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## Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

### Twenty-second session

New York, 17–28 April 2023

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

**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**

## **System-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including in the 2030 Agenda: implementation by the United Nations system**

**Note by the Secretariat**

### *Summary*

The present report provides a brief compilation of the information received from United Nations system entities and other intergovernmental bodies in response to a questionnaire on actions taken to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The complete responses are available at [www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-22session-2023.html](http://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-22session-2023.html).

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\* E/C.19/2023/1.



## I. Introduction

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/22, is a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council mandated to provide expert advice and recommendations on Indigenous issues to the Council, as well as to programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations, through the Council; raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities related to Indigenous issues within the United Nations system; prepare and disseminate information on Indigenous issues. In addition, in accordance with article 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, it is mandated to promote respect for and full application of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and follow up its effectiveness. To that end, the Forum makes recommendations in the areas of economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.

2. At the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples held in 2014, a system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was developed and presented in 2016. The system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has given added momentum to the efforts of the United Nations system to support the implementation of the Declaration. In addition, five years after the adoption of the action plan, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination renewed its commitment to implementing it through the adoption of the call to action by the Secretary-General, as set out in the report entitled “Building an inclusive sustainable and resilient future with Indigenous Peoples”. The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous People’s Issues has been working on its implementation.

3. The Permanent Forum has stated that implementing its recommendations must make a difference in the daily lives of Indigenous Peoples. An important tool for assessing the degree to which the recommendations have been implemented is the information submitted to the Forum by entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies. The Forum acknowledges and thanks those entities that have provided reports and urges them to continue providing information on their activities and on the follow-up to the recommendations of the action plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Forum also encourages agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations System that have not done so to provide reports on their work with Indigenous Peoples.

4. A questionnaire on actions taken to implement the recommendations of the Forum, the system-wide action plan and the 2030 Agenda was sent to 52 entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies in November 2022. As at 5 January 2023, responses had been received from the following entities: Convention on Biological Diversity, Department of Global Communication, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Pan American Health Organization, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

The complete responses are available at: [www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-22session-2023.html](http://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-22session-2023.html).

## **II. Responses received from United Nations entities and other intergovernmental bodies on measures taken or planned to implement the system-wide action plan**

### **Department of Global Communications**

5. The Department of Global Communications has collaborated with communications counterparts in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to raise awareness of the rights of Indigenous Peoples through shared messaging, coordinated outreach activities and the development of multilingual promotional materials. A Trello board serves as the primary tool for sharing and cross-promoting content in multiple languages among United Nations entities, including promotional assets such as digital cards, videos and backgrounders.

6. During 2022, the Department raised awareness of the Declaration at the global and local levels through its range of multimedia and multilingual platforms, including video, audio, web and social media channels, as well as at virtual seminars, design assets, tours and briefings. Under the Department, the global network of United Nations information centres, working with the offices of Resident Coordinators, reached out to local media and educational institutions; engaged in partnerships with Governments, civil society and the private sector; and maintained electronic information resources on a wide range of Indigenous Peoples' issues.

7. During the 2022 session of the Permanent Forum, the Department provided newsworthy press releases in English and French. In addition, the Department co-organized and moderated the opening press conference of the Permanent Forum and facilitated media interviews with speakers.

8. The Department of Global Communications continued to maintain the website for the International Day of Indigenous Peoples in all six official languages of the United Nations.<sup>1</sup> Between 1 January 2022 and 20 October 2022, the website was viewed more than 266,000 times.

### **Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs**

9. The Peacebuilding Support Office in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs contributes to the implementation of the action plan, supporting national actors in advancing the rights, inclusion and participation of Indigenous Peoples in political and peacebuilding processes.

10. The Peacebuilding Fund supports peacebuilding at the local and community level, alongside preventive engagement at the national level, combining United Nations efforts with those of civil society organizations. Indigenous peoples are among the partners and beneficiaries of Peacebuilding Fund projects in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Honduras.

11. In Honduras, the Peacebuilding Fund's Strategic Results Framework 2022–2025 supports joint programmes that promote the participation of vulnerable groups, including Indigenous Peoples, and seek peaceful ways to prevent and address conflicts

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day](http://www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day).

over land and natural resources that affect Indigenous Peoples and Afrodescendant populations.

12. Similarly, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one of the outcomes of the Peacebuilding Fund strategic results framework in 2022 for the province of Tanganyika focused on improving relations and equitable access to resources between the Twa and Bantu peoples.

13. In Colombia, the Peacebuilding Fund supports peacebuilding initiatives in communities prioritized in the framework of the Final Peace Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace signed in 2016, including Indigenous Peoples affected by violence in the context of the internal armed conflict.<sup>2</sup>

14. In 2022, the Peacebuilding Fund supported the implementation of projects focusing on the protection of civic spaces. A total of seven projects valued at \$9.3 million were approved under this theme, notably regarding land, Indigenous Peoples and environmental issues.

