

Questionnaire to the UN system agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental organizations

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was established by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 2000/22. The Permanent Forum is mandated to provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to 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 with the UN system; and prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues.

The Permanent Forum's report of the eighteenth session of 2019 includes several recommendations within its mandated areas, some of which are addressed to UN system agencies, funds and programmes (attached).

The report can be found at: <https://undocs.org/en/E/2019/43>

The Indigenous Peoples and 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 and other relevant issues, including the system-wide action plan on rights of indigenous peoples/SWAP and the 2030 Development Agenda.

The responses will be compiled into two separate reports for the 2020 session of the Permanent Forum: (a) System Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Implementation by the United Nations System; and (b) Update on the Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda.

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 for your response to be made available on our website, please inform our office accordingly.

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **28 November 2019** 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
Telephone: +1-917-367-5100
Email: indigenous_un@un.org and melissa.martin@un.org

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The nineteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held at United Nations Headquarters from **13 - 24 April 2020**.

Provisional Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion on the theme: “Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”
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, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and the 2030 Agenda on 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;
 - e. Regional dialogues;
 - f. Thematic dialogues.
6. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.
7. Provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Permanent Forum.
8. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its nineteenth session.

Questionnaire

Please provide information on the following:

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

With respect to the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your agency, fund and/or programme:¹

The Forum recommended that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights initiate a general comment on the collective rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and natural resources (E/2018/43*-E/C.19/2018/11, para. 66). The Committee is currently working on general comment on land in the context of the ICESCR and held a day of general discussion on the topic on 14 October 2019. The Committee benefited from insights and lessons learned from countries and civil society representatives on land redistribution, the protection of security of tenure both through customary rights and titling, and of the respect of the right to free prior and informed consent for indigenous peoples. Participants made specific recommendations on several matters, for instance on how the general comment could address the impact of climate change on land rights and the right to self-determination. Participants also discussed how the provisions of existing soft or hard law (including UNDRIP and ILO No. 169) provide a basis for the general comment. The UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples supported the participation of 5 indigenous representatives from Burundi Canada, India, Mexico and Nicaragua in the day of general discussion.

The Forum also made a recommendation calling upon States to consider the expansion of the mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples (E/2019/43-E/C.19/2019/10, para. 67). At its 74th session, the General Assembly adopted the resolutions on the rights of indigenous peoples² including the expansion of the mandate of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples in order to support the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations business and human rights and climate change processes.

Pursuant to a request from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (see E/2018/43-E/C.19/2018/11, para. 14), on 24 April 2019 the Assistant Secretary-General addressed the widespread intimidation of and reprisals against indigenous peoples³. He encouraged more regular reporting, documentation of incidents online and analysis of how national laws and policies affected the engagement of indigenous peoples with the United Nations. The Permanent Forum urged reporting to reprisals@ohchr.org (see E/2019/43-E/C.19/2019/10, para. 71).

B. System Wide Action Plan to achieve the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

¹ See attached document entitled 'Recommendations addressed to the UN Agencies' to facilitate your responses.

² Resolution on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 6 November 2019, A/C.3/74/L.19/Rev.1, <https://undocs.org/A/C.3/74/L.19/Rev.1>

³ A/HRC/42/30, Report of the Secretary-General on intimidation and reprisals for cooperation with the UN in the field of human rights. Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Reprisals/Pages/Reporting.aspx>

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Executive summary:

Please provide an overview of actions taken to implement the System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This summary will form the basis of the compilation report of UN activities to implement the SWAP and the Declaration. [Word limit: 600]

