



THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

24th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Concept Note

Agenda Item 5.g.

Thematic dialogue on the financing of Indigenous Peoples' work and participation across the multilateral and regional system.

Conference Room 4 | Wednesday, 23 April 2025

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) serves as a unique platform where the concerns and priorities for the survival of Indigenous Peoples are addressed alongside the responsibilities of Member States and the broader international community. The *thematic dialogue on the financing of Indigenous Peoples' work and participation across the multilateral and regional system* will be structured into two key segments, each critical to both the well-being of Indigenous Peoples and the sustainability of the planet: the morning meeting on **Critical Minerals and Indigenous Peoples**, and the afternoon meeting on **Financing Indigenous Peoples' work and participation**.

Format:

Each segment will feature a panel of up to three speakers, including experts and Members of the Permanent Forum who have conducted studies on the respective topics. The panel will last for 30 minutes.

Each speaker will have 5 minutes for their presentation.

After the panel, the Chairperson will open the floor to the list of speakers, with each speaker allocated 3 minutes.

Fifteen minutes before the session concludes, the panelists will provide brief remarks and chairperson will summarize the afternoon discussion.

Participation

Member States, UN system entities, International Financial Institutions, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are invited to register in the list of speakers.





THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

Organization of meetings:

Morning meeting: *Critical minerals and Indigenous Peoples* (10:00 -13:00)

The extraction of critical minerals—vital for the global transition to renewable energy—has significant implications for Indigenous Peoples, whose lands and territories often contain these essential resources. While these minerals are crucial to ensuring a sustainable future, their non regulated extraction can pose serious threats to Indigenous Peoples’ rights, livelihoods, and ecosystems. This session will explore how States, corporations, and financial institutions can fulfill their obligations under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), ensuring that Indigenous Peoples’ governance, free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), and sustainable practices are integrated into decision-making processes including access and benefit sharing when agreement reached. Safeguarding Indigenous Peoples’ lands and territories is not only a matter of justice—it is also essential for the well-being of humanity as a whole.

Indigenous Peoples are the original stewards of their lands and possess knowledge systems that have preserved biodiversity and ecosystems for centuries. This wisdom, rooted in their deep connection to the land and territories, cannot be replicated or replaced. No financial compensation can truly reflect the value of Indigenous Peoples’ stewardship. The role of Indigenous Peoples as guardians of critical ecosystems must be fully recognized, and solutions for mineral extraction must be developed in partnership with them, should they choose to engage in such activities.

This session aims to examine the challenges associated with the extraction of critical minerals, while inviting States to share how they can integrate Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge and governance structures into their decision-making processes. It will also explore how States can better design coordinated policies globally and in collaboration with the corporations, ensuring a right-based approach. Additionally, the session will consider ways in which the United Nations and other international bodies can support these efforts, upholding the principles of sustainability, equity, and social justice in the extraction and management of critical minerals.

Guiding questions:

1. Governance, Rights, and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent

- How can States, corporations, and financial institutions ensure that Indigenous Peoples’ right to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) is fully respected in critical mineral projects?
- What challenges do Indigenous Peoples face in asserting their land and resource rights in the context of critical mineral extraction?
- How can Indigenous Peoples’ governance systems, including traditional decision-making processes, be recognized and integrated into national and international frameworks for managing critical mineral extraction?





THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

2. Environmental and Social Impacts

- What are the key environmental and social risks associated with critical mineral extraction in Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories?
- How can Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems contribute to sustainable and responsible extraction practices?
- What mechanisms exist, or should be strengthened, to hold companies and governments accountable for environmental, human rights and social harm caused by critical mineral extraction?

3. Economic Benefits and Financing

- How can Indigenous Peoples ensure they equitably benefit from the economic opportunities linked to critical mineral extraction while protecting their lands, territories and cultures?
- What financing mechanisms or benefit-sharing models can guarantee long-term, meaningful economic benefits for Indigenous Peoples?
- What role do financial institutions and development banks play in supporting or undermining Indigenous Peoples' rights in the extractive sector?

