

Questionnaire to UN system

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 inter-governmental 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 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 2025 session of the PFII.

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.

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.

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.

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.

UNFPA Response

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) operates in over 150 countries and territories, encompassing the majority of the world's indigenous populations. UNFPA's mission is to enhance comprehensive sexual and reproductive health as an integral component of healthcare systems. This includes ensuring access to contraception, high-quality maternal and newborn health services, HIV prevention, and comprehensive sexuality education. Additionally, UNFPA strives to promote gender equality and empower women to make informed choices

² E/2022/43-E/C.19/2022/11

Questionnaire to UN system

regarding their fertility and sexuality, free from coercion, discrimination, and violence. The organization works to prevent and address gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices like female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early, and forced marriage. A primary objective for UNFPA is to support the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly women and girls, to have full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and enable them to live a life free from violence.

UNFPA's commitment to the rights and well-being of Indigenous Peoples is evident across Regions. Specially, UNFPA's Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office promotes indigenous rights through initiatives such as post-census studies, partnerships with indigenous organizations, and maternal health services, amongst others. Likewise, in the Asia-Pacific region, UNFPA focuses on improving sexual and reproductive health, preventing gender-based violence, and empowering indigenous youth. These efforts align with the Sustainable Development Goals and international mechanisms.

Specifically:

- Within the framework of the recommendations on statistical visibility and disaggregation of data by indigenous peoples, LACRO is promoting post-census studies on indigenous peoples, to generate, analyze and use the specific information disaggregated by indigenous self-identification collected in the 2020 round of censuses. For this objective [guidelines for the analysis of census data from an intersectionality perspective](#) have been developed and are being applied on a pilot basis in three countries (Belize, Ecuador and Panama). These studies are conducted in coordination with UNFPA country offices and national statistical institutes and in consultation with national indigenous peoples' organizations. The results of these studies will be ready by January 2025.
- In coordination with ECLAC and the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC), UNFPA, promoted the [Peer monitoring system to follow up on the implementation of General Recommendation No. 39 of the CEDAW and the measurement of the indicators of the indigenous chapter of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development](#) with emphasis on indigenous women and girls. More than 20 organizations participated, supporting the need for this mechanism and urging the agencies to have a first report on this mechanism as part of the upcoming Fifth Meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development that will take place in July in Cartagena, Colombia. Recording [here](#).
- **UNFPA Cambodia** is committed to promoting the rights and well-being of Indigenous Peoples through various initiatives aligned with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) recommendations. These efforts include implementing Comprehensive Sexuality Education, developing a Youth Health App, and enhancing youth participation in decision-making processes. To raise awareness, targeted social media campaigns and outreach initiatives have been conducted (Link to [content of social media](#) and [short video](#)). Challenges faced by Indigenous youth have been incorporated in collaboration with relevant organizations, ensuring their unique needs are addressed. UNFPA has facilitated platforms for youth-led consultations and summits to engage Indigenous youth in discussions on the Summit of the Future and

the Declaration (Link to [Outcome statements](#)). Indigenous issues are integrated into the Country Programme Action Plan for 2024-2028, aligning with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. UNFPA Cambodia's dedication to Indigenous Peoples' rights is evident through these targeted interventions, awareness-raising, and collaborative efforts, emphasizing youth participation and the integration of Indigenous issues into programming.

- The **Philippines country office** engages with indigenous people through a joint program that supports the sexual and reproductive health needs of marginalized communities, including indigenous women. The program collaborates with the Timuay Justice and Governance, the Indigenous Political Structure of the Teduray Lambangian people, to integrate indigenous perspectives into program design and implementation, ensuring cultural appropriateness. The program also seeks to empower indigenous women as leaders and facilitators of safe spaces for women. The CO adheres to the UNPFII recommendation by consistently using the term "indigenous peoples (IPs)" to prioritize their distinct rights, voices, and experiences in advocacy and programming efforts.

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.

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.

