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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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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 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: 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 and 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. The complete responses are available at www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-twenty-first-session-25-april-6-may-2022.html.



I. Introduction

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/22, is 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; and 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 Declaration and to follow up on 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 Declaration was developed and presented in 2016. The system-wide action plan 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 Secretary-General's call to action, as set out in the report entitled "Building an inclusive sustainable and resilient future with indigenous peoples".

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 to provide information on their activities and on the follow-up to the recommendations and the action plan. 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 and the system-wide action plan was sent to 51 entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies in October 2021. As at 25 January 2022, 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), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Food Programme (WFP) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The complete

responses are available at www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-twenty-first-session-25-april-6-may-2022.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. In response to the implementation of the action plan in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Declaration, the Department of Global Communications has been collaborating with communications counterparts from across the United Nations system to raise awareness of the rights of indigenous peoples through consistent messaging and coordinated outreach.

6. Owing to the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions and the postponement or cancellation of events in 2021, those efforts have been carried out in the context of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues. A shared Trello board,¹ established in 2016, serves as the primary tool for sharing and cross-promoting content and a range of promotional assets, such as digital cards, videos and backgrounders, in multiple languages. High-level messaging on key issues is being developed with the assistance of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for 2022.

7. During the reporting period, the Department raised awareness of the Declaration and the issues therein at the global and local levels. It did so through its range of multimedia and multilingual platforms, including video, audio, web and social media, as well as at virtual seminars, an exhibit, design assets, virtual tours and briefings.

8. Under the Department, the global network of United Nations information centres, now integrated with the offices of the resident coordinators, reached out to the media and educational institutions; engaged in partnerships with Governments, civil society organizations and the private sector; and maintained libraries and electronic information resources on a wide range of indigenous peoples' issues.

Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

9. The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) advocated and provided technical support for the adoption by the National Assembly, on 7 April 2021, of a draft law on the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous Pygmy peoples. The draft law serves to promote the participation of indigenous peoples in decisions affecting them. MONUSCO also provided financial support for the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples in advocacy meetings organized by OHCHR in Geneva.

10. The United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia continued its advocacy to strengthen the implementation of provisions in the Final Peace Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace related to issues affecting ethnic and Afro-Colombian communities. The Office of the Inspector-General and Ombudsman in Colombia have requested the Government to strengthen its efforts to implement the provisions contained in the ethnic chapter of the Agreement and ethnic-related provisions of the national reintegration policy. The latter is aimed at ensuring

¹ See <https://trello.com/b/3tKwi0LM/united-nations-and-indigenous-peoples-outreach-material-from-across-the-un>.

a tailored approach to reintegration for the more than 2,000 former combatants of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army who are of ethnic origin.

11. In April 2021, the Department updated the internal guidance for United Nations system personnel on the principles and types of electoral assistance. The revised guidance places emphasis on the importance of the political participation of indigenous peoples, of providing support to civil society organizations that promote the rights of indigenous peoples and of including indigenous peoples in political engagement.

12. United Nations electoral assistance to Member States involved instances of support for the political participation of indigenous peoples, where requested, such as in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, in the lead-up to the 2021 general elections. In addition, on the basis of a 2020 electoral needs assessment, United Nations activities in Peru will include strategies and tools to promote an inclusive electoral process by facilitating access to indigenous peoples for the upcoming elections scheduled for October 2022.

13. In 2021, the Peacebuilding Fund approved three projects with a component linked to the protection or inclusion of indigenous peoples. In most cases, such projects supported indigenous peoples, promoting inclusion, social cohesion and participatory governance in various countries, including Chad, Fiji, Guinea, the Niger and the Sudan. By the end of 2021, seven new projects focusing on indigenous peoples, totalling \$9.3 million, were being considered for approval within the Fund's Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative.²

14. The Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Partnership Facility supported a joint initiative by Resident Coordinators in Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Paraguay to conduct a multidimensional analysis of risks and factors of resilience in the Gran Chaco region in 2021. The analysis highlights the socioeconomic marginalization of indigenous peoples, exacerbated by the COVID-19 induced crisis. It also sets out concrete recommendations to improve their political, economic, and cultural rights along with access to public goods, with a particular emphasis on land and territory issues. The analysis will be translated in various Indigenous languages and socialized to reach development actors, local, subnational and national governments, local communities.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