15. The Americas Division continued working closely with Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams on prevention initiatives that include Indigenous Peoples.

## **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

16. The promotion of the rights of Indigenous Peoples continues to be reinforced in the work of ECLAC. It is strongly reflected in position documents, policy briefs, resolutions and intergovernmental agreements of the subsidiary bodies and at the intergovernmental meetings of ECLAC.<sup>3</sup>

17. In the area of the right to information, ECLAC continued to strengthen national capacities for the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in national statistics, particularly in censuses, working with both public agencies and Indigenous Peoples' organizations. During 2022, technical assistance was provided through both virtual meetings and in-person field missions, as well as through training courses for the use and analysis of information with a focus on Indigenous Peoples and gender perspectives.

18. ECLAC promoted the participation of Indigenous Peoples at the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, from 28 to 30 June 2022. Furthermore, ECLAC facilitated the participation of Indigenous women's organizations from regional networks such as the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas and the Network of Indigenous Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean, among other Indigenous Peoples' organizations.

## **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

19. In 2022, the first-ever global Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems<sup>4</sup> was launched. It comprises seven member States, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Finland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway and Spain, and seven Indigenous

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<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/colombia-0>.

<sup>3</sup> See, in particular, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Women, the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Regional Conference on Social Development and the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/news-article/en/c/1617890/>.

representatives from each sociocultural region. The Indigenous Peoples Unit of FAO was appointed as the secretariat.

20. The Indigenous Youth campaign for Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems<sup>5</sup> was launched on the main stage of the World Food Forum by the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus with support from FAO in 2022. The Indigenous Youth campaign builds upon the momentum and key messages generated by the 2021 United Nations Global Forum on Indigenous Youth.

21. The African Women's Collaborative for Healthy Food Systems celebrated International Women's Day in 2022 by holding an event entitled "Celebrating the contribution of Africa's peasant and Indigenous women to sustainable food systems". The event gathered agroecology experts and Indigenous women seed-keepers who shared their knowledge and experience in native seed preservation and its importance for biological diversity and women's economic agency in their communities. FAO provided technical support in drafting a collaboration project on Indigenous seeds preservation and establishing community seed banks.

22. The policy brief entitled "COVID-19, land, natural resources, gender issues and Indigenous Peoples' rights in Asia"<sup>6</sup>, prepared by FAO and OHCHR, raised awareness about Indigenous Peoples' rights in that continent, as a pathway for sustainable and equitable social-economic development. It was presented at the side event hosted by FAO, OHCHR and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, in the framework of the ninth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, held in 2022.<sup>7</sup>

23. The FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean launched a regional strategy to collaborate with Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent<sup>8</sup> and promote cultural relevance, full participation and the co-creation of sustainable rural development public policies, and respect and protect individual and collective rights to land tenure, territory and natural resources.

## **International Fund for Agricultural Development**

24. In 2022, IFAD reached a milestone with the update of its Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, co-led by the Indigenous members of the steering committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD. The updated Policy provides a comprehensive new standard in line with parallel changes in the United Nations system. It entails significant changes in the work of IFAD, with Indigenous Peoples contributing to the implementation of the action plan across IFAD operations.

25. The updated Policy also enhances the representation of Indigenous Peoples in IFAD governance bodies, by including representatives of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD as observers at Executive Board sessions when items of relevance to Indigenous Peoples are on the agenda for consideration.

26. In August 2022, the sixth call for proposals for the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility was launched to promote direct access to funding, with a focus on climate change adaptation, resilience and the promotion of conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity by Indigenous Peoples. During the current cycle, the Facility is funding 30 small projects designed by Indigenous Peoples.

27. IFAD has also developed several tools to improve internal and external capacities on how to engage with Indigenous Peoples, including the review of 36

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<sup>5</sup> See <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1b/k1bsq5x43z>.

<sup>6</sup> See <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb9121en/>.

<sup>7</sup> See <https://www.unescap.org/events/apfsd9>.

<sup>8</sup> See <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB7823EN/>.

country technical notes on Indigenous Peoples' issues, two publications on free, prior and informed consent implementation<sup>9</sup> and the creation of a digital toolbox on sustainable and resilient Indigenous Peoples' food systems for improved nutrition.<sup>10</sup>

## International Labour Organization

28. ILO published a discussion paper entitled "Traditional Occupations of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Labour Statistics".<sup>11</sup> The paper provides an overview of how traditional occupations are or could be covered better in labour statistics. It represents a basis for further discussion and development, in particular by representing comprehensive guidance and support on collecting and compiling statistics on traditional occupations and preparing future reports presenting data on Indigenous Peoples.

29. ILO issued a policy brief on Indigenous Peoples and a just transition for all<sup>12</sup> as part of an ILO policy brief series on just transition. The brief aims to provide a better understanding of how Indigenous Peoples are affected by climate change and their role as change agents in promoting a just transition for all.