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

UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025: UNFPA Strategic Plan emphasizes leaving no one behind and targeting the furthest behind first as a key accelerator for development and rights taking into consideration factors and characteristics often associated with discrimination and exclusion, including ethnicity. To translate into action UNFPA's ambition to reach the furthest behind, UNFPA has developed a dedicated Operational Plan on Leaving No One Behind and Reaching the Furthest Behind which takes an organizational wide approach to these efforts.

- Within the framework of ECMIA, LACRO is working on an initiative of **Indigenous women and youth building comprehensive and intercultural policies against violence**” seeking to integrate and operationalize the intercultural approach in public policies for the prevention of and attention to gender-based violence. As part of this work, a [model for intercultural and comprehensive public policies for preventing and responding to violence against indigenous women, youth and girls](#) has been developed, which will serve as a guide for country offices to work on this issue in 12 countries in the region.
- UNFPA is implementing an initiative called [Spotlighting inter-culturally appropriate maternity care for advancing indigenous women’s health and rights](#). The purpose of this initiative is to bolster efforts to promote intercultural maternal health services for indigenous women and girls. Emphasis is placed on culturally appropriate maternity care as a means to advance their health and rights. The proposal has 3 main objectives: (i) Updating data and evidence on the maternal health status of indigenous women, highlighting disparities stemming from intersectional discrimination and related socio-cultural and economic determinants. (ii) Systematizing and disseminating effective practices in incorporating the intercultural approach into maternal health services, with a focus on those based on the midwifery model of care. (iii) Strengthening the voice of representatives from indigenous women's organizations in relevant regional dialogue spaces and policy formulation. This will be achieved through an intercultural knowledge exchange between health personnel and traditional midwives in the Americas. As a result of this initiative, a [call of action to improve the maternal health of indigenous women](#) and girls was developed at the intercultural Maternal Health Symposium in México in October 2024, which brought together traditional midwives, health workers and indigenous leaders from 15 countries.
- A **subregional workshop facilitated by UNFPA, the National Coordinator of Indigenous Women of Panama (CONAMUIP) and the Salvadoran National Indigenous Coordinating Council (CCNIS)** has been conducted with the participation of 30 Indigenous leaders from 5 Central American countries (Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Panama) on prevention and attention to violence against Indigenous women and girls. The workshop applied the booklet **“Indigenous women charting paths towards a life free of violence”** developed by the Continental Network on Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA), Ford Foundation and UNFPA. The Indigenous leaders not only strengthened their capacities but are also committed to replicating the initiative in their own countries.

States, indigenous peoples, civil society and UN personnel; and 6) Advance the participation of indigenous peoples in UN processes.

Questionnaire to UN system

- LACRO supported the Indigenous delegation from ECMIA and FILAC (Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean), in the development of their own [position](#) paper in the framework of the Regional Conference, as well as participation in the Youth Forum, the Civil Society Organizations Forum and in organizing two side events to present the regional report: [Indigenous women of the Americas 10 years after the Montevideo Consensus](#) and the [Peer monitoring system to follow up on the implementation of general recommendation No. 39 of the CEDAW and the measurement of the indicators of the indigenous chapter of the Montevideo Consensus on population and development](#).
- UNFPA, recognizing the potential of **India's** data systems, collaborated with organizations dedicated to tribal communities to leverage data for the rights of indigenous peoples. A tailored life skills education curriculum was developed for tribal adolescents, aiming to empower them with knowledge and skills for personal growth. Beyond education, the program incorporated ICPD principles, addressing gender-based violence and harmful practices prevalent in tribal areas in four states (Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan). UNFPA's goal is to equip tribal adolescents with decision-making capabilities regarding their health and well-being, contributing to social justice and equity for indigenous populations in India.
- Indonesian governments have actively promoted the rights of indigenous people through international mechanisms including the 4th Universal Periodic Review (link to [Report of UPR](#)) and Beijing Platform for Action 30+ Report of Indonesia. The Human Development and Culture Ministry formed a coordination team for indigenous rights, TIKOR, comprising 28 entities. Indonesia CO supports NCVAW in advocating for indigenous rights through Universal Periodic Review and Beijing Platform for Action Report in 2023 and 2024. Indonesia has established a coordination team to address issues affecting indigenous people and local believers, including resolving land disputes, ensuring educational access, and enhancing economic capacities. **UNFPA Indonesia** supports the National Commission on Violence Against Women to advocate for indigenous rights, particularly women and girls, in international human rights mechanisms.

