

UNDP inputs for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Executive summary

UNDP continues to be committed to the implementation of the UN System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Rights of Indigenous Peoples at both global, regional and country level.

Standard 6 of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards on Indigenous Peoples (together with the related project-level screening procedure) remains an integral component of UNDP's quality assurance process and further operational guidance was developed to support implementation of this Standard.

The policy guidance "*What does it mean to leave no one behind? A framework for implementation*" provides the central framework to ensure effective implementation of the principle of "leaving no one behind". The paper fully acknowledges that indigenous status still remains a significant ground for discrimination and integrates considerations related to indigenous rights into its framework.

Through its role as custodian of SDG indicator 16.7.1 on proportionate representation in public institutions, UNDP is promoting an approach to data disaggregation that takes into account indigenous status and identities in order to ensure that indigenous peoples play a greater role in political decision-making – including in parliamentary politics – and that public decision making is more responsive to the aspirations of indigenous communities.

The Equator Prize 2019 Award Ceremony honored 22 local and indigenous communities from all over the world. Indigenous peoples remain a high priority group for the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP).

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Examples of regional and national activities related to the recommendations of the UNPFI
(*Not exhaustive*)

- UNDP Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean supports the implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples throughout the region. Including: The Integral Development Plan of Indigenous Peoples of **Panama**; the draft Law on Prior Consultation in **Bolivia**; the national Policy against Racism and Racial Discrimination 2014-2022 in **Honduras**; and the regulation of the Prior Consultation Law in **Peru**.
- **N-Peace** is a multi-country network of peace advocates in Asia seeking to advance women, peace and security. Through its annual N-Peace Awards, the UNDP initiative aims to bring visibility to women and gender champions working to increase women's participation at grassroots, national and regional levels. The work with indigenous communities is two-fold – through the N-Peace Awards, and further support through the N-Peace Civil Society Organization (CSO) Small Grants. Of the 34 CSOs that have become a part of the N-Peace Network, about 15 percent work directly with indigenous communities and the strengthening of their advocacy efforts with women's leadership as an essential tool in achieving their aims.
- UNDP has collaborated with UNESCO Bangkok Office, and the Asia Indigenous People's Pact (AIPP) to launch the **Asia Indigenous Youth Platform** to support indigenous youth. Composed of representatives from over 13 countries in the region, the platform is an ongoing mechanism that enables young people to come together and build the skills they need to address the issues faced by their communities.
- **The Regional Dialogue on Indigenous Youth Social Entrepreneurship**: organized by UNESCO, UNDP and AIPP, serves as one of the key activities for the Asia Indigenous Youth Platform to understand social entrepreneurship. It brings together stakeholders from the social entrepreneurship ecosystem and indigenous communities.

B. System Wide Action Plan to achieve the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards

[UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards](#) (SES) underpin the organization's commitment to mainstream social and environmental sustainability in Programmes and Projects to support sustainable development. which apply to the programming. Through application of the SES and Accountability Mechanism – which are an integral component of UNDP's quality assurance and risk management approach to programming - UNDP enhances the consistency, transparency and accountability of its decision-making and actions, improves performance, and strengthens achievement of positive development outcomes.

The SES include a [standard on indigenous peoples](#) (Standard 6) which explicitly refers to UNDRIP. This standard recognizes that the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, especially concerning their lands, territories, traditional livelihoods, cultures and resources, are necessary to achieve UNDP's goals of advancing human rights, respecting indigenous peoples' identities and improving their well-being. The SES includes a project level screening procedure to determine which SES requirements are relevant and what further action is needed (e.g. if an Indigenous Peoples Plan is required). UNDP also developed an [operational guidance](#) to support implementation of Standard 6.

Discussion paper on leaving no one behind

In 2018, UNDP published [What does it mean to leave no one behind? A framework for implementation](#), a discussion paper that aims to help make "leaving no one behind" more than just a good "slogan", by generating a degree of consensus on what it means in practice. Disparate interpretations undermine the power, clarity and leverage of this global commitment to equality, equity and non-discrimination. The paper seeks to help counter this problem by defining five concrete factors necessary to understand if, how and why people are left behind: the discrimination they face; where they live; socio-economic status; how they are governed; and vulnerability to shocks using a human rights-based approach.

The paper stresses the obligation of governments to take specific aim at inequalities between people, groups and places; correct legacies of discrimination and exclusion; and empower and enable those who are the furthest behind to catch up to their peers across the SDGs. To this end, it offers a framework that governments and stakeholders can apply to build evidence-based SDG strategies and policies and outlines UNDP support for countries using a human rights-based approach to examine who and why people are left behind [identifying root causes], empower the full and equal voice and participation of marginalized populations; and enact equity-advancing SDG strategies and policies.

The paper fully acknowledges that indigenous status still remains a significant ground for discrimination and integrates considerations related to indigenous rights into its framework.

UNDP supporting SDG data disaggregation in relation to indigenous peoples

Goal 16 of the SDGs seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Target 16.7 calls for responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. Indigenous peoples are consistently under-represented in decision-making processes. UNDP is the custodian of Tier II SDG indicator 16.7.1 on proportionate representation in public institutions, namely in the parliament, the public service and the judiciary, and is responsible for contributing to statistical capacity building to enable countries to compile the indicators; collecting and compiling data from national statistical systems; and transmitting data points for the indicator to the UNSD SDG global database;

Disaggregation of all three sub-components of SDG indicator 16.7.1 by sex, age, disability and population groups is vital to capturing the spirit of Target 16.7, which aims to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels and to ensuring that no one is left behind. National parliaments and their members, as elected representatives of the people, are uniquely positioned to promote pluralism in public life and peaceful coexistence in society. Accordingly, the number of members of parliament and speakers will be tracked by this indicator for all countries and will use several disaggregation dimensions including sex (Male/Female); Age (under and over 45 years); disability; and nationally relevant population groups (including indigenous linguistic/ethnic/religious groups). Under this indicator countries will need to list the electoral or constitutional provisions guaranteeing representation of various population groups in parliament. The Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992) and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) provide that persons belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples have the right to participate in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State. Ensuring that indigenous peoples and other minorities play a greater role in political decision-making – including in parliamentary politics – is a critical aspect of this right.

The Equator Prize 2019

The 10th Equator Prize Award Ceremony honored 22 local and indigenous communities from 16 countries in a gala event in New York. The winners are sustainably protecting, restoring, and managing forests, farms, wetlands, and marine ecosystems to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, help communities adapt to climate change, and create a green new economy. Following the Award Ceremony, the Equator Initiative supported winners to connect to policymakers and accelerate their solutions to promote sustainable development. This included regional trainings and the online platform, Equator Connect.

GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)

[Indigenous peoples](#) remain a high priority group for SGP during OP6, both for Core and Upgraded Country Programmes (UCPs).