30. ILO has assisted in developing consultation mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples in Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Peru. For instance, assistance is provided to the Ministry of Mines of Guatemala for creating a consultation department through the design of public management tools for applying the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).

31. ILO engaged with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics to include 50 groups of Indigenous Peoples in the 2022 population census of Bangladesh in collaboration with the Kapaeeng Foundation, the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, the Office of the Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Population Fund.

## International Telecommunication Union

32. The work of ITU with regard to Indigenous Peoples focuses on empowering them by enhancing digital literacy and supporting them in learning how to develop and maintain digital environments that respond to the needs of Indigenous Peoples and embrace the diversity of their aspirations.

33. ITU has worked to support this goal through capacity-building programmes created by the ITU Development Sector that are tailored for Indigenous Peoples. The aim of the programmes is to strengthen the capacity of Indigenous Peoples from the Americas with digital literacy skills and knowledge applicable to their needs and requirements. The two programmes ITU is working on are the following:

(a) A capacity-building programme to develop knowledge among Indigenous technicians in designing telecommunications and information and communications technology networks.<sup>13</sup> This tutor-led online training programme was held through the ITU Academy from 16 May to 31 July 2022 and from 25 July to 9 October 2022.

<sup>9</sup> See [https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/46017375/FPIC\\_layout\\_DEF\\_WEB.pdf/fffc38ef-7843-e042-6a59-02a45b24779d?t=1659706051874](https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/46017375/FPIC_layout_DEF_WEB.pdf/fffc38ef-7843-e042-6a59-02a45b24779d?t=1659706051874).

<sup>10</sup> See <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/-/sustainable-and-resilient-indigenous-peoples-food-systems-for-improved-nutrition>.

<sup>11</sup> See [https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/WCMS\\_862144/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/WCMS_862144/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>12</sup> See <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/publications/just-transition-pb/lang--en/index.htm>.

<sup>13</sup> See <https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue/formacion-en-herramientas-innovadoras-de-comunicacion-para-el-fortalecimiento-de-las-capacidades-de-l>.

A total of 200 Indigenous people, from 16 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean registered for the programme;

(b) A technical promoters in telecommunication and broadcasting in Indigenous Communities programme.<sup>14</sup> The programme is still in progress, but the work so far includes a blended training programme, online through ITU Academy and in person, is aimed at developing technical promoters in telecommunication and broadcasting in Indigenous communities.

34. ITU Development Sector also made a user guide for ITU Academy, tailored for Indigenous Peoples available Spanish, in order to attract more Indigenous Peoples that would benefit from the courses and facilitate their understanding of how to access and make use of the training content.

### **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

35. OHCHR carried out activities to implement the six elements of the action plan. In 2022, the Office focused on raising awareness on the Declaration, developing the capacities of Member States, Indigenous Peoples and United Nations country teams, including supporting the elaboration of national legislation and policies on Indigenous Peoples and advancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in United Nations processes.

36. The Indigenous Fellowship Programme contributes to building up community capacity to defend human rights promoting the Declaration. The programme has enabled the deployment of 19 senior Indigenous fellows in OHCHR country and regional offices, as well as Resident Coordinator Offices, in countries such as Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Kenya, Nepal, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines and Uganda.

37. Senior Indigenous fellows have contributed to advancing several priority issues in the regions, ranging from integrating Indigenous Peoples' rights into national strategies to engagement on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals and promoting Indigenous women's rights and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge.

38. The participation of Indigenous Peoples in United Nations processes is further enhanced through the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples. In 2022, the Fund supported the participation of Indigenous grantees in the climate negotiations for the first time during the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

39. OHCHR also played an active role in raising the profile of Indigenous Peoples in the context of the Human Rights Council, including by organizing, during the fifty-first session of the Council, an expert workshop on possible ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Human Rights Council,<sup>15</sup> in November 2022.

### **Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children**

40. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children collaborated with the Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch of the

<sup>14</sup> See <https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue/formacion-de-promotoras-y-promotores-tecnicos-en-comunidades-indigenas-en-telecomunicaciones-y>.

<sup>15</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/indigenous-peoples/expert-workshop-possible-ways-enhance-participation-indigenous-peoples-work-human-rights-council>.

Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department to develop an updated note on the promotion and application of the Declaration to prevent and end violence against children and produced a report to the Forum in 2022 (E/C.19/2022/4). The report highlights the overrepresentation of Indigenous children, and in particular Indigenous children with disabilities, in care institutions and justice institutions. The report recommends promoting traditional restorative systems in consultation with Indigenous Peoples to address issues related to children in contact with the law.

41. For the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, children's participation is a crucial component of her mandate and a cross-cutting priority. Throughout different actions, the Special Representative promotes a culture of meaningful and representative child participation, which includes Indigenous children.

