

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 intergovernmental 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.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 2024** 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: 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>

Questionnaire

Please provide information on the following:

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.

At its twenty-third session, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommended that OHCHR advance the protection of Indigenous Peoples living in voluntary isolation and initial contact, in cooperation with regional bodies and Indigenous Peoples. The Office provided support to Indigenous and civil society organizations working for the protection of their rights. This includes a joint half-day online workshop held in June 2024 with the International Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (GTI PIACI), an alliance of Indigenous and civil society organizations from Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela, to discuss future collaboration and initiatives. The Office also started a process to raise further awareness about the situation of Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact, including through social media campaigns to celebrate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples e.g. Indigenous Peoples: "[Isolation is a strategy of collective preservation](#)". A collaboration social media post with Survival International and UN4Indigenous (UN DESA) on Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation, became one of OHCHR most successful posts in 2024, with a reach of 474.400 accounts (84.4% non-followers), over 19,000 post interactions, and over 15,600 likes in Instagram (the reach on Facebook and LinkedIn was of 8,200 and 22,500 accounts, respectively). Further, OHCHR Regional Office for South America and Central America has conducted analyses on the unique challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation or initial contact, including the existing gaps and progress made by States in the implementation of the of the [Guidelines on the protection of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact of the Amazon Basin and El Chaco](#). This information has informed a strategy to support actions and initiatives by States and other interested parties to enhance the work for the protection of Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation or initial contact in 2024/2025. The Office also participated in a series of side events organized by GTI PIACI and the [Government of Colombia](#) in the margins of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16) to reiterate the importance of recognizing and protecting the territories of Indigenous Peoples in isolation and initial contact for maintaining biodiversity and for achieving COP16's goals.

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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 theme.

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 33/25, the Expert Mechanism prepared a study on "[Laws, legislation, policies, constitutions, judicial decisions and other mechanisms through which States have taken measures to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in accordance with article 38 of the Declaration](#)". The study concludes with Expert Mechanism Advice No. 17 (2024) on how States should take such measures to achieve the ends of the Declaration within the context of their human rights' obligations and responsibilities.

A [panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), focusing on laws, policies, judicial decisions and other measures taken by States to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, was also organized during the 57th session of the Human Rights Council in September 2024. A summary report of the discussion will be prepared by OHCHR and submitted to the Council prior to its fifty-ninth session

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.

As part of the Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Indigenous Languages lead by UNESCO, the Office together with expert members of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) continued to draw global attention to the critical situation of many Indigenous languages. A panel discussion on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages was held during the [17th session of EMRIP](#) in July 2024. EMRIP's proposals to the Human Rights Council benefited from contributions of Indigenous representatives who participated in the discussion, including a proposal that the Council consider advancing a convention on Indigenous Peoples' languages.

The Office continued to advocate for the integration of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 39 on Indigenous women and girls into national policies and frameworks. Through the senior fellowship programme, OHCHR Regional Office for South America provided a series of training and technical support to strengthen the capacity of Indigenous women and girls to claim their rights and ensure that their voices are heard in processes related to the implementation of CEDAW through meaningful participation in decision-making processes, both at national and local levels. Collaboration with Indigenous women organizations brought attention to specific issues and challenges that need to be addressed, such as access to justice, health care, education, and protection from gender-based violence.

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On 21 and 22 March 2024, in coordination with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the Tz'ununija' Indigenous Women's Movement, OHCHR held a regional forum in Guatemala on general recommendation No. 39 (2022) of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the rights of Indigenous women and girls, with the participation of national and international experts and approximately 90 Indigenous women and leaders, and Afrodescendants, from Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru. The forum contributed to identifying concrete proposals and further coordination efforts to advance the implementation of the general recommendation.

OHCHR, jointly with other partners, also organize a capacity-building activity for Indigenous organizations and representatives, which was held in Geneva from 16 to 18 October 2023 focusing on the general recommendation.

iv. Has your entity responded to the 2022 UNPFII recommendation² 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.*

If yes, please explain your response in further detail.

