

## Questionnaire to UN system

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### 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 2025 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 2024** to:

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

Subject: Response to SWAP questionnaire

<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 2025 session of the PFII.

This questionnaire has been answered by multiple OECD directorates in accordance with their thematic areas of work.

### Regional development

The OECD's Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) has been leading work on [Linking Indigenous Communities with Regional Development](#) since 2017, hosting a series of workshops to discuss challenges and opportunities for Indigenous wellbeing in rural and regional areas. The workstream has released a thematic report and three country-specific case studies (Australia, Canada, and Sweden). The [OECD Mining Regions and Cities Initiative](#) also engages with Indigenous peoples through tailored events and regional case studies, to explore ways to improve wellbeing and strengthen Indigenous natural resource management in mining regions.

### Indigenous trade

The OECD's Trade Committee has commenced work exploring Indigenous impacts and involvement in trade. Two main outputs include: i) engagement of the OECD trade policy-making community with Indigenous representatives; and ii) an analytical contribution to examine the main challenges that emerged from those discussions. A report is being drafted looking at key areas where trade policy can support Indigenous communities.

### Rule of law and people-centered access to justice

The OECD emphasises inclusive justice, focusing on Indigenous participation per SDG16 and OECD guidelines (OECD/LEGAL/0498). Legal needs surveys highlight barriers faced by Indigenous peoples, such as cultural and linguistic differences and geographic isolation, with Indigenous women facing unique challenges. This approach promotes justice systems that respect Indigenous rights. The OECD's Public Governance Directorate is working across several projects to promote this inclusivity including the OECD Justice Review of Peru (2024) and Identifying Legal Needs in Peru (forthcoming).

### Well-being of Indigenous peoples

The OECD's Centre on Well-being (WISE) has initiated several projects and events on measuring wellbeing that have considered and involved Indigenous peoples, including:

- A multi-year project which applied a well-being lens to mental health (culminating in the 2023 report [How to Make Societies Thrive? Coordinating Approaches to Promote Well-being and Mental Health](#));
- A dissemination workshop on the “**Climate Mental Health Nexus**” in the US with the participation of Indigenous peoples; and
- The recent paper, “**Economic Cost of Childhood Socio-economic Disadvantage in Canada**”<sup>1</sup> highlighting the vulnerable situation of children from Indigenous communities in Canada.

### Indigenous issues in development co-operation

The OECD's work on development co-operation supports providers in stepping up efforts to address issues related to Indigenous peoples, through better policies, practices and targeting of development finance. Projects include:

- [OECD Development Co-operation Report \(DCR\) 2024: Tackling poverty and inequalities through the green transition](#) calls for poverty and inequality reduction to be at the forefront of the international agenda, including inequalities experienced by Indigenous peoples.

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<sup>1</sup> OECD (2024), “The economic cost of childhood socio-economic disadvantage in Canada”, *OECD Papers on Well-being and Inequalities*, No. 25, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/7abf1837-en>.

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- [Pathways Towards Effective Locally Led Development Co-operation: Learning by Example](#) (2024) analyses to what extent providers of development and humanitarian assistance can enhance or hinder the agency of local actors, including Indigenous peoples.
- The OECD's work on development co-operation and biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources touches on issues related to Indigenous peoples and local communities.

More information on each area of work can be found in the sections below.

### A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2025 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.

#### Indigenous issues in development co-operation

- The OECD's work on development co-operation and biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources touches on issues related to Indigenous peoples and local communities. Most notably, the report, [A Decade of Development Finance for Biodiversity](#) (2023) includes a deep dive into Indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of development and biodiversity, recognising that Indigenous peoples receive little policy attention, and thus benefit from limited biodiversity-related official development finance (ODF).
- Biodiversity-related ODF, including official development assistance (ODA), targeting Indigenous peoples and local communities is not easily identifiable in the [OECD Creditor Reporting System](#) (CRS) aid activity database in which the 32 donor members in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) report financing. Hence, a methodology was developed to identify bilateral DAC members' activities related to Indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of development and biodiversity which have been documented in the OECD report, [Biodiversity and Development Finance 2015-2022: Contributing to Target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (2024), updating and improving previous methodologies. Overall, findings show that 6% of ODF for biodiversity from bilateral DAC members is related to Indigenous peoples and local communities. Importantly, 56% of this funding overlaps with activities addressing the priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as a main objective, underscoring the strong connections that providers perceive when supporting Indigenous peoples and local communities and nature. In effect, this work seeks to provide a better understanding of activities related to Indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of development and biodiversity.

