

# United Nations Nations Unies

Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
Room S-2572, United Nations, New York, New York 10017

REFERENCE: DISD-24/236

11 November 2024

Dear Representatives of Indigenous Peoples,

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs has the honour to draw your attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/22 of 28 July 2000 entitled “Establishment of a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues”.

According to paragraph 1 of resolution 2000/22, the Economic and Social Council:

“Decides to establish as a subsidiary organ of the Council a permanent forum on indigenous issues consisting of sixteen members, eight to be nominated by Governments and elected by the Council, and eight members to be appointed by the President of the Council following formal consultations with the bureau and regional groups through the coordinators, on a basis of broad consultations with indigenous organizations taking into account the diversity and geographic distribution of indigenous peoples of the world, as well as principles of transparency, representativity, and equal opportunity for all indigenous people, including internal processes, when appropriate, and local indigenous consultation processes. The members of the Forum will serve in their personal capacity as independent experts on indigenous issues for a period of three years with the possibility of re-election or re-appointment for one further period.”

The Permanent Forum is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council with a mandate to discuss Indigenous issues relating to culture, economic and social development, education, environment, health and human rights. The Permanent Forum holds annual sessions of ten working days each year, generally in April-May. The members serve in their personal capacity as independent experts on Indigenous issues. They are not United Nations staff, and do not receive a salary from the United Nations.

The current membership of the Permanent Forum is due to expire on 31 December 2025.

Nominations are now requested for the three-year period from 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2028. Current members who have served the maximum of two terms (six years) as Permanent Forum members are not eligible to be nominated for a further term.

In accordance with established practice, the eight (8) Indigenous-nominated members are from each of the seven socio-cultural regions determined so as to give broad representation to the world's Indigenous Peoples: Africa; the Arctic; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific.

The eighth member is nominated from one of the three regions with the largest Indigenous population (Africa; Asia; and Central and South America and the Caribbean). This seat rotates among these three regions every three years, thus adding a second member from that region for each three-year term. The eighth member for the next term (2026 – 2028) will be from Africa. Therefore, two members of the Permanent Forum from Africa (2026-2028) are to be nominated by Indigenous Peoples' organizations.

I am encouraging consultations amongst Indigenous organizations to commence as soon as possible to ensure that the President of the Economic and Social Council has suitable candidates for consideration and appointment. In considering possible candidates you are encouraged to take into account the expertise relevant to the mandate of the Permanent Forum as well as the principles of geographic distribution and gender balance.

To submit nominations for consideration, the following documents are required:

- A recent resume/curriculum vitae of the nominee (maximum 2 printed pages in Microsoft Word);
- A short biography of the nominee (maximum 200 words);
- Information on nomination consultations amongst Indigenous Peoples' organizations; and;
- Information about the nominating organization(s).

All correspondence should be sent to the following address:

Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch - Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Division for Inclusive Social Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Room S-2555, 405 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10017, United States of America.

OR: sent by email to [indigenous\\_un@un.org](mailto:indigenous_un@un.org), with the following subject line: *Nomination for 2026-2028 UNPFII Membership.*

The deadline for submission of nominations is **25 January 2025**.

Information on the outcome of the process will be posted on [www.un.org/indigenous](http://www.un.org/indigenous) once a decision has been made by the Economic and Social Council and its President.

I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Charles Katoanga  
Director

## Annex I

The Permanent Forum is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with a mandate to discuss Indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.

According to its mandate (ECOSOC [resolution](#) 2000/22), the Permanent Forum will:

- provide expert advice and recommendations on Indigenous issues to ECOSOC, as well as to programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations, through ECOSOC;
- 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.
- 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 this Declaration (Art. 42 UNDRIP)

The Permanent Forum holds annual two-week sessions at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in April-May.

The Permanent Forum is comprised of sixteen independent experts, functioning in their personal capacity, who serve for a term of three years and may be re-elected or re-appointed for one additional term. Eight of the Members are nominated by governments and eight are nominated directly by Indigenous Peoples' organizations in their regions.

The Members nominated by governments are elected by ECOSOC based on the five regional groupings of States normally used at the United Nations (Africa; Asia; Eastern Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; and Western Europe and Other States).

The Members nominated by Indigenous Peoples' organizations are appointed by the President of ECOSOC and represent the seven socio-cultural regions determined to give broad representation to the world's Indigenous peoples. The regions are Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; the Arctic; Central and Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific—with one additional rotating seat among the three first listed above.

Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues serve in their personal capacity as independent experts on Indigenous issues. They are not United Nations staff and do not receive a salary from the United Nations.