

Questionnaire to UN system

Questionnaire to the UN system agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental organizations

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 and other inter-governmental organizations 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 rights of Indigenous Peoples (SWAP) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The responses will be compiled into a report for the 2024 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.

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

Please note that the term "Indigenous Peoples" must be capitalized as per the UN Editorial Manual.

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 2023** 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: [HYPERLINK "mailto:indigenous_un@un.org" indigenous_un@un.org](mailto:indigenous_un@un.org)
[HYPERLINK "mailto:"](mailto:indigenous_un@un.org)

Subject: Response to SWAP questionnaire

Questionnaire

Please also include an **executive summary** of your inputs to the 3 main questions above (strict **500-word limit**) which will be used for our compilation report submitted to the 2024 session of the PFII.

Please provide information on the following:

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2024 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.
- ii. The theme of the 2024 PFII session is “Enhancing Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – emphasizing the voice of Indigenous Youth. Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.

The International Land Coalition (ILC), in the context of the land monitoring and data collection done through LANDex, has developed new youth modules in consultation with our members that will be implemented beginning next year. Among the modules developed is one dedicated to Indigenous Youth and includes questions about their access to land, territories and natural resources, as well as their participation in public policy development.

ILC also promotes a 1.5-year fellowship programme for 25 Indigenous Youth from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Africa and Asia to strengthen their leadership skills as a means to strengthen their organisations. The programme revolves around climate, nature and land rights, and opens spaces for young leaders to raise their voices at local, regional and global levels within and outside the network.

ILC has supported the inclusion of Indigenous Youth in various learning programs. In particular, the Regional Learning Exchanges in Africa, Asia and Latin America. These exchanges brought together more than 60 young leaders in land governance, providing them with a platform to share experiences and knowledge. In addition, the Africa Learning Exchange, which focused on Indigenous Peoples and conservation, and the "Land and Territory School" in Latin America, are other learning experiences in which Indigenous Youth have been prioritized.

The inclusion of Indigenous Youth in ILC's global youth network and regional youth platforms is a key objective. Currently, around 15 Indigenous leaders participate in these spaces, enabling their voices to be integrated into land governance discussions.

- iii. Please provide information on efforts to ensure the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the international decades declared by the General Assembly, such as the United Nations

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Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development,” the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and other relevant international decades and processes, including CEDAW General recommendation 39 on Indigenous women and girls.

The International Land Coalition leads co-challenge 5.1 of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration’s Action Plan, which, among other, aims to a) ensure Indigenous Peoples are recognized as critical allies in the global restoration movement, b) that tenure security is a foundation for Indigenous Peoples’ ability to protect ecosystems and reverse land degradation and that c) restoration initiatives need to ensure the full protection of Indigenous Peoples rights, including their rights to their lands and territories. ILC further supports the participation of our Indigenous Peoples platform in the UN Decade on Family Family.

iv. Has your entity responded to the 2022 UNPFII recommendation¹ paragraph 85... *The Permanent Forum urges all United Nations entities and States parties to treaties concerning the environment, biodiversity and the climate to eliminate the use of the term “local communities” in conjunction with indigenous peoples, so that the term “indigenous peoples and local communities” would be abolished.*

ILC operates through five constituency platforms, including one dedicated exclusively to Indigenous Peoples. Our other platforms are: Pastoralists; Small Holder Farmers, Peasants, Fisherfolk and Forest Dwellers; Women; and Youth.

We also have thematic platforms, which facilitates collaboration among our different constituencies, such as platforms on restoration, locally managed ecosystems, land rights’ defenders, women’s land rights etc. Furthermore, our 30 National Land Coalitions include both Indigenous Peoples and other constituencies.

Finally, ILC’s work is organized around 10 commitments. One of the commitments is dedicated exclusively to Indigenous Peoples, namely to:

“Respect and protect the inherent land and territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples, as set out in ILO Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including by recognizing that respect for Indigenous knowledge and cultures contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment.”

If yes, please explain your response in further detail.

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

Background

¹ E/2022/43-E/C.19/2022/11

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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 SWAP².

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 2024 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 Forum³.

The International Land Coalition - ILC is the largest and most diverse network in the world working on peoples-centered land governance and tenure security. Since 2014, at the time of the World Conference, ILC has increased its membership of Indigenous Organizations to 33, and has established both regional Indigenous platforms in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, as well as a global platform that has co-chairs from each region as well as an Indigenous youth representative. Furthermore, our Indigenous platform is represented on our Council and thus part of providing oversight of all strategic, financial and administrative decisions of the Coalition. Our Global Indigenous Peoples Platform participated with one voice at the 2023 UNPFII and will now be leading the preparation of the Global Land Forum Indigenous Peoples pre-meeting in 2025 in Colombia.

ILC is a vehicle for its members to promote the right of self determination and self governance and to denounce displacement, oppression and forceful evictions of Indigenous Peoples, such as in the case of Ogiek in Kenya or the Maasai in Loliondo, Tanzania.