- ii. The theme of the 2025 PFII session is "Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples within United Nations Member States and the United Nations system, including identifying good practices and addressing challenges." Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this themes.

#### Well-being of Indigenous peoples

- A multi-year project applying a well-being lens to mental health (culminating in the 2023 report, [How to Make Societies Thrive? Coordinating Approaches to Promote Well-being and Mental Health](#)) considered to what extent existing mental health promotion strategies were connecting government action with other stakeholders, including communities and people with lived experience such as Indigenous people. A dissemination workshop on "the **Climate Mental Health Nexus**", held in September 2023 in collaboration with the Earth Lab at the University of Washington in Seattle, involved the participation of Indigenous tribes and was held in the Indigenous meeting space on the university grounds ([agenda](#) and [recording](#) here).
- The 2025 update of the [OECD Guidelines on Subjective Well-being](#) will develop an experimental module that highlights more globally inclusive subjective well-being measurement approaches, pulling from a broader evidence base that includes the perspectives of Indigenous communities and different cultural traditions across OECD countries. The [kick-off conference](#) in March 2024 included a dedicated session, and the informal advisory group of the project includes

representatives from Indigenous communities. The session discussed how culture can shape our experiences of, or the value we place on, our emotions, feelings of satisfaction, and meaning. It also showcased examples of Indigenous subjective well-being and health measurement approaches.

- The recent paper [Economic Cost of Childhood Socio-economic Disadvantage in Canada](#) (published 24 May 2024)<sup>1</sup> highlights the particularly vulnerable situation of children from Indigenous communities in Canada. It underlines that Indigenous children and their families are at higher risks of poverty and that government support must target the specific needs of these groups to ensure their opportunities are on par with those of the non-Indigenous population.
- The **OECD Anti-Discrimination Questionnaire** asks Members about the coverage of their laws, policies and mainstreaming efforts to combat discrimination based on ethnicity, race and Indigenous status, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity, age and religion. This questionnaire enables a comparative analysis of anti-discrimination protections across OECD countries, as well as across protected grounds. Further, the questionnaire identifies best practices in the design of employment, health, justice and education policies tailored to the needs, preferences and circumstances of people at risk of discrimination, including the provision of culturally responsive services for Indigenous people. The questionnaire is currently informing a report on Discrimination in the EU and is envisaged to be used in the development of a Compendium of Good Practices for Mainstreaming Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion across the OECD.

### Rule of law and people-centered access to justice

- The **OECD Justice Review of Peru (2024)**: analyses Peru's justice system and provides recommendations to make it more effective, transparent, accessible, and people-centered, drawing on OECD best practices. The report suggests solutions for modernising Peru's justice administration to meet OECD standards, integrating intercultural justice with Indigenous, peasant, and community systems. It highlights structural and socio-economic barriers to access, with specific insights into Indigenous experiences.
- **Identifying Legal Needs in Peru (forthcoming)**: the OECD's Governance Directorate is currently conducting a Legal Needs Survey in Lima and San Martin. The results will be included in a forthcoming OECD report that offers detailed comparative analysis of policies and practices for people-centered justice for better planning and delivering justice services. This project complements the OECD Justice Review of Peru: Towards Effective and Transparent Justice Institutions for Inclusive Growth.

### Regional development

The OECD's CFE has carried out a number of projects related to identifying good practices and addressing challenges for Indigenous wellbeing, especially in rural and regional areas.

- The stream of work on [Indigenous Communities](#), launched in 2017, works with Indigenous leaders and communities to promote a place-based approach to sustainable development, led by local Indigenous institutions. The 2019 report, **Linking Indigenous Communities to Regional Development** offers recommendations for fostering vibrant local and regional Indigenous economies alongside three country-specific case studies in Australia, Canada, and Sweden.
- The *OECD Mining Regions and Cities Initiative* also frequently works with Indigenous communities to deliver recommendations to improve Indigenous outcomes in areas with mining activities. Reports in the Pilbara, Australia, Antofagasta, Chile, and Norbotten Sweden outline important measures to respect Indigenous land-rights and improve socio-economic outcomes for communities including greater involvement in mining value chains and strengthened social services (housing, education, healthcare). Most recently, the 2024 OECD Mining Regions and Cities Conference welcomed 35 Indigenous leaders from across Canada, Chile, Colombia, and Sweden for a preconference to discuss key challenges and opportunities for Indigenous wellbeing in mining regions. At this preconference, representatives devised a 'Call to Action' outlining priority actions to improve these outcomes.

