigenous Peoples.

Interpretation will be provided in the six United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

**Registration:**

Requests for registration for the expert workshop should be made online, through **the Indico platform**, at [Online request for registration](#)

Please allow a minimum of three working days for your request to be processed. The

registration will remain open until **10 a.m. Geneva time on Friday, 18 November 2022.**

**Background  
on the  
process:**

Since the adoption of resolution [69/2](#) entitled Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the General Assembly considered how to enable the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions at the United Nations. The General Assembly, in resolution [70/232](#) requested the President of the General Assembly to conduct consultations on this issue and prepare a compilation of the views expressed during the consultations which can be found in [A/70/990](#). In 2017, the General Assembly adopted resolution [71/321](#) entitled Enhancing the Participation of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives and Institutions in Meetings of Relevant United Nations Bodies on Issues Affecting Them, which started a process on this issue that is ongoing.

The Human Rights Council adopted resolution [39/13](#) in which it decided to hold a half-day intersessional interactive dialogue and resolution [42/19](#) in which it decided to hold an intersessional round table on ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of the Human Rights Council on issues affecting them. The summary reports of the half-day intersessional interactive dialogue and of the intersessional round table can be found respectively in [A/HRC/44/35](#) and in [A/HRC/49/69](#).

**Background  
documents:**

- Human Rights Council resolution [39/13](#) of 28 September 2018 on human rights and Indigenous Peoples
- Human Rights Council resolution [42/19](#) of 8 October 2019 on human rights and Indigenous Peoples
- Human Rights Council resolution [45/12](#) of 9 October 2020 on human rights and Indigenous Peoples
- Human Rights Council resolution [48/11](#) of 8 October 2021 on human rights and Indigenous Peoples
- Human Rights Council resolution [33/25](#) of 30 September 2016 on Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (General Assembly resolution [69/2](#) of 22 September 2014)
- General Assembly resolution [70/232](#) of 23 December 2015 on the rights of indigenous peoples
- Compilation of views on possible measures necessary to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them, and of good practices within the United Nations regarding indigenous peoples' participation (Note by the President of the General Assembly [A/70/990](#) of 25 July 2016)
- General Assembly resolution [71/321](#) of 8 September 2017 on enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them
- President of the General Assembly, [Summary of the Second Informal Interactive hearing with Indigenous Peoples on Indigenous Peoples enhanced participation in the United Nations](#) of 25 April 2019
- Report of the Secretary-General, Enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them [75/255](#) of 27 July 2020
- Summary report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights 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](#) of 8 April 2020

- Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Intersessional round table 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/49/69](#) of 11 January 2022
- Web page of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on Indigenous Peoples' participation at the United Nations:  
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/participation-of-indigenous-peoples-at-the-united-nations.html>

\*\*\*