

DPPA-DPO inputs on activities undertaken in 2025 regarding Indigenous Peoples' issues

Executive summary (500-word limit)

In 2025, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) remained engaged with the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and its Secretariat. Regular exchanges with the UNPFII, as well as with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, enhanced DPPA's analysis of conflict trends involving Indigenous Peoples, and strengthened the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in UN efforts to support political dialogue, mediation and build sustainable peace.

At headquarters, the DPPA/Americas Division, in its capacity as DPPA's global focal point on Indigenous issues, co-organized a series of events with Indigenous leaders, experts and Member States, to raise awareness about the role of Indigenous Peoples as peace actors, including to address [climate security risks](#) and to foster Indigenous women as peacebuilders. Notably, In particular, DPPA co-sponsored events on Indigenous issues and conflict prevention in the margins of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the UNPFII, as well as the COP30. The events were instrumental to enhance coordination between Indigenous Peoples, Member States and the UN system. In these efforts, DPPA worked closely with Mexico, chair of the Group of Friends on Indigenous issues – a cross-regional group of Member States committed to promoting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) – and UN women.

Some of this year's activities were illustrated in DPPA's [Politically Speaking](#) online magazine. DPPA/Americas Division Director, Laura Flores, also highlighted in a recent interview on [UN News](#) how Indigenous Women are resilient and central to peace efforts.

In mission and non-mission contexts, DPPA also implemented initiatives to advance the rights of Indigenous Peoples and promote their full participation in electoral processes.

At the sub-regional level, the UN Special Political Mission in Central Africa (UNOCA), mandated to help prevent conflict and sustain peace in Central Africa, enhanced partnership with Indigenous Peoples. UNOCA has incorporated Indigenous Peoples' concerns into regional early warning systems, conflict analyses, and mediation dialogues. Consultations with Indigenous Peoples in forested and transboundary regions have informed UNOCA's analysis of natural resource-related tensions, cross-border dynamics, and ecosystem-based drivers of insecurity.

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) also continued to engage with the Indigenous Amazigh, Tebu and Tuareg Peoples of Libya to seek their views on the political process and to convey their concerns to Libyan authorities on political and social marginalization; transitional justice and national reconciliation; women and youth empowerment; and the provision of healthcare, education and other services. As part of this, UNSMIL facilitated communications between the High National Elections Commission and

representatives of Tebu and Tuareg communities to secure reserved seats in the 2024 and 2025 municipal council elections.

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2026 session. *The theme of the 2026 UNPFII session is "Ensuring Indigenous Peoples' health, including in the context of conflict". Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.*

In conflict settings, Indigenous Peoples often face heightened vulnerability due to persistent political marginalization and systemic discrimination. When conflicts occur on Indigenous lands or are driven by environmental factors, they frequently result in severe health consequences, further exacerbating existing inequalities and threatening the well-being of Indigenous communities. DPPA considers that empowering Indigenous health in conflict and post-conflict contexts could be conducive to promote more sustainable peace. In particular, the nexus between Indigenous health and climate security should be further explored to identify effective climate solutions and reduce the likelihood of conflict.

In this regard, UNOCA has supported joint programming with the Mbororo Social, Cultural and Development Association (MBOSCUDA) to examine the impacts of climate insecurity on Indigenous Peoples' health and livelihoods. Specific focus has been placed on monitoring the indirect impacts of forced displacement, biodiversity loss, and resource conflicts on access to traditional health systems and nutritional resilience in the Lake Chad and Congo Basin regions.

To advance an understanding on such linkages, the UNPFII should:

- (i) enhance joint research with regional institutions on the health-security nexus in climate-affected zones,
- (ii) mobilize climate finance to scale up Indigenous-managed projects that restore ecosystems and prevent conflict.

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

DPPA, a member of the Inter Agency Support Group on Indigenous issues (IASG), contributed to the implementation of the [System-Wide Action Plan \(SWAP\)](#) on Indigenous Peoples, including by supporting national actors in advancing the rights, inclusion and participation of Indigenous Peoples in political and peacebuilding processes, to further the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. DPPA was elected as the next co-chair of the Inter Agency Support Group on Indigenous issues (IASG) in 2026 and looks forward to engaging in this role.

C. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

During the period under review, DPPA highlights the following initiatives on Indigenous issues that are relevant for the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions). These initiatives support national efforts to ensure inclusive electoral processes and political dialogues.

Bolivia: The UN is currently providing electoral assistance in Bolivia through the “Culture of Peace and Strengthening of the Electoral Organs of Plurinational Bolivia” electoral project implemented by UNDP. The UNDP project supports the promotion of the political rights of Indigenous Peoples by forming alliances with relevant Civil Society Organizations to advance their political rights.

