

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 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 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 2021 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 **20 December 2020** 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 and requesens@un.org

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The Twentieth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled to take place from **19 - 30 April 2021**.

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. Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
7. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.
8. Provisional agenda for the twentieth-first session of the Permanent Forum.
9. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its twentieth 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:

- i. Please provide information on measures taken or planned to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.

At the 2012 session of the Permanent Forum, the Forum welcomed the interest of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in joining the Inter-Agency Support Group and calls upon the Special Representative to work closely with the members of the Forum in preparing a section on the situation of indigenous children in the Special Representative's annual reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

In June 2020, the SRSV VAC met with the Forum to reinvigorate the cooperation and is planning in her annual report, to raise the situation on violence against indigenous children, including family removals and institutionalisation, overrepresentation in detention and their impact on mental health.

- ii. The theme of the 2021 PFII session is "Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16". Please include information on any publications, projects, report or activities that are of relevance to this theme.

The OSRSV VAC is co-organizing the World Congress on Justice with Children 2021 and is planning a session dedicated to the access to justice for indigenous children at this event, as well to alternatives to deprivation of liberty.

The OSRSV VAC conducted a mapping of the child led initiatives that also includes indigenous children. Some relevant initiatives that the mapping found was:

- **[Scouts Brazil](#)** working with ethnic communities to avoid risky behaviour.
- **[Scouts Australia](#)**: The Djarindjin/Lombadina Sea Scout Group is the most recent successful project under the National Indigenous Scouts Program aiming to improve life opportunities for young people living in a remote indigenous communities by encouraging community ownership and operation and addressing the critical areas of community capacity building.
- The Red Alert Campaign in Nepal had a focus on indigenous issues. An overview of their initiatives can be found [here](#)
- Child Rights Connect actively works with a [children's advisory board](#). They're all under 18 and commit to one or 2 year mandate. The advisory boards included a

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broad diversity that includes language, gender balance, diversity of background, disabilities, indigenous communities, regional balance (one from pacific islands).

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

Executive summary:

Please provide an overview of actions taken or planned 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]

As requested in the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/69/2), a system-wide action plan (SWAP) 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 UN System Wide Action Plan (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, to ensure collaborative and coherent UN system action to support the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples with focus on furthering the implementation of the SWAP.

The Permanent Forum will follow up on progress made in the implementation of the system-wide action plan during its 2021 session. For ease of reference, the questions have been framed under the six key elements of the SWAP-Indigenous Peoples as follows:

1. Raising awareness of the UN Declaration

Please provide information on 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.

In 2012, the OSRG VAC joined the Inter-agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and as a member of the IASG participated in annual meetings in NY and in Canada.

In 2013, OSRSG VAC jointly with UNICEF, UN Women, ILO issued a report on “Breaking the silence on violence against indigenous girls, adolescents and young women” <https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/news/breaking-silence-violence-against-indigenous-girls-adolescents-and-young-women-call-action>

In September 2015 the SRSO Office organized an expert consultation in collaboration with Plan International and the Government of Norway on community based child

protection mechanisms <http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/page/1386>. The consultation **Strengthening Communities to Secure Children’s Right to Freedom from Violence** included a session on lessons learnt, in which María Rosa Manobanda presented experiences among 20 indigenous communities in Ecuador in strengthening community-based mechanisms to overcome non-discrimination and gender stereotypes, and ultimately to end violence against children.

In June 2020 the SRSG VAC had a meeting with the Forum to strengthen cooperation and develop joint action. A follow up meeting on the working level was held in September 2020 where the possibility of developing a joint global report on the situation on violence against indigenous children was discussed.

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

The role of the new Resident Coordinators and UN Country Team framework is an integral component of the UN’s commitment to support the rights of those at risk of being left behind, including indigenous peoples.

The Chief Executives Board committed to redouble efforts to help Resident Coordinators and UNCTs ensure more systematic participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations country processes.