In line with the Forum's recommendation and the joint statement of 18 September 2023 by the three UN Mechanisms devoted to Indigenous Peoples, OHCHR continues to make the distinction between Indigenous Peoples and local communities in its advocacy and written outputs by always capitalizing Indigenous Peoples; placing a comma between Indigenous Peoples, and local communities; and separating the two terms entirely when both are used as part of a longer list, to ensure that the specific rights of Indigenous Peoples are recognized and that protection of their distinct identity and rights, including in relation to land, culture and self-determination is framed accordingly.

In addition, at its seventeenth session held in July 2024, the [Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) called upon the Human Rights Council to acknowledge, affirm and apply capitalization to the term "Indigenous Peoples" in all official documents and in all official United Nations languages. The Council subsequently adopted resolution [A/HRC/RES/57/15](#) in October 2024, which calls upon States to apply capitalization to the term "Indigenous Peoples" in official documents and in the official languages of the United Nations, as applicable.

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 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.

² E/2022/43-E/C.19/2022/11

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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 SWAP³.

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 Forum⁴.

The Office, including its field presences, carried out a number of activities to implement the System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The work of the Office focused on raising awareness on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, developing the capacities of States, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, and UN Country teams; supporting legislative and policy reforms to support implementation of the Declaration; and advancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in United Nations processes. The latest report on activities undertaken by the Office at headquarters and in the field that contribute to the promotion of, respect for and full application of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is available [here](#).

The High Commissioner and Deputy-High Commissioner regularly highlighted the concerns of Indigenous Peoples in their country visits, statements and other work, with particular focus on Indigenous human rights defenders, including women. OHCHR also played an active role in efforts aimed at raising the profile of Indigenous Peoples in the context of the Human Rights Council, including through its support to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and by organizing, during the 57th session of the Human Rights Council in September 2024, a [panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), focusing on laws, policies, judicial decisions and other measures taken by States to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The discussion was opened by Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. In her concluding remarks, she stressed that renewed commitment by States is required to ensure Indigenous Peoples' rights as a priority that translates into concrete and coordinated actions. To achieve the goals of the Declaration, States should adopt a holistic approach towards its realization. This

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

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implies avoiding fragmented initiatives and developing wide-ranging and well-planned strategies in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples. Those strategies should encompass adequate constitutional, legal, policy and institutional reforms, plans for the full implementation of judicial decisions restoring Indigenous Peoples' rights, the establishment of constructive agreements with them as well as adequate mechanisms to monitor the results achieved. The panelists to the event included Ms. Valmaine Toki, Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Mr. José Francisco Calí Tzay, Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Ms. Ana Manuela Ochoa Arias, Judge of the Special Tribunal for Peace (Colombia), and Mr. Donald Nicholls, Director of Justice and Correctional Services of the Cree Nation Government (Canada). A summary report of the discussion will be prepared by OHCHR and submitted to the Council prior to its fifty-ninth session.

The Office continued to work for the promotion and the full application of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in intergovernmental and other processes. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 54/12, the Office issued a [stocktaking report](#) compiling existing procedures on the participation of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations, highlighting existing gaps and good practices. OHCHR further organized [two intersessional meetings on concrete ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Human Rights Council](#) in July and October 2024. The report on the discussions will be presented to the Council before its fifty-ninth session. On 26 September 2024, the Human Rights Council held its first meeting during a regular session with the participation of Indigenous Peoples as such (not through an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC), a historic and long-awaited moment for Indigenous Peoples.