Chile: In 2025 the Presidential Commission for Peace and Understanding submitted its final report to the President, outlining recommendations to address the longstanding conflict between Mapuche People and the State in the Araucanía. The report followed a year-long process of deliberation and consultation with key stakeholders, including Indigenous Mapuche People, civil society, academics, the private sector, and state authorities. The recommendations of the report focus on addressing the root causes of the conflict and include provisions around the constitutional recognition of Chile’s Indigenous Peoples, land registration, victim reparations and political representation of the Mapuche Peoples. DPPA, in collaboration with the Resident Coordinator’s Office, supported the Commission throughout its lifespan, from the initial conceptualization phase to the finalization of its recommendations. This support included technical advice on the design of the Commission and consultation processes, international third-party support forums as well as strategies for garnering broad political backing for the Commission’s mandate.

Colombia: The DPPA Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) implemented several projects enhancing the role of Indigenous Peoples as peace actors in Colombia.

Intercultural Mae Kiwe (‘Mother Earth’): Building Bridges for Youth Leadership in Colombia

This USD 1.7 million project (implemented by WarChild - ended June 2025) advanced the rights and security of Indigenous Peoples, aligned with Article 7 of UNDRIP. It strengthened leadership among Afro-descendant and Indigenous youth, with 68.8 per cent of institutional partners noting significant improvements. Civil society reported better resource access, and 93.5 per cent of respondents confirmed promotion of women’s and ethnic leadership. All mentorship participants observed increased female participation in coordination roles. Community protection mechanisms were consolidated in Cali (93 per cent), Jambaló (79 per cent), Quibdó (78 per cent), and Caloto (53 per cent), ensuring reliability. Safe spaces like Renacer Puente Tabla Children’s Park in Cali were created as cultural and protective hubs. Despite institutional barriers, youth engagement in decision-making grew, validated by 100 per cent of staff and 53.8 per cent of partners, fostering inclusive political and peacebuilding participation.

Liderazgo Juvenil Transformador

This USD 2 million project (implemented by FAO, UNICEF, UNODC; ended September 2025)

strengthened youth leadership in the Indigenous Bari community, aligned with SDG 16. It promoted informed youth participation in public spaces for policy formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Five-module training programs addressed youth engagement, land and territorial rights, drug use prevention, socio-productive initiatives, leadership, and comprehensive protection. Additionally, the project supported the creation and promotion of locally tailored Youth Agendas, fostering inclusive governance and empowering young leaders to influence decision-making processes in Cúcuta, El Tarra, and Tibú.

Agile Response for Peace Dialogues

This USD 3 million project (implemented by UNDP, OHCHR; ended May 2025) bridged national peace dialogues with territorial actions, accelerating partial agreement implementation and rebuilding trust in conflict-affected areas. It mobilized 26 organizations to reactivate peacebuilding processes and tangible actions in regions marked by violence. Key efforts included training Indigenous Emberá and Wounaan youth in leadership and peacebuilding, strengthening community communication and territorial defense, and fostering intergenerational dialogue in Chocó and Valle del Cauca. The Hitnü response strategy was reformulated with gender and diversity perspectives. Additionally, the project facilitated the Mesa del Norte del Cauca, reducing social conflict through inclusive dialogue among Indigenous, Afro-descendant, peasant, and private-sector actors.

Sembrando Economías de Paz

This ongoing USD 1.75 million project (implemented by Christian Aid Ireland) addresses gaps in the 2016 Peace Agreement in Norte de Santander, Putumayo, and Santander, focusing on Indigenous, Mestizo, and Campesino women and youth facing security risks from armed groups and illicit economies. Between January and May 2025, it established coordination mechanisms such as citizen oversight networks and peace observatories, operationalized three local observatories for early warning, and delivered training to authorities, civil society, and youth leaders on conflict sensitivity and mediation. Gender and youth inclusion were prioritized, boosting women's participation and youth-led initiatives. By November 2025, 48 per cent of 881 participants showed increased engagement in peacebuilding policies.

Ecuador: In 2025, the United Nations supported targeted initiatives to increase the participation of underrepresented groups, including Indigenous Peoples. Ahead of the 2025 general elections, UNDP assisted the National Electoral Council (CNE) in developing multilingual training materials for Indigenous polling officers, ensuring greater accessibility and inclusion.

The PBF also implemented a USD 3 million project (UNDC, UN Women, UNDP; ended June 2025) strengthening national capacities to prevent social conflict, particularly those linked to Indigenous movements facing structural challenges. Key achievements included enhancing conflict prevention and management within the Ministry of Government and its local branches, supporting the Consortium of Autonomous Provincial Governments of Ecuador (Congope) in civil society consultations on peacebuilding, and facilitating knowledge exchange with

Colombia's Permanent Roundtable for Coordination with Indigenous Peoples. The project promoted ongoing dialogue between government and Indigenous movements and shared Colombia's experience with Ecuadorian officials and Indigenous representatives, fostering inclusive approaches to peace and conflict prevention.

El Salvador: The PBF has been implementing the project "Women Guardians of Peace". This ongoing USD 2 million project (implemented by UNDP, UNODC, UN Women) is a landmark transitional justice initiative empowering women victim of El Salvador's armed conflict (1980–1992). It promotes intergenerational leadership by elevating older women as peacebuilders while fostering young women leaders. The project established mental health support systems to address trauma from conflict-related gender-based violence, creating safe spaces for healing and historical memory recovery. In 2025, UN Women advanced Indigenous women's rights through workshops on CEDAW Recommendation 39 and supported the Salvadoran Indigenous Women's Rights Observatory, reinforcing inclusive participation and advocacy in transitional justice and peacebuilding processes.

