

# Participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them

19 June 2024

The co-facilitators and advisors would like to propose text-based negotiations upon a draft outcome document to be adopted by the General Assembly.

In order to inform current discussions, the co-facilitators and advisors have prepared the following proposed guidelines, based on the discussions during the 2016-2017 process and the informal consultations held on April 17, May 30 and June 11, 2024. The co-facilitators and advisors would like to request the views of the Member States and Indigenous Peoples on the proposed guidelines before the presentation of a zero draft.

## Proposed general guidelines:

- The draft may recall the decision by the General Assembly to “continue its consideration of possible further measures necessary to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them [...], taking into account the achievements in that regard of other bodies and organizations throughout the United Nations system, to be preceded by consultations with indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions from all regions of the world as an input to the intergovernmental process” (OP7 of A/RES/71/231)
- The draft may renew the mandate for continuing the process in the 79<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly by requesting the President of the General Assembly to appoint two advisors from Member States and two advisors from Indigenous Peoples.
- The draft may establish that a draft text should be “finalized and adopted by the Assembly” during its 79<sup>th</sup> session (replicating the phrasing in OP19 of A/RES/70/232).
- The draft may establish that the outcome must be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
- The draft may establish that the outcome will be in line with **all** the provisions of the United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- The draft may reaffirm the solemn commitment to respect, promote and advance and in no way diminish the rights of Indigenous Peoples and to uphold the principles of the UNDRIP (para 4 of Annex to A/RES/69/2).
- The draft may include procedural and institutional steps that would allow for participation of Indigenous Peoples' [representative organizations and institutions] in more venues than those currently existing.
- The draft may establish the need for a specific status for the participation of Indigenous Peoples, distinct from NGOs and civil society.
- The draft may establish that the accreditation of Indigenous Peoples' [representative organizations and institutions] does not imply recognition of those [organization and institutions] for any purpose other than participation in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them; and that such accreditation will not have any other effect under international or domestic law or policy.

### **Guidelines for venues (the bodies in which Indigenous Peoples would participate)**

The draft may acknowledge the existing mandates for the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), as well as on the 57th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), which will take place from 9 September to 9 October 2024.

The draft may invite the Economic and Social Council to consider the implementation of [provisional] measures during its 2025 session (July 2024 - July 2025) to enable the participation of Indigenous People's representatives and institutions in specific subsidiary bodies other than the UNPFII.

The draft may request the Chair of Third Committee to implement interim measures during its 79th session to enable the participation of Indigenous People's representatives and institutions in the interactive dialogue with the SR on Indigenous Peoples.

The draft may establish that provisional and interim measures are a step for a future permanent arrangement for the participation of Indigenous Peoples and consider the need to address permanent arrangements for participation in the General Assembly and all its subsidiary bodies.

### **Guidelines for modalities of participation (the prerogatives that Indigenous Peoples would have when participating)**

The draft may establish that the prerogatives for Indigenous Peoples will be:

- The right to present oral statements in the venues and segments previously agreed
- The right to submit written statements to the sessions of the organs in which they participate

The draft may establish that the prerogatives for Indigenous Peoples will not include those exclusive to Member States and that further details (including, inter alia, seating arrangements) will be discussed in the 79th session.

### **Guidelines for the accreditation process (the procedure for accrediting the individuals that would participate)**

The draft may establish that this item should be discussed during the 79<sup>th</sup> session.

### **Guidelines for the accreditation criteria (the criteria that those responsible for the accreditation process should follow for granting accreditation to an individual)**

The draft may establish that this item should be discussed during the 79<sup>th</sup> session.