OHCHR, at Headquarters and in the field, carried out a number of activities to implement the six components of the System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The work of the Office focused on raising awareness of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, developing the capacities of States, indigenous peoples, and UN Country teams and advancing the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations processes⁴. In light of the persistent lack of indigenous peoples' participation in decision-making and increasing violence against indigenous human rights defenders worldwide, the Office has stepped up its efforts to facilitate dialogue between indigenous peoples and State authorities in a number of countries. In particular, OHCHR engaged with state authorities to address forced evictions of indigenous peoples from their traditional lands, including through support to implementation of national and regional court decisions on the topic. It provided support to legislative and policy changes in matters ranging from access to justice, culturally appropriate education, land rights and free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples. OHCHR has engaged with Resident Coordinators' Offices and UN Country Teams in a number of countries to integrate the rights of indigenous peoples in country level programming and further awareness of the UN-SWAP on the rights of indigenous peoples. The Office further provided technical guidance to the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, notably for the development of national action plans on business and human rights with particular attention to the rights of indigenous peoples affected by business activities and infrastructure projects. The High Commissioner and Deputy-High Commissioner for Human Rights 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. In the lead up to the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 25, the High Commissioner and the ASG for Human Rights advocated for a human right-based approach to guide global policies and measures designed to address climate change and consistently stressed the importance of ensuring meaningful and informed participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making. Special emphasis was made on the heightened risk exposure of indigenous women and girls to climate and environmental harms, and the need to ensure that their rights to raise their voices and effectively share in decision-making be protected and upheld. In the context of the 2030 Agenda, OHCHR continued to systematically, and at all levels, advocate for meaningful and inclusive participation of indigenous peoples in the implementation, reporting and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, providing support on the human rights-based approach to data, which has significant implications for measuring progress (or lack thereof) in 2030

⁴ For a more comprehensive review of the work of OHCHR, see A/HRC/42/19, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the rights of indigenous peoples. Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/session42/Pages/ListReports.aspx>

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Agenda implementation for indigenous peoples. Building on the work conducted in 2018, OHCHR has strategically engaged with the High-level political forum (HLPF) and collaborated with the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development. Finally, the work of OHCHR is further guided by the thematic reports, studies and recommendations of the Human Rights Council's Expert Mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples (EMRIP)⁵, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples⁶ and human rights treaty bodies.

1. Raising awareness of the UN Declaration

Please provide information on any activities that raise awareness of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including key messages, advocacy and other media and outreach initiatives. Please provide information on publications, films, audio material, maps, or other materials that feature or focus on the UN Declaration and on indigenous peoples. Please also provide links to relevant websites and other sources, including contact details of focal points.

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. The High Commissioner and Deputy-High Commissioner for Human Rights 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 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 forty-second session of the Human Rights Council in September 2019, a panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples, focusing on the theme of promotion and protection of indigenous languages. Moderated by Kristen Carpenter (Chair of EMRIP), the panel brought together H.E. Ken Wyatt (Minister for Indigenous Australians), Lahoucine Amouzay (researcher at the Royal Institute of Amazigh Culture, Morocco), and Irmgarda Kasinskaite (UNESCO's coordinator for the International Year of Indigenous Languages). The panellists discussed issues including legal and constitutional recognition of indigenous languages; the role of language rights in facilitating the fulfilment of the right to health and the right to education; and specific policies and programmes undertaken to protect and promote indigenous languages. The panellists and stakeholders taking the floor also assessed the International Year of Indigenous Languages and discussed the possibility of an international decade of indigenous languages.

⁵ A/HRC/EMRIP/2019/2/Rev.1, Study on the rights of indigenous peoples in the context of borders, migration and displacement; A/HRC/EMRIP/2019/3/Rev.1, Efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: recognition, reparation and reconciliation. Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/EMRIP/Pages/EMRIPIIndex.aspx>

⁶ A/74/149, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples – The right of indigenous peoples' to autonomy or self-government; A/HRC/42/37, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples – Access to justice in ordinary and indigenous justice system. Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/SRIndigenousPeoples/Pages/SRIPeoplesIndex.aspx>

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OHCHR further advocated for enhanced and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in climate change processes. During the High-Level Panel on climate change organized on the margins of the 2019 Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) of the ECOSOC held in June in Geneva, the High Commissioner for Human Rights stressed the responsibility of States to urgently take mitigation and adaptation measures, ensuring the meaningful participation of those most vulnerable to climate change including indigenous peoples. In September, OHCHR co-organized *The Peoples' Summit on Climate, Rights and Human Survival*, in collaboration with Amnesty International, Greenpeace International, the Center for International Environmental Law, the Wallace Global Fund and the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at New York University. The Summit – which gathered roughly 200 non-governmental leaders and activists representing diverse strands of the climate justice movement from across the world – was organized in response to the urgent need for a new era of climate activism and to push for human rights-based solutions to the climate crisis. The Declaration⁷ emerging from the Summit calls for people's fundamental rights to be placed at the core of climate solutions. It calls for the protection of indigenous people's rights and the promotion of local and traditional knowledge in addressing the climate crisis. Finally, the Declaration calls for access to justice and a safe and enabling environment for environmental human rights defenders.