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.
- 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.

Questionnaire to UN system

UNFPA Vietnam's initiatives under its Country Programme Document (CPD10) aim to improve sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) access, family planning, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, and youth empowerment for ethnic minority groups. Mobile health units and telehealth platforms ensure SRHR information and services reach remote areas. Projects target maternal mortality reduction, family planning improvement, and SDG 3 promotion. A holistic GBV approach includes fatherhood programs and One-stop service centers (OSSCs) for GBV survivors. UNFPA engages ethnic minority youth in policy discussions, raising awareness about SRHR and advocating for their inclusion in national development policies. Efforts to improve data collection and use disaggregated by ethnicity promote ethnic minority inclusion in policy frameworks. UNFPA's initiatives align with key SDGs, contributing to SRHR expansion, GBV addressing, youth empowerment, and improved data collection for ethnic minorities in Viet Nam. Some information about UNFPA publications from 2022 to present related to ethnic minorities such as; The Journey of Hnhach, an Ethnic Minority Village-Based Birth Attendant : [Link](#); Dissemble research results for innovative and evidence-based interventions to reduce maternal mortality in particularly disadvantaged ethnic minority communes of Vietnam: [Link](#); Guidance on interviewing with ethnic minority people [Link](#); Article on the importance of data on ethnic minority for policy making: [link](#)

Reminder: Please also include an [executive summary](#) of your inputs to the 3 main questions above (strict [500-word](#) limit) which will be used for our compilation report submitted to the 2025 session of the PFII.

UNFPA is working to address the unique needs of indigenous populations in various countries through targeted interventions, awareness-raising, and collaborative efforts. They are focused on promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights, preventing gender-based violence, and empowering indigenous youth. Key accomplishments include the development of educational curricula, mobile health units, telehealth platforms, and policy advocacy. Through its support for culturally appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and gender-based violence response services, UNFPA contributes to the advancement of indigenous women's and girls' rights. UNFPA has also played a significant role in promoting UN-wide support for the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan for Indigenous Peoples and contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level. Specifically:

In **Cambodia**, UNFPA is focused on promoting the rights and well-being of Indigenous Peoples through Comprehensive Sexuality Education, a Youth Health App, and increased youth participation in decision-making. They are also working to raise awareness and integrate indigenous issues into their Country Programme Action Plan. In **Vietnam**, UNFPA is working to improve sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) access, family planning, and prevent gender-based violence (GBV) among ethnic minority groups. This includes mobile health units, telehealth platforms, and programs focused on maternal mortality, family planning, and GBV. In **India**, UNFPA is collaborating with organizations focused on tribal communities to leverage data for the rights of indigenous peoples. They have developed a life skills education curriculum for tribal adolescents and incorporated ICPD principles to address gender-based violence and harmful practices. In the **Philippines**, the country office engages with indigenous people through a joint program supporting sexual and reproductive health needs of marginalized communities, including indigenous women. They collaborate with the Timuay Justice and Governance to integrate indigenous perspectives into program design. In **Indonesia**, the UNFPA office supports the National Commission on Violence Against Women

to advocate for indigenous rights, particularly for women and girls.

In the **Latin America and Caribbean Region (LACRO)**, UNFPA promotes and supports several activities aimed at protecting the rights of indigenous peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean. Key activities include post-census studies to generate data on indigenous populations, collaborating with Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA) on an initiative to combat violence against indigenous women and youth, and partnering with ECLAC and the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) on a peer monitoring system to track the implementation of General Recommendation No. 39 of the CEDAW. LACRO is also implementing an initiative to improve maternal health services for indigenous women and girls, and has conducted a subregional workshop on preventing violence against indigenous women and girls. Additionally, LACRO supported the Indigenous delegation from ECMIA and FILAC at the Regional Conference. Specific projects mentioned include the development of guidelines for census data analysis, a model for intercultural public policies on violence against women, and a call to action to improve maternal health for indigenous women and girls.

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);

Questionnaire to UN system

- (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.