Participation of Indigenous Peoples in other processes has been significant over the reporting period, and OHCHR has supported this goal notably through the UN Voluntary Fund on Indigenous Peoples. In 2024, the Fund facilitated participation of 188 Indigenous representatives from 55 countries to 20 UN meetings and processes, including the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, meetings of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) and of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. The latest [report on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples](#), issued in July 2024, provides information on the activities related to the expansion of the mandate of the Fund enabling the participation of Indigenous Peoples in United Nations meetings under its mandate. In December 2024, the General Assembly, in its resolution [A/79/455](#), further expanded the mandate of the Voluntary Fund so that it can assist representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and communities in participating in meetings related to the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

The Office also further integration of Indigenous Peoples' right into environmental processes, including climate change, biodiversity, and desertification. In the lead up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 24, OHCHR advocated for a human right-based approach to guide climate action. In his [open letter](#) of 6 November 2024, the

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HC urged States to align their climate commitment to their human rights obligations and prioritize resource mobilization that takes into account the rights of people in vulnerable situations. He further highlighted the growing concerns about crackdowns on speech and activism by environmental human rights defenders, including through prosecution, harassment, unlawful detention and even killings, and about the lack of access to and transparency in climate decision-making, and urged States to ensure that rights-holders, including Indigenous Peoples, are meaningfully included in environmental decision-making, including at COP29. OHCHR also participated in and / or co-organized a number of side events at the COP, including participation of Indigenous Peoples through financial support of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples.

Prior to the 16th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued an [open letter](#) to further advocate for a human rights-based approach to biodiversity in line with States' commitments taken in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The High Commissioner urged that COP 16 integrate the rights of Indigenous Peoples in its outcome, including through the new programme of work under Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to Indigenous Peoples, and local communities. A new subsidiary body under the Convention would reflect the key role of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, in protecting biodiversity. The Office participated in the COP 16, represented at senior level by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ilze Brands Kehris, who participated in several events, including on [Promoting an Enabling Environment for Environmental Human Rights Defenders Advancing Biodiversity and Climate Justice](#), which highlighted the situation of Indigenous defenders.

The impact of desertification, land degradation and drought on the enjoyment of Indigenous Peoples' rights was also highlighted in the High Commissioner for Human Rights [open letter](#) on human rights priorities for the 16th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The HC stressed that measures to address land degradation be right-based, non-discriminatory and participatory and urged States to uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including through legal recognition and protection of their rights to lands and natural resources to increase their security of tenure.

Shrinking democratic spaces and a development agenda pushed through without consideration for Indigenous Peoples' right to consultation and free, prior and informed consent have often been a source of conflict during the reporting period. Systematic discrimination, lack of Indigenous Peoples' participation in decision-making, in particular in the context of large-scale projects, extractive industries and legislative processes, the lack of land demarcation and titling, and increasing violence against Indigenous human rights defenders are among the challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples worldwide.

At a Global Webinar focusing on *the UN and Protection of Civil Society Actors* held on 8 February 2024, high level representatives from UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), UN Women, UNDESA, UNEP and OHCHR came together to discuss how the UN can step up

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efforts to protect civil society actors and leverage the political commitments in the Call to Action and Our common Agenda across the UN system. The event also presented new toolkits that were developed under the Call to Action for Human Rights to build UNCT capacity in carrying out protection work, including a risk assessment model, a checklist for identifying civic space issues and trends, an information sheet on protection networks, a list of protection networks to coordinate with, and a checklist to assess preparedness to protect.

Furthermore, in response to the increase in intimidation and reprisals against Indigenous human rights defenders worldwide, the Office actively engaged in a range of prevention and protection measures. For example, in September 2024, OHCHR-Colombia participated in a preCOP16 regional event in Bogota with environmental human rights defenders, including Indigenous defenders from Latin America to discuss their human rights situation and their role in the defense of the territory and biodiversity. At the event, OHCHR-Colombia Deputy Representative welcomed the initiative by Ministry of the Environment to develop a protection network for environmental human rights defenders. OHCHR is part of this network and signed an MoU with the Ministry.