2. Supporting the implementation of the UN Declaration, particularly at the country level

Please provide information on actions taken or planned by your agency, fund, programme, entity on the following:

- i. Measures taken or planned to support national partners in reform and implementation of legal frameworks, policies, strategies and plans to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including any joint programming initiatives. Please also include information related to indigenous women in your responses.

In 2019, OHCHR, including its field offices, carried out a number of training and briefing sessions for key stakeholders that included United Nations country teams, members of human rights treaty bodies, indigenous peoples' organizations, government officials, parliamentarians and staff of national human rights institutions, in an effort to promote the full application of the Declaration. OHCHR is consistently advocating for the protection of the rights of women, including indigenous women, at all levels, and their meaningful participation in national and international processes. For instance, the Regional Office for South East Asia conducted a workshop for youth indigenous women human rights defenders under the "Access to Justice Project: Bridging the gap between formal and informal justice systems through women's empowerment" in November 2019. The workshop aimed at strengthening the capacity of indigenous women human rights defenders to monitor, document and report human rights violations, including in the context of environmental rights and climate change and strengthen engagement with justice actors. Participants

⁷ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/09/200-environmental-and-human-rights-leaders-pledge-to-tackle-climate-emergency-together/>

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included twelve representatives from indigenous communities from Sabah, Sarawak and Kelantan States in Malaysia and from Kalimantan, Riau and Papua provinces in Indonesia.

In October 2019, OHCHR New York Office organized a side event to the GA aimed at examining trends and risks since 2016 facing people engaging or seeking to engage with the UN on human rights, with a focus on the experiences of women, indigenous and environmental human rights defenders. The discussion, which followed the publication of the [2019 Secretary-General report on reprisals and intimidation](#), brought together UN Member States, civil society organizations (CSOs), academia and UN entities. The panel consisted of the ASG for Human Rights, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Member State representatives and Amnesty International.

In the lead up to the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 25, the ASG for Human Rights participated in a workshop co-organized by OHCHR, the Government of Costa Rica and the Center for International Environmental Law on "Integrating Human rights in National Climate Commitments and International Climate Negotiations", in October 2019 in San José. Special emphasis was made on the critical need for environmental and climate action to ensure inclusion of and respect the rights of indigenous women and youth.

- ii.* Support provided to Member States to mainstream the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in national development plans and in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and Common Country Analysis.

OHCHR, together with UN-Women, UNDESA and the ILO, participated in a two-day meeting of the African Commission Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities in Africa, held on 19-20 October in the margins of the 65th Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The meeting discussed enhanced cooperation with the African Commission Working Group and yield concrete results including the establishment of a Steering Group on Indigenous Peoples in Africa. The Group is a sub set of the Inter- Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues. It seeks to implement the UN Secretary-General's System-wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN-SWAP) in Africa under the leadership of the African Commission Working Group and in close partnership with indigenous peoples' organizations, through greater engagement with UN Country teams and meaningful contributions to the ongoing design of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

The Office also joined UNDESA to support the development of An Affirmative Action Programme for Indigenous Peoples in Uganda – together with UN-Women.

- iii.* Support for consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogue including under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators.

OHCHR has engaged with Resident Coordinators' Offices and UN Country Teams in a number of countries to integrate the rights of indigenous peoples in country level

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programming and further awareness of the UN-SWAP on the rights of indigenous peoples, notably in Latin America and Asia. For instance, the UNCTs in Guatemala facilitated a broad consultation in April to seek input from key stakeholders, including indigenous authorities, for the elaboration of the UNDAF 2020-2024. In Ecuador, OHCHR engaged with the Resident Coordinator Office to support UN work on the follow-up to the International Year on Indigenous Languages. The Office provided briefings to UNCTs under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators in Thailand and Nepal, with a focus on indigenous peoples' rights and the inter-linkages with the 2030 Agenda. As a concrete initiative to achieve the goals of the UNDRIP, the Resident Coordinator informed about a forthcoming Policy Brief on Indigenous Peoples in Thailand.

3. Supporting indigenous peoples' rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- i. Has your agency/organization taken any measures to incorporate indigenous issues into policy and programming to implement the 2030 Agenda in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?*

OHCHR programming, including the [Office Management Plan 2018-2021](#), is strongly anchored to the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, focusing on the Agenda's human rights-based commitment to 'leave no one behind'. OHCHR is consistently advocating, at all levels, for the integration of human rights in the implementation, reporting and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and for meaningful participation of stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, in related processes. Building on the work conducted in 2018, OHCHR has continued strategically to engage with the High-level political forum (HLPF) and all its processes, at the regional and global levels. Grounding the work in promoting integration of human rights in the implementation, reporting and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, this work also aims to advance indigenous issues in this context.