42. The Special Representative presented a child-friendly version of her annual report to the General Assembly on child-sensitive investment (A/77/221) to over 100 children from different countries.<sup>16</sup> The event was moderated by children, including a child, who is also an environmental defender, representing Indigenous children from Greenland.

## **Pan American Health Organization**

43. PAHO has conducted several activities to implement the action plan to achieve the ends of the Declaration. PAHO is working at the country level on various health topics related to Indigenous Peoples, ensuring their participation, the topics include maternal health, communicable diseases (tuberculosis, HIV, neglected diseases), noncommunicable diseases and disaster risk reduction.

44. PAHO recently published a tool for promoting culturally safe childbirth.<sup>17</sup> It is built mainly on consensus on good maternal and neonatal practices and quality of care criteria for health service delivery. The tool promotes Indigenous women's empowerment, autonomy and decision-making on any issue related to their sexual and reproductive health. It was developed with the participation of Indigenous women and midwives. PAHO is currently working with Indigenous midwives in Bolivia (the Plurinational State of), Colombia and Ecuador to exchange knowledge in the field of maternal health.

45. Considering mental health and suicide prevention a priority topic, PAHO is working with Indigenous Peoples to culturally adequate and adapt the Mental Health Gap Action Programme.<sup>18</sup> Significant efforts have been conducted in Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador on the mental health and suicide prevention. Mental health issues are addressed from a traditional medicine angle.

46. The Virtual Health Library on Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine for the Americas<sup>19</sup> brings together those responsible for public policies, academia, professional associations, health service providers and Indigenous Peoples' organizations, with the common goal of collaboratively developing a virtual space to understand better the panorama of traditional and complementary medicine.

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<sup>16</sup> The child-friendly version is available at <https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/child-friendly-version-unga-2022-en.pdf>.

<sup>17</sup> See <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/56225>.

<sup>18</sup> See <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241549790>.

<sup>19</sup> See <https://mtci.bvsalud.org/en/about/>.



## Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

47. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has ensured, through several mechanisms, the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Convention at all levels. The primary mechanism for this participation is the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions.

48. Since its establishment in 1998, the Working Group on Article 8(j) has met 11 times with notable achievements, including drafting voluntary guidelines and raising the profile of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the Convention on Biological Diversity process. Indigenous Peoples and local communities have positioned themselves as partners in the development and future implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

49. A fundamental principle of the programme of work on article 8(j) and related provisions is the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Thus, Working Group on Article 8(j) has instilled practices such as the nomination of an Indigenous co-chair to assist the Chair of the meeting, including co-chairing sub-working groups and contact groups and enhanced opportunities to make interventions on all agenda items of the Working Group on Article 8(j).

50. In addition, the Convention has established a voluntary funding mechanism for the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in meetings held under the Convention.<sup>20</sup> The voluntary fund supported the participation of 12 representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities during the sessions of the open-ended working group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in March 2022, in Geneva. Similarly, nine Indigenous Peoples and local community representatives received support to participate in the sessions of the open-ended working group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework held in June 2022, in Nairobi.

## United Nations Children's Fund

51. The work of UNICEF across country contexts continues to contribute to the achievement of several actions under the action plan.

52. UNICEF supports Member States in increasing access and strengthening the quality of education provided to Indigenous children and fostering intercultural bilingual education and early childhood development. UNICEF Latin America and the Caribbean and relevant country offices provided support in 2022 to Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, Panama and Peru, in implementing intercultural bilingual education materials as part of learning recovery plans.

53. In addition, UNICEF has developed an intercultural portal of materials and resources in Indigenous languages<sup>21</sup> for intercultural bilingual education.

## United Nations Development Programme

54. UNDP contributes to the action plan efforts for harmonized and system-wide messaging and awareness-raising on the Declaration, especially during the International Day of Indigenous Peoples.

<sup>20</sup> See <https://www.cbd.int/traditional/fund.shtml>.

<sup>21</sup> See <https://www.unicef.org/lac/portal-intercultural-en-lenguas-originarias>.

55. On 9 August 2022, on the occasion of marking the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, the Youth Co:Lab highlighted contributions that young Indigenous Peoples across Asia and the Pacific are making through social entrepreneurship to address the challenges of their communities.

56. UNDP issued grants to the Council of Indigenous Peoples of Thailand to organize an online seminar series to promote a draft law on the protection of the rights of ethnic minorities. The project was meant to improve the public's understanding of the emerging legislation. In August 2022, numerous events were organized with Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholders at the national level in Bangkok, to provide a better understanding of the impact of the new law on people's lives.

57. The UNDP Equator Initiative worked with Indigenous facilitators to jointly produce a course entitled "Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations: project access online" and organized a variety of training activities during the 2022 session of the Permanent Forum.

58. Building on the pilot phase of the Indigenous Peoples' Fellowship Initiative,<sup>22</sup> the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme is developing the second phase of the programme to be implemented as part of its seventh operational phase running from 2020–2024.