Reported cases of reprisals against Indigenous Peoples cooperating with the United Nations are included in the [SG annual report](#) on the topic. Further, OHCHR made a presentation at the twenty-third session of the Permanent Forum on its joint work with the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights on intimidation and reprisals.

Finally, OHCHR supported and was further guided by the thematic reports, studies and recommendations of the Human Rights Council's [Expert Mechanism on the rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (EMRIP), the UN [Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), and human rights treaty bodies, including CEDAW [General recommendation No. 39 \(2022\)](#) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls.

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.

Below are selected activities of the Office implemented in 2024 and linked to the SDGs that the Forum will review in 2025:

- [6th Intersessional Meeting on human rights and the 2030 Agenda](#): The meeting explored how leveraging the human rights framework can position the international financial, debt and tax architecture to proactively support the realization of human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It concluded that much can be done nationally and globally to anchor human rights in economic governance and policymaking, which is essential for fulfilling the 2030 Agenda, eradicating poverty,

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addressing the climate crisis and rising inequalities and creating a new global social contract. (SDG 1, 10, 16, 17)

- 2024 [Human Rights Council Interactive dialogue on the Secretary General’s analytical study on the impact of loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights, exploring equity-based approaches and solutions to addressing the same](#) (SDGs 5, 10, 13, 16)
- Release of the [UN Global Progress Report on SDG 16 Indicators - At the Crossroads: Breakdown or Breakthrough for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions](#) developed jointly with UNDP and UNODC (SDG 16)
- [Human rights economy and women human rights](#); part of the annual panel discussion on the human rights of women at the Human Rights Council (SDG 5, 10)
- High-level dialogue co-organized with UNDCO and UNFPA as part of the “Enhancing Inclusive Development” series in the Latin America and the Caribbean region that focused on *Enhancing capacity to integrate racial groups furthest behind into Common Country Analyses and UN Development Cooperation Frameworks* (LNOB).

Further, as a member of the Technical Advisory Group in the context of the UN Secretary General’s initiative on *Harnessing Critical Energy Transition Minerals for Sustainable Development in Least Developed and Land-Locked Developing Countries Just Transitions in Low Carbon Technologies*, OHCHR actively advocated for the integration of human rights in the development of the [principles to guide critical energy transition minerals towards equity and justice](#). This work included advocacy specifically raising the need to promote, protect, and fulfil human rights of Indigenous Peoples through this framework as well as supporting Indigenous representatives’ engagement with the process. During the process, OHCHR for instance worked to reinforce the on-going advocacy by the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and UNPFII, including around the importance of including references to free, prior, and informed consent in the guiding principles. Principle #1 states that "human rights must be at the core of all mineral value chains" and principle #3 states that "justice and equity must underpin mineral value chains. " - with all seven negotiated principles providing a good tool for Indigenous Peoples and their representatives to engage in and advocate around relevant processes. (SDG 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16).

In addition, the [UN Human Rights Management Plan 2024-2027](#), which defines the Office’s results-based programming framework and global targets, notes the strong convergence of human rights and the 2030 Agenda, indicating how OHCHR can assist in developing solutions grounded in human rights that contribute to advancing the SDGs in a way that leaves no one behind. The plan is structured around six pillars, with all the pillar results contributing to advancing one or several SDGs. In 2024, for the first time, OHCHR also aligned the programming cycle of its country programmes to the programming cycles of the respective UNSDCFs, a measure that is expected to facilitate coordination and joint programming towards delivering on the SDGs.

For a more detailed account of the most pertinent activities OHCHR has undertaken to support accelerating progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including on SDGs that will be reviewed in 2025, please refer to OHCHR’s 2024 submission to the [UN System Implementation Database](#).

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.

High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF)

OHCHR actively engaged in the 2024 HLPF and its preparatory processes and advocated for systematic integration of human rights and human rights-based approaches in the relevant expert group meetings, organized as part of the preparation process. OHCHR also engaged in the Regional Fora on sustainable development, notably those organized by ECLAC, ESCAP, and ECA. It is noteworthy, that the 2024 African Regional Forum on sustainable development in its outcome called for approaches in economic policymaking that are “dignified and respectful of human rights.”

