

## Questionnaire to the UN system agencies, funds and programmes

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 2000/22. The Permanent Forum is mandated to provide expert advice and recommendations on Indigenous issues to the ECOSOC and through the Council to United Nations agencies, funds and programmes; to raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities related to Indigenous issues within the UN system; prepare and disseminate information on Indigenous issues; and promote respect for and full application of the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and follow up the effectiveness of the Declaration.

The Indigenous Peoples Development Branch/Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues invites UN system agencies, funds and programmes to complete the attached questionnaire on any action taken or planned in response to the Permanent Forum's recommendations, the system-wide action plan on the rights of Indigenous Peoples (SWAP), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond and the Pact for the Future.

The responses will be compiled into a report for the 2026 session of the Permanent Forum. In your responses, please, include information on progress and challenges related to Indigenous women, Indigenous persons with disabilities, Indigenous older persons, and Indigenous children and youth.<sup>1</sup>

All responses will be placed on the DESA/DISD website on Indigenous Peoples at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/>

*If you have any objections to your response being made available on our website, please inform our office accordingly.*

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **15 November 2025** to:

Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch  
Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
Division for Inclusive Social Development  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, USA 10017  
Email: [requesens@un.org](mailto:requesens@un.org) cc. [indigenous\\_un@un.org](mailto:indigenous_un@un.org)

Subject: Response to SWAP questionnaire

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<sup>1</sup> Indigenous should be capitalized when referring to cultures, communities, lands, languages, etc., of Indigenous Peoples, e.g.: Indigenous culture in Ecuador, Indigenous languages are dying out. If referring to flora or fauna, lower case should be used. See UN Editorial Manual for further guidance: <https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/editorial-manual/updates>

## Questionnaire

Please also include an **executive summary** of your inputs to the 3 main questions below (strict **500-word** limit) which will be used for our compilation report submitted to the 2026 session of the PFII.

In 2025, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) advanced a broad set of actions aligned with the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and key regional frameworks, including the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. These efforts centred on strengthening the visibility, rights and wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples through improved data, targeted research, training and policy support.

A central area of work was the promotion of Indigenous Peoples' right to information. ECLAC supported countries in enhancing access to demographic and socioeconomic data and continued to advocate for the use of self-identification as the main criterion for identifying Indigenous populations. The study on Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent in the 2020 census round highlighted progress and remaining challenges, while underscoring the need for reliable, disaggregated data to guide inclusive public policies.

Capacity-building remained an important component. ECLAC delivered training dedicated to Indigenous Peoples' rights and supported the participation of Indigenous and Afro-descendant professionals in the 2025 Regional Course on Demographic Analysis for Sustainable Development (CREAD). These initiatives aimed to strengthen technical capacities for producing and analysing demographic information across the region.

Analytical work also continued through the Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2025, which included a dedicated section on Indigenous Peoples. The publication examined ethnic and territorial inequalities—particularly in education—and stressed the need for infrastructure improvement, digital connectivity and support for bilingual and interculturally trained teachers in ancestral territories and areas with the highest concentration of Indigenous People.

Additionally, ECLAC and the Government of Brazil co-organized the side event “Ethnic–Racial Equality and the 2030 Agenda” during the 2025 Regional Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. The session highlighted the importance of racial equality within the 2030 Agenda and presented Brazil's initiative to advance SDG 18 in a context of persistent ethnic-racial inequities.

Through these combined actions—data strengthening, research, training and advocacy—ECLAC contributed to advancing Indigenous Peoples' rights and supporting more equitable and culturally responsive development policies across Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **Please provide information on the following:**

#### **A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2026 session**

- i. Please provide information on measures taken since your last update to the Forum on the implementation or planned implementation of the recommendations of the PFII.

