



UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

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

Programme of Work

**“Recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ rights in the context of the climate crisis,
biodiversity governance and territorial integrity: focusing on nomadic and semi-
nomadic peoples, including pastoralists and shifting cultivators”**

Virtual format, 1-3 December 2025

[Interpretation available in English, Spanish, French and vice versa]

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

DAY 1: Monday, 1 December 2025

09:00 - 11:30 (New York – Eastern Time, UTC-5)

Opening Remarks

- *Charles Katoanga*, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- *Aluki Kotierk*, Chairperson, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (*pre-recorded message*)

Session Theme 1: Territorial integrity, statelessness and the right to self-determination:

Examining the use of Article 46 of UNDRIP by States to limit Indigenous Peoples' autonomy and rights and exploring holistic interpretations grounded in international law.

- How does the recognition and support of the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples contribute to the protection of lands and territories, traditional knowledge, and cultural continuity, reinforcing coexistence with the State rather than conflicting with it?
- How can Indigenous Peoples exercise their right to self-determination within the framework of national constitutions and laws?
- What legal, administrative, and participatory mechanisms should States establish to ensure Indigenous Peoples can exercise self-determination over their lands, territories and resources, and cultural practices while respecting national laws?
- How can UN entities, academia and others, support States in recognizing and protecting the self-determination, mobility, and seasonal land-use of mobile Indigenous Peoples, while maintaining national integrity?

Moderator: *Dario Mejia Montalvo*, Member, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Presentations by:

- *Fawn Sharp*, (*Quinault*), President & CEO, Quinault Indian Nation, (USA)
- *Saul Vicente Vázquez* (*Zapotec*), elected to serve on the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) 2026–2030, (Mexico)
- *Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine*, (*Tuareg People*), Tinninan (Mali)
- *Edward Porokwa*, Pastoralists Indigenous Non-Governmental Organizations' Forum -PINGOS Forum, (Tanzania)

General discussion

DAY 2: Tuesday 2 December 2025

9:00-11:30 (New York – Eastern Time, UTC-5)

Session Theme 2: Climate Change, Biodiversity Governance, and the Displacement of Indigenous Peoples: Ensuring the full, effective and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples in governance and policy frameworks, conservation and climate mitigation projects.

- How can the international community safeguard the distinct status of Indigenous Peoples in global negotiations, preventing the conflation of “Indigenous Peoples and local communities” that some States use to weaken or sidestep Indigenous Peoples’ rights and free, prior and informed consent?
- What legal and policy reforms—at national, regional, and UN levels—are needed to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples facing climate-driven displacement, ensuring their participation in the design of relocation, adaptation, and mitigation strategies?
- How can global climate and biodiversity frameworks recognize and protect the mobility, cross-border movements, and seasonal land use of mobile Indigenous Peoples, while guaranteeing their direct participation in negotiations that affect their territories and livelihoods?

Moderator: *Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim*, Member, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Presentations by:

- *Ole Mali Kaunga* (Maasai), Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation – IMPACT, (Kenya)
- *Vyacheslav Shadrin*, Yukaghir Council of Elders, Sakha Republic (Yakutia, Russia)
- *Jose Gualinga*, (*Kichwa-Sarayaku*) Former President and Adviser, Governing Council of the Kichwa People of Sarayaku, (Ecuador)
- *Eirik Larsen*, (*Saami*), Head of Human Rights Unit, Saami Council, (Norway)
- *Elisa Morgera*, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change.

General discussion

DAY 3: Wednesday 3 December 2025

8:00 – 10:30am (New York – Eastern Time, UTC-5)

Session Theme 3: Challenges and transformations of mobile Indigenous Peoples’

lifeways: Exploring the challenges faced and adaptations made by mobile Indigenous Peoples in the context of climate crisis, economic pressures, and evolving aspirations, and their implications for livelihoods, ecological stewardship and cultural continuity.

- What are the most pressing challenges currently faced by mobile Indigenous Peoples in sustaining their traditional lifeways?

- How is climate change currently affecting mobility, seasonal migration, and traditional livelihoods? How are mobile Indigenous Peoples adapting to these changes?
- How are new economic pressures, education, and shifting aspirations among younger generations influencing traditional practices? What strategies are mobile Indigenous Peoples adopting to balance tradition with these changing contexts?
- What opportunities are emerging from new technologies, partnerships, or evolving conditions that could support the continuity or transformation of mobile Indigenous lifeways?
- What lessons can be drawn from these adaptative strategies to inform policy, conservation, and climate adaptation efforts?
- What support do mobile Indigenous Peoples need to sustain their practices and adapt successfully?
- How can governance frameworks better incorporate the perspectives and needs of mobile Indigenous Peoples in addressing climate and economic pressures?

Moderator: *Hanieh Moghani*, Member, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Presentations by:

- *Erjen Khamaganova*, (Buryat), World Union of Indigenous Spiritual Practitioners - WUISP, (Mongolia)
- *Kimaren Ole Riamit*, (Maasai) Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners - ILEPA, (Kenya)
- *Ahmad Biravand*, Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment -CENESTA (Iran)
- *Adzmin Fatta*, (Suluk and Bajau) Reef Check Malaysia (Malaysia)
- *Albert Barume*, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

General discussion