### Indigenous knowledge in science, technology and innovation

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During the Multistakeholder high-level Dialogue held prior to the OECD Science and Technology Policy Ministerial in May 2024, the OECD's Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) launched a thematic portal of the [EC-OECD STIP Compass](#) focused on Indigenous knowledge and communities.

- The portal provides a tool for science, technology, and innovation (STI) policy makers and other stakeholders to access streamlined and centralised data on STI policies targeted to Indigenous Peoples, communities and knowledge systems. The portal aims to facilitate international policy learning and knowledge exchange on ongoing efforts to improve the representation of Indigenous peoples and knowledge in national STI systems and STI policymaking.
- Users can freely access and download details on specific initiatives that match their search parameters and use interactive dashboards to investigate different trends among the portal's roughly 150 initiatives. Featured STI policy data is collected biennially as a component of the broad STIP Compass survey.
- Many policies captured by the portal are focused on equity, diversity and inclusion, and improving accessibility and inclusion of Indigenous peoples in STEM education and the research workforce. There is also a focus on respecting and promoting Indigenous data sovereignty in Open Science activities, partnering with Indigenous communities to tackle shared challenges, and weaving Indigenous knowledge systems into STI activities and policymaking approaches.
- The portal also provides quick access to a variety of related publications from academic publishers and intergovernmental organisations. The OECD's STI is currently collaborating with the UNESCO LINKS (Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems) team to update the portal and ensure that content is framed appropriately and in accordance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples. These efforts may involve expanding the portal's geographic coverage and updating the STIP Compass survey to better capture national STI policies intended to support Indigenous peoples.

### **Indigenous issues in development co-operation**

The recent report of the OECD's Development Co-operation Directorate, [Pathways Towards Effective Locally Led Development Co-operation: Learning by Example](#) (2024) analyses to what extent providers of development and humanitarian assistance can enhance or hinder the agency of local actors, including Indigenous peoples, through their policies, financing mechanisms, partnerships, and management processes. Chapter 5 of the report looks in depth at increasing local agency and knowledge in programming including Indigenous knowledge (explored further in a dedicated paper).

- The report notes a growing body of good practice from members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) supporting the integration of traditional and Indigenous knowledge whilst navigating power dynamics in development co-operation. The report finds that progress towards valuing knowledge from Indigenous groups has been largely sectoral and substantially linked to climate adaptation, biodiversity and the environment.
- The report highlights the actions of some DAC members to leverage experience from their own domestic contexts. These examples include:
  - New Zealand has grounded its foreign policy in the principles of partnership and mutual respect, as a foundation for integrating Indigenous worldviews and Māori knowledge into its development co-operation.
  - Valuing Indigenous knowledge and supporting the co-production of knowledge whilst avoiding extractive practices is raised as an important consideration. For example, USAID's Indigenous People's Policy outlines specific policies and operating principles, guiding how to identify, analyse, engage, safeguard, and establish partnerships with Indigenous people. The United States Government's broader 2022 Guidance on Indigenous Knowledge calls for the co-production of knowledge as a research framework based on equity and the inclusion of multiple knowledge systems.
  - For the last three decades, Spain has engaged in a programme with Afro-descendants and local communities in Latin America and the Caribbean that works directly with Indigenous peoples' organisations to strengthen mechanisms for free, prior and informed consultation and the development of their own life plans.

The [OECD Development Co-operation Report \(DCR\) 2024: Tackling poverty and inequalities through the green transition](#) identifies scope for development co-operation providers to step up their efforts to address inequalities experienced by Indigenous peoples, and that development co-operation support to green transitions should be rooted in a human rights-based approach that deliberately engages Indigenous

communities in deciding, designing and collaborating in policies and programmes.

- For example, analysis in Chapter 12 of the report reveals that DAC members' approaches to reducing horizontal (or group-based) inequalities tend to overlook Indigenous peoples, with only 8 out of 24 members reporting Indigenous peoples to be a high-priority group in their targeting of horizontal inequalities. The analysis highlights good practices from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which has a dedicated policy on promoting the rights of Indigenous peoples, and its climate strategy aims to support partners in achieving systemic changes that increase meaningful participation and active leadership in climate action of Indigenous peoples. The chapter reiterates the importance of embedding an intersectional approach to development co-operation to target multiple forms of overlapping inequalities such as Indigenous status or gender inequality.