Throughout 2025, ECLAC continued to carry out actions related to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in accordance with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the regional frameworks, including the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development—an

intergovernmental agreement adopted in 2013 in the framework of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean—which includes priority measures related to Indigenous Peoples’ rights, and the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda set by the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, among others, in the following areas: i) the inclusion of the situation of Indigenous Peoples as a cross-cutting theme in the different outputs and activities of the Commission; ii) the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in national statistical systems, in particularly the 2020 census round; iii) the production and dissemination of disaggregated data on Indigenous Peoples and training on the use and analysis of this information; iv) the preparation of studies on the situation of Indigenous Peoples, as well as on their living conditions within the framework of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including policy recommendations; and v) knowledge sharing, dissemination and technical assistance to the countries of the region.

ii. The theme of the 2026 PFII 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.

During this report’s time of reference, ECLAC and PAHO worked closely together to strengthen health information systems regarding the visibility of Indigenous Peoples, from a gender and intersectional perspective. In this area, ECLAC’s work is guided by the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, which outlines a series of priority measures for Indigenous Peoples, including those related to data. To advance this agenda, ECLAC, PAHO, and the General Secretariat of the Andean Community organized on 16-17 October 2025, in Lima, Peru, the Second Regional Workshop on *Progress and Challenges in the Incorporation and Use of Ethnicity and Gender Data in Official Statistics, with a Focus on Health*. The objective of this event was to foster regional exchange among key actors from National Statistical Offices and health information systems, sharing experiences and lessons learned in the incorporation and use of ethnicity and gender data, particularly in the field of health. The workshop also sought to promote the systematic use of these dimensions in health equity analyses and in the advancement of the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Participants included government representatives and specialists from National Statistical Offices, Ministries of Health, members of the Expert Group on Population Statistics of the Andean Community, as well as specialists from ECLAC, PAHO, and the Andean Community. The participating countries were Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Peru. More information can be found at: <https://www.cepal.org/es/eventos/reunion-especialistas-avances-desafios-la-incorporacion-uso-datos-etnicidad-genero>

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

### **Background**

As per the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/69/2),

a [system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) was adopted in November 2015 and launched by the Secretary-General at the UN Permanent Forum in May 2016.

In August 2020, the United Nations Executive Committee agreed on the need for accelerated and collective action to strengthen the implementation of the SWAP on Indigenous Peoples. In November 2020, the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination issued a [Call to Action: Building an Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Future with Indigenous Peoples](#). Its goal is to ensure collaborative and coherent UN system action to support the rights and well-being of Indigenous Peoples with a focus on furthering the implementation of the SWAP<sup>2</sup>.

i. The Permanent Forum will follow up on progress made on the SWAP implementation as part of its discussion on the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples during its 2026 session. Please provide an analysis of actions taken by your agency, fund and/or programme on the six key elements of the SWAP, since your last update to the Forum<sup>3</sup>.

The right to information is essential for the exercise of all other rights and has increasingly become a cross-cutting indicator of progress in the realization of social, economic and cultural rights. Within this framework, Priority Measure 90 of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development refers specifically to the right to information of Indigenous Peoples. Guided by this commitment, ECLAC has advanced work to strengthen access to demographic and socioeconomic information through technical cooperation, analytical publications and various advocacy initiatives, many of which focus directly on Indigenous Peoples. These priorities are explored in greater detail in a document submitted by ECLAC to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as input for a report prepared by the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (see <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/60/66>).

ECLAC also produced the study *“Indigenous Peoples and People of African Descent in the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses: Normative and Technical Standards, Progress and Challenges for Measurement in Latin America”* (Population and Development Series, No. 141). The publication reviews the results of the 2020 census round and highlights the consolidation of self-identification as the primary criterion for identifying Indigenous Peoples, supported by participatory processes that enhance both the legitimacy and quality of statistical production. Although important progress was achieved, the 2020 round also revealed setbacks and challenges linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, issues of public trust and diverse political contexts. The study reiterates that disaggregated statistical information is a critical tool for public planning, accountability and the development of inclusive policies that recognize cultural diversity and support the full exercise of Indigenous Peoples’ rights.