### **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

59. UNESCO has a dedicated policy on engaging with Indigenous Peoples,<sup>23</sup> which aligns its programming with the Declaration. The policy was strengthened by adopting the eight-year Medium Term Strategy,<sup>24</sup> which increases attention to partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, and establishes an intersectoral programme on Indigenous knowledge, culture and languages.

60. In 2022, UNESCO served as co-chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, tasked with implementing the action plan.

61. In 2022, UNESCO assisted the Support Group task teams in arranging round-table discussions with Resident Coordinators on opportunities and challenges to implementing Indigenous Peoples' rights and development agendas at the national level through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, United Nations country teams and common country analyses.

62. UNESCO included Indigenous experts in its network of facilitators for the global capacity-building programme for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Trained by UNESCO, the facilitators received support to update their skills and knowledge to support countries in protecting intangible cultural heritage.

63. The launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022–2032) in 2022<sup>25</sup> also addressed the action plan by drawing attention to the critical loss of Indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote them in the context of the Declaration.

<sup>22</sup> See <https://sgp.undp.org/our-approach-153/indigenous-peoples-fellowship-initiative.html>.

<sup>23</sup> See <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000262748>.

<sup>24</sup> See <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000378083>.

<sup>25</sup> See <https://en.unesco.org/idil2022-2032>.

## **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

64. UNHCR mobilized resources and peacebuilding tools for working with conflict-affected Indigenous Peoples, notably in North, Central and South American countries, where UNHCR operations have largely focused on the protection of displaced and stateless Indigenous Peoples in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). UNHCR translated guidance and information into local languages, including Indigenous languages.

65. UNHCR shared information with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences for the elaboration of her 2022 report on violence against Indigenous women and girls (A/HRC/50/26). Concerning this, UNHCR hosted an online consultation on 7 March 2022 with Indigenous women and girls leaders and activists from Latin America.

66. UNHCR provided information to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in support of their elaboration of a general recommendation on the rights of Indigenous women and girls.

## **United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

67. UN-Habitat issued a publication entitled Urban Planning Law for Climate-Smart Cities: Urban Law Module as part of the law and climate change toolkit in 2022. The publication covers the need for inclusive and participatory climate-smart vulnerability assessments that emphasize the participation of Indigenous Peoples and their traditional knowledge in all stages of the project.

68. UN-Habitat raised awareness of the Declaration through social media engagement, both from institutional UN-Habitat accounts and from the account of the Executive Director. Furthermore, press releases and news stories were published on the importance of the participation of Indigenous Peoples in urban decision-making processes.

69. The Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit of UN-Habitat worked with regional and country teams on all project proposals to ensure the rights of Indigenous Peoples are appropriately considered at all stages of the projects.

## **World Food Programme**

70. The Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the WFP signed a memorandum of understanding with the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean in August 2022. The memorandum of understanding sets out a package of activities focusing on capacity development and inter-institutional cooperation on issues of interculturalism and rights, food and nutrition assistance, and attention to emergencies.

71. An assessment of Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods and vulnerabilities to food insecurity covering five countries in Latin America was completed in 2022. The report's findings have led to a regional workplan for the upcoming year.

72. In 2022, WFP issued an internal guidance note on engagement with Indigenous Peoples entitled "An approach paper: key considerations for engagement with Indigenous Peoples".

73. In partnership with the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the WFP launched a research initiative with the objective to better

understand and analyse the barriers that Indigenous People face in accessing employment at WFP and offer recommendations to enable the hiring of Indigenous talent in order to ensure more inclusivity and diversity.

74. The Indigenous Peoples' Affinity Group, formed in 2021, comprises WFP employees interested in and working on Indigenous Peoples' issues from different units within headquarters, regional offices and country offices. It is a mechanism to enable the exchange of information and activities on Indigenous Peoples. The Affinity Group is a platform for greater engagement across regions and countries. A social media Yammer page on Indigenous Peoples was set up to share information across the organization and is available to all WFP staff.

## **World Health Organization**

75. WHO rejoined the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues in 2022 to expand its work on Indigenous Peoples and health across the organization's three levels and to advance the implementation of the elements of the action plan.

76. In 2022, WHO released a publication entitled "Strengthening primary health care to tackle racial discrimination, promote intercultural services and reduce health inequities". In this publication, WHO outlines 14 strategic and operational levers for policymakers to strengthen primary health care. Within each lever, multiple potential entry points exist for targeted actions to address racial discrimination, foster intercultural care, and reduce health inequities experienced by Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent, Roma and other ethnic minorities.

77. WHO is developing the policy and strategy on achieving health equity, gender equality and human rights, which will include, among others, provisions on the implementation and reporting on the action plan across the three levels of the organization, national, regional and global. For the development of the policy and strategy, WHO has ensured the participation of members of the Permanent Forum.