15. During the past decade, ECLAC increased its efforts to promote indigenous peoples' rights, reflecting them in position documents, resolutions and intergovernmental agreements of the subsidiary bodies and at intergovernmental meetings, in particular the following: Regional Conference on Population and Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Statistical Conference of the Americas, Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

16. In addition, the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean³ (Escazú Agreement), explicitly includes indigenous peoples. Moreover,

² The Peacebuilding Fund seeks to promote inclusive and bottom-up approaches to peacebuilding. Between 2016 and 2020, the Fund invested \$154.5 million in 124 Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative projects in 29 countries.

³ See www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement.

the regional agendas adopted by States members of ECLAC concerning women, social development, population and development, among other issues, include specific measures that address the situation of indigenous peoples in the region.

17. ECLAC has continued to strengthen national capacities to include indigenous peoples in national statistics, particularly in censuses, working with both public agencies and indigenous peoples' organizations. In this regard, during 2021, technical assistance was provided through virtual meetings and training courses on the use and analysis of information, with a focus on indigenous peoples and gender perspectives.

18. ECLAC also issued a number of statements on the situation of indigenous peoples and their contributions to changing the development paradigm.⁴

19. The Executive Secretary of the ECLAC received the Decoration of the Order "El Quinto Sol" for her unconditional commitment to promoting indigenous peoples' rights.⁵

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

20. Launched in February 2021, the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, endorsed by the Committee on Food Security, provide a comprehensive, systemic, science and evidence-based approach to achieving healthy diets through sustainable food systems. Section 3.1.4 of the Guidelines refers to strengthening the participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities in food systems.

21. At the twentieth session of the Forum, in 2021, FAO hosted four side events on the following issues or themes: (a) contributions of indigenous youth in the strengthening of indigenous peoples' food systems; (b) "Sustainable Development Goal 16 and indigenous peoples' collective rights: the role of FAO in contributing to achieving peace and justice for indigenous peoples"; (c) "Towards the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture: indigenous peoples' inland small-scale fisheries for healthy food systems"; and (d) indigenous peoples' agency to contribute to game-changing initiatives of action tracks 3 and 4 of the United Nations Food Systems Summit.⁶

22. FAO supported indigenous peoples and their involvement at the United Nations Food Systems Summit, including in 25 Summit dialogues and three knowledge-sharing activities with the Scientific Group and action track technical committees of the Summit, and assisted the delegation of 13 indigenous peoples' representatives during their participation in 14 pre-Summit sessions. Thanks to the joint efforts of seven countries, indigenous leaders and FAO, a Summit coalition on indigenous peoples' food systems has been established. In addition, FAO continued to facilitate the work of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Food Systems.⁷

23. During the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2021, FAO hosted a side event with the Chair of the Forum and Arctic indigenous leadership from the Sámi, Inuit and other indigenous peoples of Canada and the Russian Federation, on the theme "Indigenous peoples' food systems and climate change in the polar oceans". Speakers presented the Arctic Region Declaration in Preparation for the Global Food Systems Summit, highlighted Arctic

⁴ See www.cepal.org/es/comunicados/cepal-pueblos-indigenas-poseen-la-llave-maestra-recuperacion-transformadora-base-sus.

⁵ See www.cepal.org/es/noticias/secretaria-ejecutiva-la-cepal-recibe-condecoracion-la-orden-quinto-sol-su-compromiso.

⁶ See www.fao.org/new-york/events/detail/en/c/1395205/.

⁷ See www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/global-hub/en/.

indigenous peoples' food systems, and emphasized the critical contributions and leadership from Arctic indigenous peoples in the global response to the climate crisis.

24. FAO, in collaboration with the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean published a technical report entitled *Forest Governance and Indigenous Peoples: An Opportunity for Climate Action in Latin America and the Caribbean*. The technical report contains recent scientific data from more than 300 peer-reviewed papers advocating for the inclusion of indigenous peoples as fundamental actors in climate financing negotiations.

