



UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
Division for Inclusive Social Development
Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch - Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on
Indigenous Issues

International Expert Group Meeting

Programme of Work

**The rights of Indigenous Peoples, including those in voluntary isolation and initial
contact in the context of the extraction of critical minerals**

2-4 December 2024

[Interpretation available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and vice versa]

Prepared by the Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch, Secretariat of the United
Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Division for Inclusive Social Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations

DAY 1: Monday, 2 December 2024

10:00 - 12:30

Opening Remarks

- *Charles Katoanga*, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- *Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim*, Chairperson, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Session Theme 1: Territorial and land rights and cultural preservation towards strengthening Indigenous Peoples' self-determination & free, prior and informed consent

- What legal and policy measures can States adopt to secure Indigenous territorial and land rights in areas targeted for critical mineral extraction?
- How can Indigenous Peoples balance economic opportunities from critical mineral extraction with the need for environmental protection and cultural preservation?
- What are the main challenges to implementing free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) in the critical minerals sector, and how can these be addressed to ensure meaningful participation?
- How can Indigenous knowledge systems and cultural practices be incorporated into environmental protection and restoration projects in mining areas?
- What accountability mechanisms can be put in place to ensure that States and corporations adhere to FPIC and respect territorial rights in the critical minerals industry?
- What strategies can be implemented to protect the territories of Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact, ensuring that their right to self-determination and FPIC are respected without forcing contact?
- How can cultural preservation be prioritized in legal and policy frameworks to safeguard the heritage and autonomy Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact, especially as external pressures on their territories increase?

Moderator: *Ms. Rosemary Lane*, Acting Chief, Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch, DISD, DESA

Presentations by:

- *Antenor Vaz*, International Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (Brazil)
- *Anthony Phillip Williams*, (*Khoe and San*), Indigenous Peoples Network of Southern Africa -IPNeSA
- *José Carlos Solón*, People's Mobilization for the Earth and Climate / Solon Foundation (Bolivia)
- *Tara Houska*, Couchiching First Nation, Giniw Collective, USA.

General discussion

DAY 2: Tuesday 3 December 2024

15:00 -17:30

Session Theme 2: Social, economic, health and environmental impact of critical mineral projects towards a just transition

- What policies and practices can ensure that critical mineral extraction benefits Indigenous Peoples economically without compromising social, environmental, and health standards?
- What are the potential health impacts of critical mineral projects and how can we assess and mitigate these long-term health impacts on Indigenous Peoples, particularly in remote areas?
- What frameworks exist to equitably share the economic benefits of critical mineral projects with Indigenous Peoples, and how can these be strengthened to ensure a just transition?
- How can States and corporations work with Indigenous Peoples to prevent environmental degradation and ensure sustainable land stewardship during and after mineral extraction?
- How can States and corporations work with Indigenous Peoples to prevent environmental degradation and ensure sustainable land stewardship during and after mineral extraction?
- How can States and corporations ensure the protection of Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact from the environmental and health impacts of critical mineral projects, especially regarding potential exposure to external populations and diseases?
- What safeguards and monitoring systems can be put in place to respect the autonomy and territories of Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact in areas affected by critical mineral extraction?

Moderator: *Geoffrey Roth*, Member, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Presentations by:

- *Emma Rawson Te-Patu*, (Māori), President, World Federation of Public Health Associations,
- *Patricia Suarez*, (Pueblo Murui), National Commission for the prevention and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact, Colombia
- *Galina Angarova* (Buryat), Executive Director, SIRGE Coalition
- *Karrina Nolan*, (a descendant of the Yorta Yorta People), First Nations Clean Energy Network, Australia
- *Sandra del Pino*, The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

General discussion

DAY 3: Wednesday 4 December 2024

9:00 – 11:30

Session Theme 3: Pathways forward in advancing legal and regulatory responses to human rights violations affecting Indigenous Peoples in the context of critical minerals

- What legal reforms are most urgently needed to protect Indigenous rights in regions where critical mineral extraction takes place?
- How can States strengthen enforcement mechanisms to prevent and address human rights violations tied to critical mineral projects on Indigenous lands?
- Are there international legal frameworks that could be expanded or adapted to provide better protection for Indigenous rights in the context of critical minerals?
- What role can Indigenous-led legal initiatives play in shaping policies and regulations that safeguard their lands, resources, and rights?
- How can collaboration between Indigenous Peoples, States, and international organizations enhance accountability for corporations involved in critical mineral extraction?
- How can existing international human rights frameworks be adapted or strengthened to specifically protect the rights and territories of Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact near critical mineral deposits?

Moderator: *Dario Mejia Montalvo*, Member, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Presentations by:

- *Sara Olsvig*, International Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council – Greenland
- *Pichamon Yeophantong*, Member, Working Group on Business and Human Rights
- *Manoela Pessoa De Miranda*, Programme Management Officer, Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, United Nations Environment Programme
- *Hanny Cueva*, Head, Global Programme on Environmental Crime, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- *Brian Keane*, Director, Land is Life
- *Valmaine Toki*, Chair, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples [*video message*]

General discussion

Closing remarks
