



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
Division for Inclusive Social Development  
Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch - Secretariat of the Permanent Forum  
on Indigenous Issues

## **International Expert Group Meeting**

### **Tentative Programme of Work**

#### **“Indigenous Peoples in a Greening Economy”**

**23 - 25 January 2024**

**University of Colorado,  
Boulder, Colorado, USA**

Prepared by the Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch - Secretariat of the  
United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
Division for Inclusive Social Development  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations

*Special thanks to*  
**The University of Colorado Law School  
American Indian Law Program  
Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies  
University of Colorado, Boulder**

**Tuesday, 23 January 2024**

**9:00 am** *Registration* (Lobby of Law School) *and light breakfast* (Boettcher Hall)

**9.50 am – 10.30 am** *Opening ceremony* (Garden Level, Law School)

- Traditional opening by *Chairman Manuel Heart* from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe & *Lorelei Cloud*, Acting Chair from the Southern Ute Tribe
- Remarks by Vice Chancellor for Native American Affairs, University of Colorado Boulder, *Benny Shendo*
- Remarks and introduction of speakers by Acting Chief, Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch - Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UNDESA, *Rosemary Lane*.
- Welcome remarks by University of Colorado Law School Dean, *Lolita Buckner Innis*.
- Remarks by Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, *Bryan Newland*. (TBC)
- Remarks by Director of Native American Rights Fund, *John Echohawk*.
- Remarks by Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, *Dario Mejia Montalvo*.

**10.30 am – 10.45 am** *Coffee break*.

**10.45 am – 10.50 am**

**Overview of the Expert Meeting** by the Acting Chief, Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch - Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues/DISD/UNDESA, *Ms. Rosemary Lane*.

**10.50 am – 1.00 pm**

**Theme 1:** Outline Indigenous Peoples' relationship with the environment.

- *What international standards and recommendations could be applied to the right of Indigenous Peoples to development in accordance with their own needs and interests. e.g. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights Council, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, ILO, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and others).*
- *How do the goals and needs of Indigenous Peoples differ from the needs and goals of other interested parties in the relationship with nature in the context of global climate change?*

- *How does traditional knowledge and the practices of Indigenous Peoples contribute to the protection of the environment?*
- *What struggles do Indigenous women face when their role and relationship with the environment is broken?*
- *What is the role of Indigenous youth in protecting the understandings, skills and philosophies developed by their Indigenous societies?*

**Moderator:**

Mr. Dario Montalvo Mejia, (Zenu-Colombia), Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

**Presentations by:**

- *Mr. Luis Maldonado Ruiz, (Kichwa, Otavalo), The Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (TBC).*
- *Whitney Gravelle, President, Bay Mills Indian Community*
- *Mr. Johnson Malih Ole Kaunga, (Maasai), IMPACT (Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation)*

General Discussion

[1.00 pm – 3.00 pm Lunch Break]

**3.00 pm – 6.00 pm**

**Theme 2:** Factors that enable or obstruct the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the green economy.

- *How have the green economy processes engaged Indigenous Peoples and addressed or failed to address their needs?*
- *What shifts within States/companies and in partnership with Indigenous Peoples will create the conditions for a green economy?*
- *How can the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples be ensured when developing green entrepreneurship and green enterprise?*
- *In what ways does the lack of relevant statistics, information and technical pose an obstacle to Indigenous Peoples' participation in the green economy?*
- *Are there training programmes / formal education designed to build capacity to improve Indigenous Peoples access and management to resources?*
- *How is the UN system working in this area to include Indigenous Peoples?*

**Moderator:**

Mr. Vital Bambanze, Member, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

**Presentations by:**

- Mr. Francisco Cali Tzay, (Mayan Kakchiquel), Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Ms. Daria Egereva, (Selkup), Russian Indigenous Women's Network, Russian Federation.
- Ms. Birgitte Feiring, Director, Charapa Consult

[4.30 pm – 4.45 pm *Coffee break*]

General Discussion

**Wednesday, 24 January 2024**

**9:50 am** Welcome by Andrew Cowell, Professor and Faculty Director, Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies, University of Colorado.