Reflecting this approach, OHCHR contributed substantively to the expert group meetings on [SDG 10](#), [SDG 13](#) and [SDG 16](#), including on issues closely related to the rights of indigenous peoples. The Office for instance also worked with the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group for Sustainable Development and other partners in raising attention to the need to include indigenous peoples in efforts to ensure inclusiveness and equality in realizing the SDGs at the [Asia-Pacific Forum on sustainable development](#). OHCHR has engaged with the 2019 HLPF and the SDG Summit, including on advocacy related to the need to reinforce the commitment to the principle of leaving no one behind, under which indigenous peoples are explicitly mentioned, including in the **outcome document** of the SDG Summit.

At the 2019 HLPF, OHCHR collaborated with the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development and other partners in organizing a learning event entitled "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality through human rights", which brought together over a hundred participants in New York, was webcast live and is also [available online](#). At the forum, OHCHR also contributed to the [VNR Lab entitled "Leaving no one behind: Inclusive implementation and reporting"](#) at which Joan Carling, Co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group, was a speaker.

- ii. Has your agency/organization/entity supported the participation of indigenous peoples in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including at the national level? Please also include information on indigenous women, persons with disabilities, older persons and children and youth in your responses. Please describe how indigenous peoples have contributed to the preparation of the national plans/strategies for SDG implementation?*

OHCHR systematically and at all levels advocates for meaningful and inclusive participation in the 2030 Agenda processes, including of groups representative of indigenous peoples. In this regard, the office is specifically promoting and providing capacity strengthening on (i) [Guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs](#) and (ii) [Practical recommendations for the participation of civil society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda](#).

OHCHR organized, in 2019, two [Human Rights Council intersessional meetings on human rights and the 2030 Agenda](#), which brought to light issues relevant to securing the rights of indigenous peoples in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. See for instance the report of the first such meeting ([A/HRC/40/34](#)), which makes several specific references to indigenous peoples' participation, including in one of the meeting recommendations: "...Space must be made for people at the grass-roots level and for youth, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and other marginalized and vulnerable persons and communities to be active participants in the realization of Sustainable Development Goals."

- iii. Please provide information on any reports or other documents in implementing the 2030 Agenda for indigenous peoples. Also include information on any measures taken or planned for the collection of statistical data on indigenous peoples, in particular related to the SDG indicators for target 1.4 (secure tenure rights to land), target 2.3 (income of small-scale food producers), target 4.5 (parity in access to education) and target 10.3/16.b (experience of discrimination).*

OHCHR co-led the development of the CEB's 2017 Shared UN System Framework for Action on Leaving No One Behind: Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Heart of Sustainable Development and is currently working on its operationalization through the [UNSDG Operational Guide for UN Country Teams](#). An interim draft of the operational guide, which makes specific reference to indigenous peoples and, more specifically, to some indigenous women experiencing intersectional and multiple discrimination, has been published in March 2019 and is currently being piloted in Cameroon, Nepal and Tunisia.

OHCHR contributed to the drafting of the [UNSDG foundational primer on the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development](#), which highlight some specific approaches that could be taken to address specific challenges indigenous peoples face with regards to achieving the SDGs, their targets and indicators.

In a concrete effort to support implementation of the principle of leaving no one behind and giving a voice to groups previously not represented, including indigenous groups, OHCHR worked with the Kenyan national human rights institution and the National Bureau of Statistics to, as a first step, jointly identify 28 groups considered to have been left behind

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with respect to data generation. This laid the foundation for ensuring these groups are progressively included in national statistical estimates and resulted in the development and inclusion of questions - in particular, on indigenous peoples, disability, persons with albinism, intersex people, and stateless persons - which were subsequently factored into the census questionnaire. As a result, the 2019 national census form expanded the list of communities to include indigenous and marginalised communities for recognition and inclusion.

OHCHR is systematically and at all levels advocating for and providing support on the [human rights-based approach to data](#), which has significant implications for measuring progress (or lack thereof) in 2030 Agenda implementation for indigenous peoples.

OHCHR is also the custodian of four global SDG indicators, including indicator 10.3.1. on the proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law. The Office issued a Guidance Note for Implementation of Survey Module on SDG Indicator 16.b.1 & 10.3.1⁸, which makes specific reference to indigenous status.

