

Questionnaire to UN system

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.¹

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 cc. indigenous_un@un.org

Subject: Response to SWAP questionnaire

¹ 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>

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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.

Contribution of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the 2026 Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Note: Responses to the questionnaire are marked in green.

Executive Summary

1. The present report is submitted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) to inform the twenty-fifth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII). It provides an overview of recent developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of relevance to the PFII recommendation from its last session, the 2026 theme of the session “Ensuring Indigenous Peoples’ health, including in the context of conflict” and the goals of the System-Wide Action Plan for a coherent approach to achieving the ends of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (SWAP). The present report also highlights the outcomes of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (SB8J-1). It also highlights relevant outcomes emanating from the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27).
2. SB8J-1 marked a historic and key milestone in the implementation of Article 8 (j) of the CBD. The meeting addressed foundational issues, such as the operation and governance of the SB8J (modus operandi), including mechanisms to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in its work. During the meeting, an in-depth dialogue *on strategies for mobilizing resources to ensure the availability of and access to financial resources and funding, as well as other means of implementation, including capacity-building, development and technical support for indigenous peoples and local communities* was held. Advanced important discussions on guidelines related to the implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j), which was adopted at COP 16 last year in Cali, also took place. The meeting also discussed the contribution of traditional knowledge to the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The report will feed into the first global review of progress in the implementation of the KMGBF to be held in Yerevan, Armenia, in October 2026. SB8J also considered the recommendations emanating from the twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions of the PFII, consistent with the established practice of the CBD. **The present report further highlights progress under SBSTTA on biodiversity and health, including the development of science-based indicators and tools to strengthen cooperation in this area**. In line with their mandates, SB8J-1 and SBSTTA-27 proposed a draft decision, which is being transmitted to COP17 for further consideration.
3. **Finally, the report describes actions undertaken by the SCBD relevant to the 2026 PFII theme, including work under the KMGBF, the Programme of Work on Article 8 (j), and the SWAP, as well as contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals through NBSAP processes, traditional knowledge integration, and rights-based approaches.**

Please provide information on the following:

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS EMANATING FROM THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES (2024) TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

4. In line with the established practice, recommendations from the PFII are addressed to the CBD are transmitted to SB8J, which has replaced the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (WG8J). SB8J-1 considered recommendations from the 2024 and 2025 sessions of the PFII and prepared a draft decision for COP 17. This draft decision is annexed to this report.
5. In 2025, the twenty-fourth session of the PFII adopted recommendations relevant to the CBD, outlined in paragraphs 20 and 78 of its report. These focus on participatory mechanisms for indigenous peoples in the Subsidiary Body, acknowledgement of the Global Plan of Action on Biodiversity and Health, and read as follows:
 20. *The Permanent Forum welcomes the establishment of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8 (j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (decision 16/5) and the adoption of the new programme of work related thereto (decision 16/4) at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It urges the operationalization of the decision on the continued prioritization of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge in implementing the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Forum also acknowledges that the Global Plan of Action on Biodiversity and Health (decision 16/19) draws on the study on the indigenous determinants of health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/C.19/2023/5).*
 78. *The Permanent Forum urges Member States, and the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat's permanent subsidiary body on article 8 (j), in its new work programme, to include indigenous peoples' leadership at all levels, including as co-chairs, working group leads, expert groups and Bureau members from the seven sociocultural regions. The Forum reiterates its call upon United Nations entities and the Parties to biodiversity and climate agreements to recognize the distinct identities and specific rights of indigenous peoples. The Forum encourages the use of accurate and differentiated terminology and recommends avoiding the combined or interchangeable use of the terms "indigenous peoples" and "local communities" as a single category.*
6. At its first meeting, held from 27 to 30 October 2025 in Panama City, the SB8J-1 considered the recommendations of the PFII. In operationalizing COP decision 16/5, SB8J-1 undertook substantive work under the Programme of Work on Article 8(j), including the development of guidelines to strengthen legal and policy frameworks related to indigenous and traditional territories (Task 1.1), guidelines on the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and resource use in spatial planning and environmental impact assessments (Task 1.2), and a process for reviewing and updating the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms (Task 5.4). These outputs directly support the recommendations of the PFII by reinforcing the role of traditional knowledge in biodiversity planning and implementation.
7. In line with decision 16/5, SB8J-1 also undertook discussions on the development of its modus operandi, under agenda item 4. The SB8J-1 proposed a participation modality for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in SB8J. This work contributes to Task 6.1 of the Programme of Work on Article 8(j), which aims to implement and further develop the enhanced participation mechanisms previously used by the Working Group on Article 8(j).
8. On the issue of the terminology, in its decision XII/12, the COP decided to use the terminology "indigenous peoples and local communities" in future decisions and secondary documents under the Convention, without affecting in any way the legal meaning of Article 8(j) and related provisions. Under Task 5.4 of the programme of work on Article 8(j), the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the

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Convention is to be reviewed and updated, as needed, in the light of the adoption of KMGBF. As a result, SB8J-1 proposed a process to review and update the Glossary.

