

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.

Executive Summary of inputs from the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. As it works to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration and to provide humanitarian assistance to people on the move in need, be they international migrants, internal migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons or other uprooted people as well as vulnerable communities; it has a first-hand experience of what it means to being left behind.

IOM acknowledges that human mobility – while being a constant, and part of the world’s economic, social and cultural architecture – is increasingly complex, impacted by and impacting global transformations experienced in the world – from climate change to demographic transition and changes, urbanization, or digitalization –; and that those trends and dynamics can have specific ramifications and implications for indigenous people.

Indigenous people are involved in several types of migration, including rural to rural and rural to urban internal migration. Indigenous people who have migrated to cities have often found themselves on the margins of society. Among the many reasons are discrimination, lack of marketable skills for urban life, lack of formal education and language differences. Indigenous people may be involved in cross-border movements, in particular those whose traditional territory is divided by international borders; and can be forced to migrate, or be displaced. The displacement of indigenous peoples through human activities has resulted from development projects, industrial environmental destruction, armed conflict, and governmental policies. Indigenous peoples are among the most vulnerable groups in the event of a slow or rapid onset disaster; and their vulnerabilities are heightened during situations of displacement. This is due to their greater dependence on natural resources, the remoteness of some of their territories, exclusion from the rest of society, and difficult access to aid. Indigenous people are also impacted by migration of non-indigenous populations on indigenous communities or land.

Responses to climate change should incorporate vital indigenous knowledge of land and natural resource management, while protecting health, equity, justice and sustainability. IOM sees it as a priority to help Indigenous Peoples to stay on their ancestral lands, while seeing the need to complement this with efforts to help Indigenous Peoples who are on the move or relocated, highlighting that migration should be a choice and not a necessity.

IOM is guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including upholding human rights for all. Through its work, IOM contributes to the realization of the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and in particular its articles 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 17, 18, 21, 23, 25, and 36. IOM remains committed to the System-Wide action plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration, and in particular its point 3) on supporting the realization of indigenous peoples’ rights in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The inputs provided by IOM in this document illustrate the nature and scope of IOM’s work implemented to this end.

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.

Regarding the PFII recommendation that the IOM “focus on the vulnerability of indigenous peoples in the Pacific region, in particular in view of the effects of climate change” (session 14, para 21), the [IOM Pacific Strategy 2022-2026](#), IOM includes the “Incorporation of traditional and indigenous knowledge and strategies to manage disasters and displacement” as part of the necessary actions to achieve improved disaster-management capabilities in the region. IOM’s project “[Enhancing protection and empowerment of migrants and communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region](#)” also addresses Indigenous Peoples, who are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, some of which have been displaced/relocated (as noted in [one of the issues of the project’s Policy Brief Series](#)). The project also acknowledges the importance of Indigenous knowledge, that is threatened by displacement, which can affect community wellbeing and security (see the [Pacific Regional Policy Dialogue on Climate Mobility Background Paper](#), 2020). This project also comprises efforts to develop the [Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility](#), which includes text on protecting culture, cultural heritage and identity and dignity, including for Indigenous Peoples.

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.

In line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, IOM has produced several inputs aiming at enhancing Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination. Particularly, IOM sees it as a priority to help Indigenous Peoples to stay on their ancestral lands, while seeing the necessity of complementing this with efforts to help people on the move or resettled, highlighting that migration should be a choice and not a necessity. This position has been highlighted and reiterated by IOM’s message in last year’s [International Day of World’s Indigenous Peoples](#).

With a focus on youth, IOM has published an internal blog highlighting [three imperatives for ensuring integration of indigenous youth when moving in the context of climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters](#). These include leveraging Indigenous knowledge and traditions; Promoting education in Indigenous languages; and Elevating indigenous youth community groups. An upcoming Blog Series by youth authors, organized and published by IOM, will also include an article on lessons from young Ecuadorean Indigenous women on environmental migration (forthcoming, December 2023). IOM has also issued other blogs to emphasize on the important role of indigenous peoples and knowledge in policy discussions and to shed light on the mobility challenges faced by indigenous migrants worldwide, including those linked to climate change, like the blog on “[Environmental Migration and Indigenous Peoples: What Is at Stake?](#)” (2018).