Guatemala: Under the PBF Strategic Framework 2020–2025, efforts in Guatemala focus on reducing territorial conflicts and strengthening actors traditionally excluded from conflict resolution, particularly Indigenous Peoples.

The project "*Consolidating Infrastructures for Sustaining Peace*" (implemented by UNDP, UNESCO, UN Women; USD 2.5 million) trained 73 Mam and Ixil Indigenous leaders through a Diploma in Conflict Transformation and supported the historic creation of a monthly high-level dialogue between the President and 85 indigenous authorities. Preparatory support included developing common agendas and key messages. The project also advanced decentralized conflict resolution by training Conflict Managers in all 22 departments and enhancing capacities within the Presidential Private Secretary's office.

The project "*NAB'IL: Juventudes Mayas y Mestizas Organizadas*" (implemented by UNFPA, OHCHR, IOM; USD 1.5 million) strengthened leadership among 200 Maya and mestizo youth in Huehuetenango, resulting in 73 policy proposals presented to local authorities, many integrated into 2025 municipal workplans. The project also ensured youth representation in decision-making spaces, promoting inclusive governance.

Collectively, these projects enhanced Indigenous leadership, institutional dialogue, and youth participation, laying the groundwork for inclusive peacebuilding and conflict prevention in Guatemala.

Honduras: The PBF is implementing the project "*Territorial Conflict Resolution and Environmental Protection*". This ongoing USD 3 million project (implemented by OHCHR, WFP) addresses territorial conflicts affecting Afro-Honduran and Indigenous communities through a rights-based, inclusive approach. It drove legal reform with the February 2024 adoption of a law banning extractive activities in protected areas, ensuring prior and informed

community consultations and promoting sustainable development. As a result, three mining concessions were canceled, and no new concessions were granted during the reporting period. Justice institutions integrated international human rights standards into rulings, leading to significant institutional changes: prevention of land defender criminalization, cessation of a forced eviction against Garífuna communities, and recognition of community participation rights. The project also advanced a proposal for a Special Jurisdiction on Land, Territory, and Environment, reinforcing equitable conflict resolution and environmental protection.

Peru: In Peru, the UN continued its electoral assistance efforts to strengthen the capacity of electoral authorities in promoting the political participation of Indigenous Peoples and other disadvantaged groups throughout all phases of the electoral process. The UNDP electoral project established a dedicated Working Group to advance Indigenous rights and foster inclusive dialogue, providing tailored support to both Indigenous and Afro-Peruvian communities.

The Philippines: In the Philippines, UN electoral assistance includes support for civic and voter education initiatives aimed at enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples, with a particular focus on non-Moro Indigenous communities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

UNOCA/Central Africa: UNOCA is advancing Indigenous Peoples' advocacy by supporting the Congo Basin Youth Declaration, which includes and amplifies the voices of Indigenous youth in climate action and decision-making. In partnership with subregional institutions such as the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Congo Basin Climate Commission, and the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, UNOCA has also supported initiatives to raise awareness of Indigenous Peoples rights and to integrate ecosystem-based responses within broader CPS strategies. In Chad and Gabon, UNOCA also supports conflict-sensitive land and forest governance policies aligned with UNDRIP and Climate Peace and Security principles.

In response to escalating climate-induced pressures, such as land degradation, resource scarcity, and environmental displacement, UNOCA has prioritized conflict-sensitive approaches that elevate Indigenous perspectives within regional peace and security efforts. UNOCA has deepened its collaboration with Indigenous Peoples organizations, including the Mbororo Social, Cultural and Development Association (MBOSCUDA), in line with recommendations from UNPFII, especially in ecologically fragile areas of Chad, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Central African Republic.

UNSMIL/Libya: In 2025, UNSMIL ensured representation of the three communities in the Advisory Committee of Libyan experts that developed proposals for resolving outstanding politically contentious issues impeding national elections. UNSMIL is also ensuring their representation in the implementation of its political roadmap announced in August, particularly as part of a structured dialogue with representatives from all parts of Libyan society to address long-term issues of governance, economic and security sector reform, and reconciliation.

As part of its joint programme with UNDP on missing persons, UNSMIL supported participation of members of the Tebu, Amazigh and Tuareg communities to establish a national network of families of missing persons. UNSMIL held several meetings with Tebu families and civil society organizations in southern Libya to document cases of enforced disappearances and other grave human rights violations committed during the 2019 conflict in the city of Murzuq, and gather perspectives and demands for truth, accountability and reparations. UNSMIL provided technical assistance to Libyan authorities to collect DNA samples from Tebu families for the identification of missing persons in the future and to provide mental health and psychosocial support. UNSMIL extended similar efforts in the town of Tawergha, where dozens of individuals remain unaccounted for since 2011. UNSMIL also continued to monitor, document and report on human rights violations, including those affecting Indigenous Amazigh, Tebu and Tuareg Peoples.