78. In 2022, the Director General of WHO participated as a speaker on the International Day of Indigenous Peoples organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on 9 August, focusing on the theme: "The role of Indigenous women in the preservation and transmission of traditional knowledge".

## **World Intellectual Property Organization**

79. WIPO raised awareness of the Declaration within the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). References to the Declaration were included in the most recent versions of the draft negotiating texts on the protection of traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions and genetic resources.

80. After a two-year suspension owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, negotiations resumed at the Intergovernmental Committee in 2022 to finalize an agreement on an international legal instrument relating to the intellectual property, which will ensure the balanced and effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions during the 2022–2023 biennium. The 2022 WIPO General Assembly decided to convene a Diplomatic Conference to conclude an international legal instrument relating to intellectual property, genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, to be held no later than 2024.

81. An updated technical review of the key intellectual property-related issues of the WIPO draft instruments on genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions was commissioned by the WIPO secretariat to two Indigenous experts and transmitted to the Intergovernmental Committee at its forty-second session from 28 February to 4 March 2022.

82. Technical assistance activities supporting Indigenous Peoples continued in 2022, online and in-person, with several webinars and training activities, with particular emphasis on entrepreneurship initiatives among Indigenous Peoples, particularly women.

### **III. Responses received in accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**

#### **Department of Global Communications**

83. United Nations information centres in Buenos Aires, La Paz and Asunción supported the joint mission of the Resident Coordinators of Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Paraguay, who visited the Gran Chaco Americano. The communications support was aimed at making the Indigenous Peoples regions more visible.

#### **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

84. The fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, in June 2022, focused on the sociodemographic impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean and the challenges posed by the health crisis for the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre in its role of technical secretariat, prepared and presented the report entitled “The sociodemographic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean”, with recommendations for recovery and reconstruction within the framework of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, with a chapter related to Indigenous Peoples.

85. In July 2022, ECLAC held a two-day seminar on the “Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economics and welfare of Indigenous Peoples: challenges to guarantee their collective rights in the post-pandemic recovery agenda”. The seminar included the participation of senior ECLAC officials and Indigenous Peoples’ organizations from Latin America.

#### **International Labour Organization**

86. An initiative in the Gran Chaco Americano in Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Paraguay brought together the United Nations, local authorities and communities to identify the needs of vulnerable people, and collaboration tools within the framework of Sustainable Development Goal 8, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the commitment to leave no one behind.<sup>26</sup> In this regard, ILO initiated work to support Guaraní Indigenous weavers in the Bolivian Chaco<sup>27</sup> to strengthen their capacities pursuant to the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention,

<sup>26</sup> See <https://unsdg.un.org/es/latest/stories/un-recorrido-por-el-gran-chaco-americano-tres-paises-unidos-por-un-mismo-objetivo>.

<sup>27</sup> See [https://www.ilo.org/lima/sala-de-prensa/WCMS\\_863730/lang--es/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/lima/sala-de-prensa/WCMS_863730/lang--es/index.htm).

1989 (No. 169). Moreover, ILO is preparing a study on Indigenous Peoples on the Argentina-Bolivia border.

87. ILO is supporting the National Institute of Agriculture and Technology in Argentina in collecting information and developing a public management manual on the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).

### **Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children**

88. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children continued working with States and the United Nations system at the international, regional and national levels to increasingly address the key intersectionality of violence against children and the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure a coordinated and coherent approach across the United Nations system in line with the common agenda and the call for human rights, to ending all forms of violence against children, leaving no child behind. One form of engagement is the support and cooperation, in collaboration with United Nations country teams, with States preparing their voluntary national reviews for the high-level political forum 2022 through country visits and direct engagement on their commitments integrating child rights and on effective ways to address violence against Indigenous children in national and local development policies and processes.

### **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

89. OHCHR, through its Surge Initiative, places human rights at the centre of the concerted efforts of the United Nations to support States and national stakeholders in addressing inequalities and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In Paraguay, OHCHR carried out a human rights analysis of the social protection system that the United Nations country team used to engage with the social Cabinet and the Ministry of Social Development to promote the extension of the new Government programme “Vamos!” to segments of society excluded from social protection, including Indigenous Peoples.

90. In Kenya, OHCHR supported a project partnering with Indigenous human rights defenders to document the human rights dimensions of the COVID-19 crisis in Indigenous communities, with a focus on Indigenous women who face multiple forms of discrimination. The resulting analysis built a compelling case to reinforce Indigenous People’s inclusion in social protection programmes and targeted responses to address inequalities in the rights to education and health, and increased gender-based violence (including harmful traditional practices).

91. In Ecuador, a similar prevention-focused project was implemented, in relation to land-related targets and indicators under Sustainable Development Goal 11 on sustainable communities (and Goals 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 5 (on gender equality) and 15 (life on land)). The analysis contributed to map the differentiated needs of the Indigenous communities, in particular the impact on women rights and children, to access their land, including the lack of accurate information, language barriers and participation gaps.