With the help and participation of Indigenous Peoples, particularly youth, IOM has produced [participatory videos giving voice to indigenous people from Venezuela](#) in Brazil in the context

of the Global Migration Film Festival. IOM is also currently producing a series of videos with members of different communities in Brazil, including Indigenous migrants living in an urban area, giving them a space to raise their concerns and expectations of world leaders, to be showcased at COP28 in Dubai, 2023. In line with this, IOM will also sponsor Indigenous Peoples' representatives to attend COP28, as well as youth indigenous delegates or with an indigenous knowledge background.

In 2023, under the Policy Brief Series on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, IOM in collaboration with the Georgetown University dedicated an issue to understanding the needs of indigenous communities and assessing risks when developing planned relocation in the Caribbean (further explained under Section C.i.,below). This issue explores the connections between Caribbean Indigenous Peoples and climate change, including their vulnerability, resilience, challenges and adaptive capacities. The brief reiterates several times the Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination, as well as the importance of incorporating the needs of children and other vulnerable groups into any Planned Relocation efforts and of understanding particular risks that children may face.

In the Pacific, as mentioned above, IOM has acknowledged and highlighted the importance of indigenous knowledge in important documents such as the IOM Pacific Strategy 2022-2026 and in the project "Enhancing protection and empowerment of migrants and communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region", which includes Indigenous Peoples in the communities that it aims to protect and empower. The Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility, developed under this project, also includes text on protecting culture, cultural heritage and identity and dignity, including for Indigenous Peoples. In Paraguay, IOM has supported the development and endorsement by authorities of manuals and instruments to engage Indigenous peoples in the design and development of climate adaptation solutions, recognizing the right to self-determination and participation in the design of climate adaptation actions.

In Latin America, IOM has organized regional discussion fora on migration, environment and climate change including the participation of Indigenous organizations and Indigenous youth representatives. In preparation for the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM), a regional pre-IDM webinar for the Americas included participation of an indigenous youth representative. In the context of the workgroup on migration, environment and climate change under the South American Conference on Migration (CSM), a workshop was conducted in Santiago, Chile, including representation from an Indigenous organization. The First Regional Conference on Human Mobility and Climate Change, conducted in Bogotá, Colombia, included representation of indigenous youth in a panel on Governance of Climate Mobility. Indigenous representatives have been invited to participate in other localized meetings and workshops.

IOM supports indigenous representatives engagement in the Organization main Governing Bodies. In this regard, IOM dedicated a panel discussion on "Migrants' Testimonies" during IOM Council in 2023. The panel provided a platform for displaced people and migrants to share their experiences and views on what the policymakers and practitioners need to deliver and to inspire action. The discussion benefited from the intervention of a Peruvian indigenous youth.

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 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.

IOM continues to contribute to the UN human rights system, including through the submission of country reports and informations to the different treaty bodies (from CMW, CEDAW, to CAT, CRC, ICCPR, etc.) as well as other mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review.

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.*

¹ E/2022/43-E/C.19/2022/11

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

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.

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 2024 session of the Forum.

IOM promotes and implements integrated and human-mobility sensitive solutions that seek to empower people on the move, protect migrants' rights, and that address foundational drivers to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity, in dignity. These spur progress across multiple SDGs at once.

The following examples present how the work implemented by IOM and its partners contributes to advance the fulfilment of indigenous people's rights, and supports progress across SDGs:

Indigenous people, including those on the move, or recently settled in urban areas for instance, face many obstacles in accessing essential health care services. Some of the health problems faced by indigenous migrant people are poor nutrition, a lack of access to medical services and a lack of health programs with an intercultural focus, leading to greater incidences of preventable diseases. Building on past experiences such as its work – implemented with WFP – to provide health infrastructure support for [indigenous communities along Ecuador's Northern Border](#); in 2023, in Roraima, Brazil, Mobile Health Units help bring medical assistance to [Venezuelan indigenous people](#) and their host communities in one of Brazil's hardest-to-reach areas. This build also on broader work IOM implemented in support of Brazil's Ministry of Citizenship, its Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights and the National Indigenous Foundation since 2020 on a comprehensive survey of the indigenous Venezuelans now living in Brazil; through the roll out of IOM's [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#) tools (DTM); and which served to catalogue the indigenous peoples' reasons for migrating, the circumstances of that migration and their priority needs in accessing services – such as social assistance, food security, housing, health, livelihoods and education. In Guyana, IOM is on the front line providing [Venezuelan Warao families](#) that crossed the border and their host communities on the banks of the hard-to-reach Kaituma river with much-needed assistance. This is part of an effort to support the Government of Guyana, which coordinated storage and transportation of items to the communities, including food, hygiene kits,

buckets, mosquito nets, hammocks, blankets, and other supplies such as shovels, axes, and machetes ([SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10](#)).