9. SB8J also considered the recommendations originating from the twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions of the PFII, in accordance with the practice of the Convention.
 10. All the decisions highlighted above will be submitted to the Conference of Parties for its consideration during its seventeenth meeting (COP 17).
 11. At its twenty-seventh meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice reviewed progress on activities related to biodiversity and health and transmitted a recommendation to COP-17. If agreed at COP17, the recommendation is to complete the work on the development of science-based indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools on biodiversity and health, as well as to continue networking and cooperation activities that could lead to the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health interlinkages.
- 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.
12. The SCBD continues to promote actions that acknowledge the interdependence between biodiversity and health. Biodiversity serves as the foundation for food security, medicine, clean water, and cultural practices. Traditional knowledge plays a crucial role in understanding the interconnections between biodiversity, traditional healing systems, and mental health.
 13. Several KMGBF targets of relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities directly address the issue health:
 - Target 1: inclusive spatial planning, respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities;
 - Target 2: restoration of ecosystems that support access to medicinal plants, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity, and connectivity;
 - Target 3: recognition of indigenous and traditional territories for health, identity and food sovereignty;
 - Target 5: ensure sustainable, safe and legal harvesting and trade of wild species, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities; and
 - Targets 22: secure tenure, access to resources, and participation in decision-making improve health outcomes.
 14. COP 16 adopted the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health (Decision 16/19). At its twenty-seventh meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice reviewed progress on biodiversity–health links and sent a recommendation to COP-17. If approved, COP17 should adjust timelines and develop integrated, science-based indicators, metrics, and tools on biodiversity and health. It also proposed COP-17 adopt a decision highlighting the Global Action Plan, One Health, capacity-building, funding, and the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

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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[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 SWAP¹.

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 Forum².

15. The implementation of the KMGBF and the adoption of the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) together constitute a key step in the delivery of the System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (SWAP). The KMGBF provides the overarching framework for achieving the 2050 Vision of “Living in harmony with nature,” while the Programme of Work operationalizes this vision through eight elements and 29 tasks that integrate rights-based approaches, traditional knowledge, land and resource governance, participation, and equitable access to benefits.
16. The Programme of Work on Article 8(j) provides a structured blueprint that directly strengthens the implementation of SWAP across its six key elements. The eight elements of the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) are:
 - Element 1. Conservation and restoration;
 - Element 2. Sustainable use of biological diversity;
 - Element 3. Sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources;
 - Element 4. Knowledge and culture;
 - Element 5. Strengthening implementation and monitoring progress;
 - Element 6. Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities
 - Element 7. Human rights-based approach; and
 - Element 8. Access, including direct access, to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.
17. The SCBD continues to disseminate information related to the Programme of Work on Article 8(j), in a brochure available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#) and [Russian](#).

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

iii. 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

¹ 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.

² 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

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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).

iv. 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.

18. The CBD continues to advance implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the KMGBF. Implementation of the KMGBF directly contributes to SDGs 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 15 and 16. In this context, Parties integrate biodiversity, traditional knowledge and human rights-based approaches into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), and into associated implementation and monitoring processes, including the CBD national reports.

19. The CBD supports Sustainable Development Goals by addressing the interconnected challenges of biodiversity loss, land degradation, and pollution. The KMGBF recognizes indigenous peoples and local communities as biodiversity custodians, aligning with the SWAP and relevant agreements.

20. The SCBD promotes the interlinkages between biodiversity, human rights and the SDGs through a range of complementary actions, including:

- supporting restoration and conservation initiatives of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- strengthening the integration of traditional knowledge into global biodiversity monitoring;
- aligning NBSAP revision and reporting processes with relevant SDG targets and indicators.

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;

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(b) Dialogue with Member States;

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

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.

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(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.