Also in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), a campaign was launched with a focus on States' obligation to guarantee and protect the land and territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples in the region. The campaign has a regional scope but reports on cases on a national basis. A

² Reporting on the activities to implement the CEB Call to Action is through task groups and should not be included in the responses to this questionnaire.

³ The six key elements of the SWAP are: 1) Raise awareness of the UNDRIP; 2) Support the implementation of the UNDRIP, particularly at the country level; 3) Support the realization of indigenous peoples' rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 4) Map existing standards and guidelines, capacity, training materials and resources within the UN system, international financial institutions 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.

good example is the case of Bolivia⁴. Also in LAC, and in collaboration with FAO and Tenure Facility, ILC held a Learning Cycle called “Lessons Learned for Investment in the Delimitation and Recognition of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Territories in Latin America” that had 110 participants from all over the region.

ILC has further established a [virtual presence of our platform](#), is supporting regular face to face meetings of our platform members and is supporting our Indigenous members in engaging in international advocacy fora, including, but not limited to the UNPFII, the Committee on World Food Security, the CBD, the UNFCCC, as well as ad hoc meeting on relevant subjects to Indigenous Peoples held by the World Bank and other agencies.

ILC further is the co-secretariat of Landmark (www.landmarkmap.org), an open source geospatial platform that supports Indigenous Peoples to map their lands and territories, whether formally recognized or not, and allows such maps to be coupled with additional layers ranging from threats, such as mining concessions, to ‘assets’, such as carbon storage. Among other, in 2023 Landmark has contributed to support the legal case of the Saamaka in Suriname.

As part of the Alliance for Indigenous, Land and Environmental Defenders (ALLIED), an international coalition working to coordinate support to defenders, ILC co-leads the Data Working Group that has built an integrated dataset of non-lethal attacks that can be disaggregated to show violence against Indigenous defenders and their communities. On the occasion of World Indigenous Peoples Day, ILC launched a video and campaign highlighting the specific risks and disproportionate violence faced by Indigenous defenders.

Finally, ILC co-manages regional emergency funds to support environmental defenders in Africa, Asia and Latin America, including for Indigenous defenders.

C. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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 2024 session of the Forum.

- i. Over the course of 3-year ILC has written a total of 6 SDG shadow reports. For Nepal, Senegal, Cameroon, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and The Philippines. The latter was in collaboration with IFAD under the LandMonitor project, which included focus group discussions also with IPs to validate the collected data, capture the challenges they face regarding land rights and gather direct recommendations for improvement in achieving the SDGs.
- ii. All of above-mentioned reports are launched or presented at the HLPF.

⁴ <https://lac.landcoalition.org/es/noticias/por-el-reconocimiento-del-territorio-del-pueblo-indigena-ese-ejja/>

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- iii. Additionally, for HLPFs ILC also provides an analysis of all the VNRs launched each year, looking particularly at the indicators and targets related to land, including also the recognition of IP's land rights.
- iv. ILC also collaborates with the Alliance for Land, Indigenous and Environmental Defenders (ALLIED) data working groups to elaborate our Hidden Iceberg series, which reports on attacks (lethal and non-lethal) on land defenders. This is also launched at HLPF.

Please describe any activities your entity organized in support of the 2023 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and SDG Summit and/or reports and activities that supported SDG reporting and monitoring or a VNR process at the national, regional, or global level.

- i. In 2023 ILC launched the VNR report research on land related indicators for the HLPF at the UN Trade Center. Among the indicators were indicator 1.4.2, 5.a.1, 5.a.2, 15.3.a and 16.10.1
- ii. During the 2023 HLPF we partnered with a number of organizations for official and side events, including IWGIA and the Indigenous Navigator.
- iii. The VNR report against LED in 2023 was accepted as one of the official events at HLPF (in collaboration with IWGIA)
- iv. During the SDG Summit and the NYC Climate Week ILC was able to co-organize a side event dedicated to Land and Environmental defenders in the wake of the green energy transition, highlighting lethal and non-lethal attacks.

Reminder: Please also include an [executive summary](#) of your inputs to the 3 main questions above (strict 500-word limit) which will be used for our compilation report submitted to the 2024 session of the PFII.

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ANNEX 1

Agenda of the twenty-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Twentieth-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled to take place from **15 to 26 April 2024**

Provisional Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

⁵ <https://lac.landcoalition.org/es/noticias/por-el-reconocimiento-del-territorio-del-pueblo-indigena-ese-ejja/>

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3. Discussion on the theme “Enhancing Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: emphasizing the voices of Indigenous youth”.

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; E/2023/43 E/C.19/2023/7 23-08492 5/24

(b) Dialogue with Member States;

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

(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);

€ Regional dialogues;

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

(g) Thematic dialogues, including on the financing of Indigenous Peoples’ work and participation in the context of, inter alia, development, climate, environment and biodiversity.

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-fourth session of the Permanent Forum.

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