At the HLPF proper, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights spoke on a panel in the [plenary discussion on SDG 1](#) and its **interlinkages with the other SDGs**, speaking to the [concept of a human rights economy](#) as a key lever to eradicate poverty and advance progress across the 2030 Agenda.

OHCHR further contributed to the **showcase** of the [UN Global Progress Report on SDG 16 Indicators - At the Crossroads: Breakdown or Breakthrough for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions](#) stressing that integration of human rights into decision-making processes is essential for achieving SDG 16 and the broader 2030 Agenda. People-centred and accountable governance institutions that integrate and lift up minority and marginalized voices and advocate for systematic inclusion of different demographic groups in data production processes are key in this regard. More information on the report prepared by OHCHR, UNDP and UNODC is available [here](#).

OHCHR also contributed to the following events on the margins of the 2024 HLPF aiming to highlight the impact and benefits of applying human rights-based approaches and HR norms and standards in efforts to achieve sustainable development:

- ‘Digital Bridges to Justice: Enhancing Human Rights and SDG Monitoring through Innovative Technologies’ event showcased **OHCHR’s National Recommendations Tracking Database** and other tools Member States and others can use to enhance HR and SDG monitoring (3 July)
- ‘Rights, Resilience, and Readiness: Harmonizing Standards, Green Digital Practices, and Early Warning Systems for a Sustainable Future’ event provided a platform for OHCHR to speak to **human rights and technical standards in the context of digital technologies** (9 July)
- ‘Ensuring no one is left behind: Role of corporate actions: State of play on how the world’s most influential 2000 companies perform on social issues’ led by the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, served to advocate for **corporate action on human rights, decent work, and ethical conduct** (10 July)
- ‘Charting the way forward: Combating the impact of climate change on human rights’ event allowed the current and former Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment to discuss **the impact of the triple**

planetary crisis on human rights and ways to guarantee human rights of current and future generations (11 July)

- 'Strengthening SDG16+: Exploring the Nexus between the Illicit Arms Trafficking and the World Drug Problem' provided an opportunity to highlight OHCHR's proposed human rights response to the diversion and trafficking of firearms and to drug policy (15 July)
- 'SDG 18-Ethnic-Racial Equality in the 2030 Agenda: The Brazilian experience for the construction of a new sustainable development goal' served to welcome the initiative and **call for stronger political commitment to promote racial justice and equality and address systemic racism and xenophobia** that remain as barriers to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the commitment to leave no one behind. (16 July)
- 'Internal displacement and SDG1: the importance of solutions for IDPs to reach the goal of eradicating poverty and leaving no one behind' saw the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons speak to the **need to better understand displacement related vulnerabilities when eradicating poverty** so that IDPs are not left behind in achieving SDG 1 targets. (17 July)

Voluntary National Reviews

OHCHR engaged in VNR processes at the global, regional, and local levels, including through contributing to the global [VNR Labs](#) (on localization and on SDG 16); to workshops organized on the margins of the ECLAC and ECA Regional Forums on sustainable development; and by contributing to the UN DESA-organized Virtual Knowledge Exchange on Approaches and Tools for the 2024 VNRs, presenting the [Human Rights and VNRs guidance note](#) (available also in [Spanish](#) and [French](#)) alongside UNDP. At the national level, OHCHR provided guidance to UNCTs and/or MS upon request, including in relation to VNR processes in Chad, Guinea, Kenya, Lao PDR, and South Africa.

Lastly, OHCHR contributed to the delivery of the online workshop organized in partnership with University for Peace (UPEACE) titled "[Mainstreaming the Right to Development in Voluntary National Review \(VNR\) Reporting for Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.](#)" In response to the rising interest, two rounds of this workshop were organized for the first time in 2024, in August and November.

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.