92. Another form of OHCHR engagement at the country level through its Surge Initiative, is the support given to United Nations country teams regarding the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and common country analyses, which represent the United Nations Development System’s collective offer

to support countries in addressing key Sustainable Development Goals priorities and gaps and imperative to leave no one behind. OHCHR advocates that due attention should be given in these documents to the situation of Indigenous Peoples.

### **Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

93. The Secretariat supports the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which is closely aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals will help to create the conditions necessary to implement the framework. In addition, the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework also includes adopting the indicators and monitoring frameworks. The Sustainable Development Goals indicators and the indicators on monitoring processes related to traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use are relevant for collecting statistical data on Indigenous Peoples.

94. Furthermore, the joint programme of work on the links between biological and cultural diversity, to be considered by the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, aims to recognize natural and cultural heritage and diversity as enablers and drivers of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and a pathway to the global biodiversity framework's vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

### **United Nations Children's Fund**

95. Until mid-2022, the Republic of the Congo benefitted from the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund with the implementation of a joint programme between UNICEF, WFP and WHO, aimed at supporting the realization of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including to education, protection, health, nutrition, social protection, and land. The joint programme builds a baseline understanding of the situation of Indigenous Peoples and aims to enhance the structures and capacities of government institutions, civil society and organizations that serve them. It also contributes to advocacy for the effective implementation of laws and regulations aimed at the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in general.

96. In 2022, in relation to Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 10, social protection initiatives have been carried out by UNICEF and partners in support of Indigenous women and communities in Burundi. In Suriname, a joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund programme was started by a range of United Nations entities, including UNICEF to build resilience and improve the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples in support of the realization of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 16 and 17. This Joint Programme aims to address the multidimensional vulnerabilities of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Suriname through an overarching, integrated policy framework aimed at improving their quality of life and a series of small integrated rural development initiatives, focused on essential services and employment, to test these policy interventions in a participatory manner.

### **United Nations Development Programme**

97. UNDP has continued its engagement with Indigenous Peoples in 2022 grounded in an overall vision to assist countries to achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and reduction of inequalities and exclusion. This involves developing sustainable development pathways; strengthening inclusive and effective democratic governance and peacebuilding; and building resilience, particularly from conflicts and natural disasters. In addition, the work of UNDP with Indigenous Peoples is

guided and shaped by international human rights standards and principles, and, in particular, by the Declaration.

98. Engagement with Indigenous Peoples has been a focus area within the mission of UNDP to mainstream a human rights-based approach into its development policies and programmes, its global advocacy efforts to fight discrimination and support marginalized minorities, as well as in its long-standing engagement with civil society. UNDP values the contributions of Indigenous Peoples to humanity's cultural diversity and heritage, climate change solutions and shares their concerns about economic and social disadvantages and weak political representation. The current UNDP Strategic Plan 2022–2025 includes six signature solutions and three enablers for partner countries, including addressing poverty and inequality; strengthening governance; support to nature, climate and energy needs; access to finance; as well as strengthening tenure, water and land rights, with an understanding of the differentiated impacts, access and contributions of women and men, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples.

### **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

99. By mobilizing local and Indigenous knowledge and building synergies with science, UNESCO supports its Member States towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 1, 4, 13, 14 and 15. In these areas, in 2022, UNESCO supported its member States in areas related to biodiversity conservation and restoration, ocean science, sustainable use of natural resources, and climate change resilience, including through networking and cooperation between UNESCO-designated sites as major tools and models in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science.

100. UNESCO supported Indigenous Peoples with their contribution to the Water Action Decade in 2022, and by providing responses to local, national and regional water security challenges and capacities of its member States to achieve the water-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (Sustainable Development Goal 6).

101. UNESCO also contributed to Sustainable Development Goal 5 through several gender-sensitive guidelines and processes in support of the valorization, transmission, protection and mobilization of Indigenous knowledge to build resilience for global change, including the recent report on women's knowledge in the Pacific.

102. Reducing inequalities (Sustainable Development Goal 10) is also a field in which UNESCO contributes substantially through its work to ensure that all learners have access to quality education at all levels; reduce the science and knowledge gaps between and within countries; close the digital divide and ensure that all development policies are inclusive and respect cultural diversity.

103. In the area of Sustainable Development Goal 13, activities, including in preparation and at the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in collaboration with Indigenous partners globally, advanced the debate on inclusion and incorporation of Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge in science policy and practice.

104. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 14 on life below water and Sustainable Development Goal 15 on life on land, in 2022, the technical support unit on Indigenous and local knowledge, hosted at UNESCO LINKS, supported the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge component in the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services, including two biodiversity assessments on the sustainable use of wild species and on the values and valuation of nature. As part of the work of enhancing benefits to Indigenous Peoples and local communities from



the assessments, by the Intergovernmental Platform organized a webinar for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to explore Indigenous and local knowledge in the completed assessments.