### **Indigenous trade**

In March 2024, OECD policy makers engaged with Indigenous leaders from North and Latin America and the Pacific in a series of discussions focused on impacts of trade on Indigenous communities and gaps that need to be closed. Based on this, the OECD is drafting a report looking at areas of key importance where trade policy can support Indigenous communities. These are:

- An analysis of Indigenous-specific provisions in regional trade agreements;
- Indigenous peoples' representation in trade-related decision-making, drawing on examples from selected OECD Member countries;
- International inter-Indigenous trade and investment;
- Indigenous intellectual property protection as it relates to trade, providing examples within the current international framework that help protect and ensure appropriate dissemination of Indigenous intellectual property;
- An inventory of data relating to Indigenous trade; and
- A summary of countries' policy responses to Indigenous trade-related challenges, including providing a pathway to the development of best practices that include Indigenous values in policymaking.

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 (2021-2030), the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development" (2018-2028), the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022 - 2032) and other relevant international decades and processes, including CEDAW General recommendation 39 on Indigenous women and girls.

### **Rule of law and people-centered access to justice**

In the context of the OECD Justice Review of Peru (2024) and the forthcoming Identifying Legal Needs project in Peru (Lima and San Martín), group interviews were organised with Indigenous peoples in Lima and San Martín. One of the key aspects analysed by the OECD was the specific barriers that Indigenous peoples, particularly women, face when seeking justice services. The Legal Needs Survey conducted in Lima and San Martín will also provide valuable feedback and gender-disaggregated data on the particular issues that Indigenous peoples encounter when seeking justice services.

iv. Has your entity responded to the 2022 UNPFII recommendation<sup>2</sup> 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.*

## **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](#)

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<sup>2</sup> E/2022/43-E/C.19/2022/11

[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>3</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 2025 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>4</sup>.

### 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 2025 session of the Forum, including SDGs 5, 7, 10, 13 and 16.

### Rule of law and people-centered access to justice

The OECD's work on the rule of law and people-centred justice directly supports SDG 16.3, which aims to promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice for all. Through its Access to Justice and People-Centred Justice Systems Recommendation, the OECD helps countries develop justice services that are responsive to the needs of all and especially the most in need. By identifying legal needs, addressing barriers to justice, and promoting inclusivity, the OECD contributes to building fairer justice systems that uphold human rights, strengthen trust in the rule of law, and ensure no one is left behind. In addition to analytical and implementation support at the country level, the OECD provides a global platform for peer-to-peer exchanges and standard-setting. OECD and partner countries meet each year to discuss key challenges and innovative solutions in the context of the OECD Justice Roundtable. The OECD also recently joined the Justice Action Coalition.

### Regional development

The work of the OECD's CFE on *The Rural Agenda for Climate Action* addresses SDG 13. It delineates a strategic approach to integrating rural areas into broader climate action frameworks. Recognising rural regions as pivotal in the transition to net-zero emissions, the Agenda advocates for a robust role of rural policies in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. The focus extends beyond agricultural impacts, highlighting the significant contributions of rural areas to carbon sequestration and ecosystem services, while addressing the higher per capita emissions often found in these regions due to less access to sustainable alternatives. The Agenda, approved in October 2021, is a call to action for enhanced integration of rural development into national and subnational climate strategies, marking a critical step towards achieving global net-zero targets while ensuring rural community resilience.

CFE's stream of work on *Inclusion and Equality in Regions* addresses SDG 10, looking at how governments support access to quality public services and infrastructure and boost competitiveness and productivity to unlock the potential of all types of regions and mitigate territorial disparities. The most recent report, [Boosting Social Inclusion in Spain](#) (2023) sets out a blueprint for developing a monitoring and evaluation framework. The recommendations aim to increase the effectiveness of minimum income policies and strengthen the co-ordination between social services, employment, health and housing.

ii. Please describe any activities your entity organized in support of the 2024 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.



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**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 2025 session of the PFII.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

## ANNEX 1

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

The Twentieth-fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled to take place from **21 April – 2 May 2025**.

#### **Provisional Agenda**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion on the theme “Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within United Nations Member States and the United Nations system, including identifying good practices and addressing challenges”.
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;
  - (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-fifth session of the Permanent Forum.
8. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its twenty-fourth session.