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

- i. Any activities or support provided to indigenous peoples both during the COVID-19 pandemic and after, to ensure their inclusion in addressing the impacts of the pandemic, as well as in building back better.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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, where ratified, in national development plans and in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and Common Country Analysis.
- iv. Support for consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogue including under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators.
- v. Support provided to Resident Coordinators, UNCTs, SRSGs, UN field operations or Special Envoys in their engagement with indigenous peoples.

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

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- 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?

The situation of indigenous children is a cross cutting priority in the strategy of the SRSV VAC as well as in the working methods of the Office, ensuring that they are not left behind in .

- 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?

Advocacy for accelerating implementation of Agenda 2030 and towards reaching the SDG targets on violence against children and its drivers, is a key strategic priority of the SRSV VAC

To increase understanding of how VAC undermines progress towards the SDGs, the SRSV constantly promote the issue with Perm Reps in New York and during country visits, in high level meetings and participation in numerous online events in 2021/2020.

Considering VNRs as a strategic entry point with MS . OSRSV-VAC developed a simple guidance tool , [1.png \(un.org\)](#), for MS to highlight promising practices in ending VAC in their VNRs that have been shared with all MS as well as with all UN regional commissions, UN Regional and Country teams, in early 2020 . OSRSV-VAC reviewed all 2020 VNRs [vnr_brief.pdf \(un.org\)](#) to extract promising practices and developed a short publication shared with all MS in November 2020. During the HLPF 2020, OSRSV-VAC organised in cooperation with UNICEF and UN DESA, a VNR lab on developing a child-sensitive and child-inclusive VNR to equip Member States and partners with tools to bring child rights, data and voices of children, including indigenous children, into VNRs.

Inclusive and meaningful child participation and involvement , is another key priority of the SRSV VAC strategy . Particular attention is given to the most vulnerable children involvement in decision making processes related to violence and protection, as well as in implementation SDGs and in VNR processes

- iii. Please provide information on 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).

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

- i.* Please provide information on specific standards and guidelines on indigenous peoples adopted or planned by your agency/organization.
- ii.* Please provide information on any training materials prepared or planned related to the implementation of the UN Declaration.
- iii.* Please provide information on current resources and funds allocated to effectively implement the UN Declaration. Please also provide information on any joint initiatives with other UN agencies in the implementation of the UN Declaration.

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

Please provide information on:

- i.* Any capacity development initiatives that your organization is conducting for indigenous peoples, government officials and UN staff;
- ii.* Please include information on the participation of indigenous women, children and youth as well as indigenous persons with disabilities in your response.

6. Advancing the participation of indigenous peoples at the UN

Please provide information on:

- i.* Any support provided for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples at relevant UN processes, including at the country level;
- ii.* Any consultative mechanisms, tools and other measures to obtain free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in processes that affect them;
- iii.* Any consultation mechanisms established by the UNCT or support to Member States in establishing institutions and mechanisms for consultation with indigenous peoples, as well as ensuring effective participation of indigenous youth and indigenous women, in the COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery plans.

The SRSG VAC is conducting regular consultations with children, including indigenous children.

The mandate joined forces with civil society and academia to launch a joint initiative, #COVIDunder19, to create a space for children to come together during

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the COVID-19. The initiative was launched with a survey where children across the world was invited to share their experience during the pandemic. 26,000 children responded to the survey and 1 in 5 said they belonged to a minority ethnic community. Access to water was particularly highlighted by this group of children and 8 % of these children said that they had less access to drinking water than before the pandemic.

The SRSG VAC is constantly calling on all governments to :

- ensure in the recovery from the pandemic that child protection is recognized as a life-saving and essential service - along with health, early childhood development, mental health, education and justice;
- invest in all children without discrimination (including indigenous children) by ensuring all have access to sustainably financed social protection systems linked to properly resourced child protection services ;
- recognize that allocating budgets and strengthening services for the wellbeing and protection of all children from all forms of violence is an investment in the future:
- involve actively children, including the most vulnerable and consider them as part of solution , in the recovery phase

The SRSG VAC is also advocating and mobilizing UN system , to ensure greater involvement of children (in addition to youth) in HLPF 21 preparatory activities and at the event itself