Furthermore, the ECLAC contributed to training programmes focused on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America, within the framework of regional and international agreements, in three countries. For example, the objective of the training programme offered by Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) in Guatemala—with participants from 15 Latin American and Caribbean countries and 7 European countries—was to strengthen knowledge on the normative frameworks related to the right to information of

Indigenous Peoples; on disaggregated indicators in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Montevideo Consensus; on conceptual and methodological approaches for identifying Indigenous Peoples in data sources; as well as to present findings and illustrative examples of demographic and social indicators, processes for the democratization of data, and key challenges.

Three scholarships were awarded to Indigenous professionals from Indigenous Peoples' organizations from Argentina, Colombia and Chile to participate in the 2025 edition of the Regional Course on Specialization in Demographic Analysis for Sustainable Development (CREAD 2025), thanks to the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). CREAD's objective is to strengthen technical capacities for producing and analyzing demographic data in Latin America and the Caribbean, with particular emphasis on data quality assessment and population estimates and projections. The course was attended by government officials from National Statistical Offices, professionals from academia and civil society. More information is available at:

<https://www.cepal.org/es/notas/iniciativa-cepal-unfpa-celade-abre-sus-postulaciones-becas-tecnicos-profesionales-pueblos>.

ECLAC incorporated a dedicated section on Indigenous Peoples in its flagship publication Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2025. The contribution analyzed the inequalities and discrimination experienced by Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous territories in education and offered related policy recommendations by highlighting the importance of infrastructure improvement, digital connectivity and support for bilingual and interculturally trained teachers in ancestral territories and areas with the highest concentration of Indigenous People.

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### C. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

i. Please describe any activities your entity has organized since the last reporting period to accelerate progress across a range of SDGs, demonstrating the interlinkages across goals and targets and if applicable, providing examples of translating global goals into local actions. In your response, please consider referring to SDGs relevant to the theme of the 2026 session of the Forum, including SDGs 2 (zero hunger) 3 (good health and well-being), 5 (gender equality), 10 (reduced inequalities), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 15 (life on land) and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

ECLAC and the Government of Brazil co-organized the side event “Ethnic–Racial Equality and the 2030 Agenda: Overview of Latin America and the Caribbean and Brazil’s SDG 18 Initiative”, held during the *2025 Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development*. The event aimed to present and discuss the importance of racial equality within the framework of the 2030 Agenda in the region. It highlighted Brazil’s proposal to advance SDG 18 and examined this initiative in the broader context of the deep and structural ethnic-racial inequalities that persist across Latin America and the Caribbean. More information is available at: <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2025/es/programa/igualdad-etnico-racial-la-agenda-2030-panorama-america-latina-caribe-la-iniciativa-brasil>.

ii. Please describe any activities your entity organized in support of the 2025 UN High- Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and/or reports and activities that supported SDG reporting and monitoring or a VNR process at the national, regional, or global level.

No activities related specifically to Indigenous Peoples can be reported for the reference period.

## ANNEX 1

### **Agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

The Twentieth-fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled to take place from **20 April – 1 May 2026**.

#### **Provisional Agenda**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion on the theme “Ensuring Indigenous Peoples’ health, including in the context of conflict”.

4. Discussion on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights), with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. Dialogues:

(a) Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples;

(b) Dialogue with Member States;

(c) Dialogue with the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes;

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and the members of the IASG for the effective implementation of the UNDRIP; 5) Develop the capacity of States, indigenous peoples, civil society and UN personnel; and 6) Advance the participation of indigenous peoples in UN processes.

(d) Human rights dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; annual review of progress on the implementation of general recommendation No. 39 (2022);

(e) Interregional, intergenerational and global dialogue;

(f) Dialogue on Indigenous platforms established within United Nations entities;

(g) Thematic dialogue on the financing of Indigenous Peoples' work and participation across the multilateral and regional system.

6. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and emerging issues.

7. Provisional agenda of the twenty-sixth session of the Permanent Forum.

8. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its twenty-fifth session.