105. In addition, UNESCO-LINKS programme, through Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network project, is working with country partners and the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre and UNDP to support the inclusion of Indigenous and local knowledge in the national ecosystem assessment and policy planning.

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

106. In line with the 2030 Agenda and the principle of “leaving no one behind”, UNHCR works together with partners to secure the inclusion of disaster-displaced people in national services and to build effective approaches to resilience and solutions that include all age, gender and diversity groups, including women, youth, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, minorities and Indigenous Peoples. In 2020, UNHCR established a task team on meaningful engagement and partnership with organizations led by forcibly displaced and Stateless people, with an interim advisory group of 26 organizations led by displaced and stateless persons who were consulted as partners until the end of November 2022. Since December 2022, there is a newly established advisory board with 16 member organizations led by displaced and Stateless persons that will serve until December 2024.

### **United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

107. In 2022, UN-Habitat continued its efforts to engage youth in localization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Through its Youth 2030 Cities project in partnership with Fondation Botnar, six target countries were priorities in 2022, including Ecuador, where Youth 2030 partnered with Otavalango, a local Indigenous organization seeking to share, preserve, and rescue the Quechua culture, whose language and traditions are under threat. Otavalango hosted Youth 2030 workshops that allowed youth to learn more about the role of the United Nations in addressing community and local level development agendas and how the Sustainable Development Goals relate to Indigenous Peoples.

108. One of the aims of these discussions was to develop local and national DeclarACTIONs to present the views and commitments of youth. The Global DeclarACTION confirms the commitment of children and youth leaders, in partnership with key stakeholders, such as national Governments, “to create an inclusive, democratic, diverse and participatory society for the defence of Indigenous Peoples to exercise their rights and preserve their traditions and language”. The DeclarACTION is followed by concrete demands at the local, national and global level. The Otavalo DeclarACTION was presented at the High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in New York and informed the Global DeclarACTION adopted at the UN-Habitat World Urban Forum and Children and Youth Assembly in June 2022.

### **World Food Program**

109. WFP has been working, in a wide range of different countries and contexts, on assessments that gather data on Indigenous issues, and that identify the drivers of food insecurity. It uses that information to inform its strategies moving forward.

Advocacy and awareness-raising at the corporate level have also been key factors in addressing these gaps related to evidence generation and data collection. Also, there is a need to support and recognize Indigenous Peoples' food systems and ancestral knowledge (Sustainable Development Goal 2). The Latin America and Caribbean Regional Bureau has identified work with Indigenous Peoples as a priority area for the region. This is enabling greater attention to Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems, their role in identifying and using neglected but nutrient rich foods, and their practices in climate change adaptation and early warning (Sustainable Development Goal 13). Ensuring the inclusion of Indigenous Women in rural empowerment programmes are also steps to greater engagement of women as agricultural producers and leaders. Partnerships with the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, for example, highlight the importance to work more closely with Indigenous-led organizations to address the issues jointly.

## **World Health Organization**

110. WHO published a road map entitled "Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: a road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030", which was prepared through an extensive global consultation, that culminated in the endorsement of the road map by the seventy-third World Health Assembly in November 2020. The road map sets global targets and milestones to prevent, control, eliminate or eradicate 20 neglected tropical diseases and disease groups, as well as cross-cutting targets aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. The road map is supported by several companion documents on water, sanitation and hygiene, One Health approach and sustainability which will have an effect on the agenda of the Permanent Forum. WHO instigated the production of, and co-led with FAO and IFAD a report, issued in December 2021 and published in 2022, which includes an integrated focus on Indigenous Peoples who live in rural and remote areas.<sup>28</sup>

111. The WHO Health Equity Assessment Toolkit is a software application that facilitates the assessment of health inequalities. Inequalities can be assessed through disaggregated data, including ethnicity and summary measures of health inequality, visualized in interactive graphs, maps and tables. The Toolkit can be used on national databases for quantitative analysis and unpacking inequalities in health, including for Indigenous Peoples. WHO reported annual progress trends for indicator used as a tracer for equity in the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework's indicators 3.3, 3.8 and 6.1/1.2, namely, the number of people requiring treatment as a tracer for interventions against any one of the neglected tropical diseases targeted by WHO, including 11 neglected tropical diseases targeted for eradication or elimination by World Health Assembly resolutions. Positive measures on this indicator ensures that the world's poorest and most marginalized people are prioritized at every step on the path towards Sustainable Development Goal targets. Subsequent efforts and reporting will present progress reports with disaggregation to reflect impact on vulnerable subpopulations, including children, women and Indigenous Peoples.

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<sup>28</sup> <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/tackling-inequalities-in-public-service-coverage-to-build-forward-better-for-the-rural-poor>.