4. Mapping of existing standards and guidelines, capacities, training materials and resources for the effective implementation of the UNDRIP

In 2019, OHCHR has concluded MOUs with UNEP, UNESCO and the ACHPR, the operationalization of which can also have implications for advancing indigenous issues. Operationalization of the [MOU with UNEP](#) is currently underway and is set to include, in 2020, specific work on environmental human rights defenders, many of whom belong to indigenous communities.

5. Developing the capacities of States, indigenous peoples, civil society and UN personnel

Please provide information on any capacity development initiatives that your organization is conducting for indigenous peoples, government officials and UN staff. Also include information on the participation of indigenous women, children and youth as well as indigenous persons with disabilities in your response. Please provide details of up to three concrete examples where your entity has made the most progress.

The shrinking of democratic spaces for indigenous human rights defenders is a continuing challenge, along with a lack of consultation in relation to development priorities and strategies, extractive industries and the use of lands, territories and other resources impacting on indigenous peoples' rights. In order to address these and other human rights concerns, OHCHR continued to work in a wide range of contexts for the promotion and full application of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including through capacity-building activities involving Member States, indigenous peoples, national human rights institutions and parliamentarians.

⁸https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/SDG_Indicator_16b1_10_3_1_Guidance_Note%20.pdf

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During the year under review, OHCHR provided technical advice in relation to free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples. It advocated for full consultation with indigenous peoples in legislative processes and provided guidance on the topic, for instance in Cambodia, Honduras and El Salvador. The Office has further engaged with Member States to address the impact of business on the human rights of indigenous communities such as in Cambodia and Guatemala. The Office further pursued initiatives to empower young indigenous peoples in the exercise of their rights. For instance, the OHCHR Regional Office for Southeast Asia organized a regional workshop in Bangkok in August 2019 on the *Role of youth as agents of change in the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples' land rights, environment and climate change*. Youth indigenous participants from different communities in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines participated in the workshop, which aimed at identifying key challenges that young indigenous peoples face in accessing their rights and strengthening engagement with international human rights mechanisms.

6. Advancing the participation of indigenous peoples at the UN

Participation of indigenous peoples in human rights mechanisms has been significant over the reporting period, and OHCHR has supported this goal notably through its fellowship programme and the UN Voluntary Fund on Indigenous Peoples.

In 2019, the Fund, managed by OHCHR and assisted by a board of trustees, continued to support the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (60 indigenous grantees), the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (45 indigenous grantees), the Human Rights Council, including its universal periodic review mechanism, and the treaty bodies. The Fund also supported the participation of indigenous representatives in the President of the General Assembly Informal Interactive Hearing with Indigenous Peoples, which took place in New York on 25 April 2019.

Through the Indigenous Fellowship Programme, an annual programme, which provides intensive training in human rights to indigenous peoples, OHCHR continued to build the capacity and expertise of indigenous men and women, to enable them to use international human rights instruments and mechanisms more effectively. A total of 35 indigenous fellows, including 19 women, participated in the training programme in Geneva from 24 June to 19 July. The fellows received theoretical and practical training on how to use international human rights instruments and mechanisms to promote and protect the rights of their indigenous communities. The fellows were also offered the opportunity to have briefings from several UN agencies including ILO, UNESCO, UNITAR, UNHCR, FAO and WIPO. OHCHR in Geneva also hosted a "senior" indigenous fellow from Libya in its Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section.

On 15 July, the Human Rights Council held a half-day Intersessional interactive dialogue on ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of the Human Rights Council on issues affecting them, as mandated [by HRC resolution 39/13](#) sponsored by Guatemala and Mexico. The inter-sessional interactive dialogue was held during the first day of the 12th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as mandated by the Council. The dialogue was opened with a video-statement from the President of the General Assembly. The presenters from the podium were Ms. Myrna Cunningham, Member of the Board of Trustees of the United

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Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples; Mr. Kenneth Deer, Mohawk, Haudenosaunee External Relations Committee; H.E. Ms. Terhi Hakala, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations Office at Geneva; and Ms. Erika Yamada, Member of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The EU, CANZ, Nordic Group, Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Venezuela, Bolivia, Guatemala and Pakistan intervened from the floor, as well as 10 NGOs dealing with indigenous issues. The concept note and archived webcast are available on the [Council website](#).