25. The Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, through its Commission for Indigenous Peoples, African descendants and other Ethnic Groups, requested the support of FAO to develop a technical proposal for building back in the context of rural transformation and climatic action together with indigenous peoples and African descendants. The Commission endorsed the technical proposal in October 2021.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

26. IFAD engagement with indigenous peoples reached a milestone in 2021, with the fifth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, which was held virtually in February. The overall theme of the Forum was "The value of indigenous food systems: resilience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic".

27. The Indigenous Peoples' Forum was attended by 700 individuals, more than 370 of whom participated virtually to exchange their experiences and practices on developments in their partnership with IFAD.

28. In 2021, IFAD also continued to support and facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in international processes and initiatives as well as in IFAD processes related to IFAD-financed loans and grants.

29. Fifteen regional and global consultations were held among indigenous peoples' representatives, wherein they conveyed their perspectives and identified action-oriented recommendations to be presented to the secretariat of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, States Members of the United Nations and other stakeholders. Around 800 indigenous peoples' representatives participated in the online consultations.

30. During the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hosted by IFAD, five events were organized to address climate adaptation and climate finance initiatives led by indigenous peoples.

31. In 2021, IFAD strengthened its guidelines for enhancing its engagement with indigenous peoples. The revised Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures of IFAD,⁸ adopted in September 2021, provide an improved framework and process for managing risks and impacts and integrating IFAD priorities into its investments.

32. The new procedures include a specific standard on indigenous peoples (standard 4), which is aimed at supporting indigenous peoples to determine priorities and strategies for exercising their right to self-determined development and ensure that projects funded by IFAD are designed in partnership with indigenous peoples, respecting their free, prior and informed consent.

33. The investment of IFAD in support of indigenous peoples amounts to about \$106 million. Funded through IFAD grant financing, the Indigenous Peoples Assistance

⁸ See www.ifad.org/en/-/social-environmental-and-climate-assessment-procedures.

Facility is currently completing its fifth cycle, which supported 35 projects designed and implemented by indigenous peoples and their organizations in 29 countries.

34. The first IFAD Indigenous Peoples' Awards⁹ recognizes the efforts and achievements of development projects that successfully engage with indigenous peoples living in rural areas.

35. In 2021, IFAD approved five country strategic opportunities programmes and country strategy notes that include indigenous peoples' issues and/or specifically target indigenous peoples and/or ethnic minorities.¹⁰

International Labour Organization

36. ILO continued to raise awareness about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by referring to it in the context of its activities and publications concerning indigenous peoples. ILO is a partner of the Indigenous Navigator, an initiative aimed at promoting indigenous peoples' rights and development on the basis of the Declaration and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).

37. ILO promoted the Convention and its effective implementation, with a view to extending efforts to regions in which the Convention is not yet widely ratified. In that regard, ILO prepared country profiles that include laws, policies and institutions concerning indigenous and tribal peoples to promote social dialogue on their review. Furthermore, ILO has implemented projects, undertaken research or provided technical assistance for indigenous peoples in Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico.

38. In 2021, ILO published observations and/or direct requests by its Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations related to the Convention concerning Brazil, Dominica, Guatemala and Honduras and related to the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 (No. 107) concerning Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, India and the Syrian Arab Republic.¹¹ Since the submission of its previous update, ILO has issued a new tool on the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), which is explicitly aimed at assisting judges and legal practitioners in exploring the scope and content of the Convention.¹²

39. A global study on barriers to the participation and organization of indigenous women³ serves as another resource, drawing on country studies from Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cameroon and Guatemala.¹³

40. In addition, ILO and the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs published a report entitled *Indigenous Peoples in a Changing World of Work: Exploring Indigenous Peoples' Economic and Social Rights through the Indigenous Navigator*.

41. In 2021, ILO developed a distance learning course on the Convention and its role for inclusive and sustainable development. The first versions of the course were offered to government officials, indigenous peoples' representatives, and workers' and employers' representatives from African, Asian and Latin American countries.

42. Intending to enhance the visibility of indigenous peoples in official statistics, ILO developed a technical paper on indigenous traditional occupations and labour

⁹ See www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/news/2020-call-for-nominations-indigenous-peoples-awards.