**10.00 am – 1.00 pm**

**Theme 3:** Case studies on the positive and negative effects of green entrepreneurship and green enterprise on Indigenous Peoples and their communities.

- *Are Indigenous Peoples developing and carrying out green entrepreneurship and green enterprise (water, energy, land, other) to implement the Sustainable Development Goals?*
- *How is dialogue, equal representation and participation of Indigenous women and men ensured in all types of negotiations and consultations at all levels?*
- *Who is providing the funding to implement such projects?*
- *What three key lessons have been learned from your work with Indigenous Peoples?*
- *How can examples of lessons learned be transferred among/between regions?*

**Moderator:** Ms. Kristen Carpenter, Council Tree Professor of Law, and Director of the American Indian Law Program at the University of Colorado Law School.

**Presentations by:**

- Ms. Joan Carling (Cordillera), Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI)
- Mr. Jose Beymar Cruz Morales, (Aymara), Federación Regional Única de Trabajadores Campesinos del Altiplano Sud (FRUTCAS), Bolivia.

- *Prof. Angele Alook, (Bigstone Cree Nation in Treaty 8 territory), York University, Canada.*

**[11.30 am - 11.45 am Coffee break]**

General Discussion

**[1.00 pm - 3.00 pm Lunch Break]**

**3.00 pm - 6.00 pm**

**Theme 4:** Human rights and corporate responsibility in the shift to a green economy.

- *What legal mechanisms exist that can incorporate human rights into green economy programmes and projects?*
- *What legal mechanisms exist to strengthen corporate responsibility in green economy programmes and projects and how might they benefit Indigenous Peoples?*
- *What safeguards are put in place by States to mitigate the human rights and environmental risks faced by Indigenous Peoples in the shift to green economy? e.g. seeking compensation for damages.*
- *How can examples of lessons learned be transferred among/between regions?*
- *How is the UN system working in this area to include Indigenous Peoples?*

**Moderator:**

*Ms. Sheryl Lightfoot, Chairperson, United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*

**Presentations by:**

- *Ms. Eriel Tchekwie Deranger, (Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation), Indigenous Climate Action, Canada.*
- *Mr. Legborsi Saro Pyagbara, (Ogoni), African Indigenous Foundation for Energy and Sustainable Development (AIFES), Nigeria.*
- *Attorney Jennifer Weddle, (Northern Cheyenne), Co-Chair of the American Indian Law Practice, GreenbergTraurig*
- *Mr. Caleb Adams, (Wulli-Wulli), Associate Director of ESG & Sustainable Investment, World Economic Forum Global Shaper.*

**[4.30 pm - 4.45 pm Coffee break]**

General Discussion

**Thursday, 25 January 2024**

**9.50 am** Welcome by *Prof. Kristen Carpenter*, University of Colorado Boulder Law School

**10.00 am - 1.00 pm**

**Theme 5:** Develop strategic guidance and action-oriented recommendations for States, intergovernmental organizations, private companies, the United Nations system and Indigenous Peoples organizations to ensure the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the transition towards a more sustainable economy.

Participants will break in two groups by languages to work on recommendations.

**Coordinator of group #1 (with interpretation - English/Spanish):** *Prof. James Anaya*, University of Colorado Boulder Law School.

**Coordinator of group #2 (English):** *Prof. Kristen Carpenter*, University of Colorado Boulder Law School

[11.30 am - 11.45am *Coffee break*]

[1.00 pm - 3.00 pm *Lunch Break*]

**3.00 pm - 6.00 pm**

**Plenary session** to report back from working groups.

[4.30 pm - 4.45 pm *Coffee break*]

**Closing Remarks**

*Mr. Dario Mejia Montalvo*, Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.