Indigenous people are particularly vulnerable to the climate crisis. At the same time, responses to climate change should incorporate vital indigenous knowledge of land and natural resource management, while protecting health, equity, justice and sustainability. In 2018, in the context of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, IOM published an [article](#) highlighting the risks and vulnerabilities of Indigenous Peoples to the adverse effects of climate change. Furthermore, as mentioned above, under the Policy Brief Series on Migration, Environment and Climate Change, IOM dedicated an issue to [understanding the needs of indigenous communities and assessing risks when developing planned relocation in the Caribbean](#). It covers various areas such as Caribbean indigenous peoples and their vulnerability to climate change, but also the resilience and adaptive capacities of indigenous peoples to climate change, climate mobility of indigenous communities, and challenges specific to indigenous peoples regarding relocation. It provides various case studies, for instance on the Gardí Sugdub indigenous community in Gunayala, Panama; the indigenous Carib peoples in Saint Vincent; or the Lokono-Arawak Tribal Community across the Caribbean. IOM has also published a report titled “[invisible movements: recommendations for facilitating the cross-border migration of Indigenous Peoples in the Caribbean](#)”, analyzing case studies from Belize, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago to help build baseline knowledge and recommendations to facilitate the implementation of inclusive migration policies that benefit all. This study cites climate change as an important threat to Indigenous Peoples’ livelihoods and land rights, which might force individuals to choose between starvation and migration (UNHCR, 2019). In Paraguay, since 2022, [communities of the Mbya Guaraní](#), located in rural areas, have been directly engaged in a study to better understand the relationship between human mobility of indigenous peoples in the context of climate change, environmental degradation, and deforestation with a methodology that also addressed human rights, gender and mainstreamed intercultural approaches ([SDGs 5, 10, 13, 15, 17](#)).

Indigenous people very often have to confront a lack of – or very poor – representation; an infringement of a fundamental right, that prevents the fulfilment of many others, and that weakens social cohesion. Among urban indigenous youth migrants, societal exclusion compounds other forms of discrimination. Governments and municipalities have tools at their disposal to strengthen the inclusion of migrant and displaced indigenous youth in their local communities. These policies must be centered around indigenous peoples, with indigenous peoples becoming leading partners in local development initiatives. Previous [research](#) conducted by the IOM demonstrates that local integration which does not lead to assimilation but rather upholds and guarantees indigenous rights and practices can create dignified and sustainable solutions for indigenous communities. Elevating and empowering indigenous youth community groups within local decision-making structures helps reduce gaps between local administrators and indigenous practices. Other IOM supported initiatives include the above-mentioned [participatory videos giving voice to indigenous people from Venezuela](#) in Brazil ([SDGs 1, 10, 16, 17](#)).

ii. 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.

IOM provides yearly written submissions to the HLPF, and therefore made a [submission](#) also in 2023. IOM had a strong engagement throughout the 2023 HLPF, with a high-level delegation on site in New York City, and jointly with UNDP held a hybrid side event under the official HLPF programme on the theme of “Leveraging Human Mobility to Rescue the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Accelerate the SDGs”. For the SDG Summit in September, IOM’s Director General and Director General Elect headed a strong delegation that held a multitude of bilateral and multilateral discussions, with the overall objective of ensuring that human mobility is hardwired into the UN and Member States agendas to accelerate progress on the SDGs and to ensure that people on the move be part of the solutions. On the eve of the SDG Summit, IOM released during a high-level event that was amongst the few in the official programme, its flagship report on “[Leveraging Human Mobility to Rescue the 2030 Agenda](#)”.

As it relates to IOM support on VNR processes, IOM updates and releases internally to all its Missions in countries preparing a submission in a given year, a guidance on how to engage and support Member States and other in-country stakeholders on VNRs, but also on VSRs and VLRs. IOM also supports on ad hoc basis Member States and stakeholders, for instance through funding consultations, or contributing to drafting and/or reviewing sections of the drafted VNR reports.