Afternoon meeting: Financing Indigenous Peoples' work and participation across the multilateral and regional system (15:00-18:00)

Despite international commitments to uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples, they continue to face significant challenges in securing the financial resources necessary to participate effectively in decision-making at international and regional levels. Without sustainable and adequate funding, their ability to fully exercise their rights, participate in global policy discussions, and influence critical decisions remains severely limited.

This session will focus on the right to equitable and accessible financial mechanisms that prioritize Indigenous Peoples' leadership and participation, in alignment with international commitments under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Currently, the financial framework to support Indigenous Peoples, including their governance systems, is not adequately recognized. It is essential that financial institutions align their practices with UNDRIP to ensure the effective recognition and empowerment of Indigenous Peoples. Addressing these financial challenges is crucial not only for honoring the rights of Indigenous Peoples but also for fostering a more inclusive, just, and sustainable world to achieve Agenda 2030.

There is increasing evidence that funding for self-determined Indigenous Peoples' initiatives remains insufficient. Often, funding intended for Indigenous Peoples and their communities is not received directly but is managed by intermediaries, such as NGOs, development agencies, or government





THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

institutions. This process often dilutes the impact and reduces the effectiveness of Indigenous-led projects. Reports indicate that only a small fraction of funds designated for Indigenous Peoples actually reach them, with much of the funding absorbed by intermediaries. This structural issue undermines Indigenous Peoples' governance systems, perpetuates dependency, and can even create divisions within communities, limiting their ability to direct resources according to their own priorities.

While financial support is essential to enable Indigenous Peoples' participation, it is important to acknowledge that no financial compensation can truly reflect the value of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and stewardship. Indigenous Peoples offer crucial solutions to global challenges such as climate change and biodiversity conservation and land restoration deeply rooted in their traditional knowledge systems.

This session invites States, UN entities, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and Indigenous Peoples to explore ways to address funding gaps, enhance partnerships, and ensure that Indigenous Peoples are not only included in multilateral processes but are also empowered to shape policies that directly impact their lives and the planet's future.

Guiding questions:

1. Challenges in Accessing Funding

- What are the main barriers Indigenous Peoples face in accessing funding for their participation in multilateral and regional processes?
- How can existing financial mechanisms be adapted to ensure they are more accessible and responsive to the rights and cultural practices of Indigenous Peoples?
- What role do States, multilateral organizations, and financial institutions play in addressing funding gaps for Indigenous-led initiatives?

2. Sustainable and Equitable Financing Mechanisms

- What good practices exist for ensuring long-term, sustainable funding for Indigenous Peoples' participation in global decision-making processes?
- How can funding mechanisms be structured to respect Indigenous Peoples' governance systems and self-determination?
- What role can direct funding models, including Indigenous-led funds, play in ensuring financial resources reach communities effectively?

3. Strengthening Partnerships and Accountability

- How can partnerships between Indigenous Peoples, States, and international organizations be strengthened to secure adequate financial support?





THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

- What accountability measures should be in place to ensure that financing for Indigenous participation is transparent, effective, and aligned with their priorities?
- How can Indigenous Peoples influence the design and implementation of financial mechanisms at the multilateral and regional levels?

Resources

- [E/C.19/2025/4](#) International Expert Group Meeting: “The rights of Indigenous Peoples, including those in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the context of the extraction of critical minerals” (2024)
- [A/HRC/51/28](#) United Nations Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, (2022)
- [E/C.19/2023/8](#) Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Twenty-second session (2023)
- [E/C.19/2024/4](#) International Expert Group Meeting on "Indigenous Peoples in a greening economy": Note by the Secretariat
- [E/C.19/2024/7](#) Study on “Financing the future: the financial needs of Indigenous Peoples to support their actions for biodiversity, climate and the protection of Mother Earth”, prepared by Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim
- [E/C.19/2022/9](#) Study on “The rights of Indigenous Peoples in relation to the global energy mix” prepared by Darío José Mejía Montalvo