¹⁰ Guatemala, Guyana, Madagascar, Nepal and Uganda.

¹¹ The comments are available at www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:20010:0::NO:::

¹² See www.ilo.org/gender/Informationresources/Publications/WCMS_774745/lang--en/index.htm.

¹³ See www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_779265/lang--en/index.htm.

statistics in consultation with indigenous experts, which is currently being tested based on available microdata from a selected number of countries.

International Telecommunication Union

43. The work of ITU with regard to indigenous peoples focuses on empowering indigenous peoples and communities by enhancing digital literacy and supporting the communities in developing and maintaining digital environments that respond to the needs of indigenous peoples and embrace the diversity of their aspirations. ITU has worked towards achieving that goal through a capacity-building programme created by the ITU Development Sector that is tailored for indigenous peoples.

44. In close collaboration with indigenous peoples' organizations, ITU developed two certified training programmes on capacity-building to assist indigenous peoples in gaining the knowledge and skills that will allow them to work in the design, development and maintenance of telecommunications and information and communications technology networks; and on innovative communication tools to assist them in developing, managing and operating an indigenous radio network. The training activities were made available to indigenous peoples in 2021.¹⁴

45. During the 2021 session of the Permanent Forum, ITU, the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations, the World Summit on Information Society and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized an event on the theme "Indigenous peoples and connectivity: bridging the digital divide". The event highlighted the connectivity challenges indigenous peoples face in different countries and focused on the work being done to bridge the digital divide. Proposals included the development of infrastructure and policies in the context of the critical need to strengthen the digital skills of indigenous peoples.

46. In the Latin America and Caribbean region, ITU capacity development efforts were focused on training programmes that covered such topics as information and communications technology and the digital skills identified by indigenous peoples and indigenous representatives as being of particular importance in enabling them to contribute to the socioeconomic development and self-sustainability of their communities. More than 6,000 participants from 18 countries in the region have benefited from the programme.

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

47. With fewer than 10 years to reach the common goal of ending AIDS as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNAIDS has developed a new global AIDS strategy.¹⁵ The new strategy results from extensive analysis of data on HIV and an inclusive consultation process with member States, communities and partners, including indigenous peoples' networks.

48. The Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026, "End Inequalities. End AIDS", provides a new approach to focusing on inequalities in order to close the gaps that prevent progress towards ending AIDS. Considering that indigenous peoples face multiple structural barriers that increase their vulnerability to HIV in many countries, the new focus on inequalities provides a useful contribution to realizing indigenous peoples' rights, especially the right to health.

¹⁴ See <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Indigenous-Peoples/Pages/default.aspx>.

¹⁵ See www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/global-AIDS-strategy-2021-2026_en.pdf.

49. The strategy keeps people at the centre of the discussion and is aimed at uniting countries, communities and partners across and beyond the HIV response to take prioritized actions to accelerate progress towards the vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. In addition, it is aimed at empowering people through the programmes and with resources they need to exercise their rights, protect themselves and thrive in the challenges posed by HIV.

50. Within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and universal health coverage, the strategy is focused on promoting equitable access to effective, innovative and quality programmes featuring a combined approach to HIV prevention that includes pre-exposure prophylaxis, treatment optimization and care services, with a focus on key populations and priority populations, including indigenous peoples, migrants, adolescents and youth, through active civil society engagement and social contracting initiatives.

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

51. The Special Representative advocated with Member States to include in their COVID-19 recovery plans a provision to address the additional barriers to the enjoyment by indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups, including children, of their rights, including those related to their physical, mental and spiritual health.

52. During the 2021 World Congress on Justice with Children, the Office together with UNICEF organized a session on access to justice for indigenous children. Panel members, including a member of the Permanent Forum, Hannah McGlade, discussed the severe negative impacts that the lack of access to justice has on the lives of indigenous children.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

53. OHCHR supported several initiatives in 2021 that were aimed at ensuring the full and effective inclusion and participation of indigenous peoples in many intergovernmental United Nations processes, as well as at supporting the integration of human rights, gender equality and the principle of leaving no one behind in common country assessments and/or cooperation frameworks, working closely in this regard with resident coordinators and United Nations country teams.

54. In the follow-up to the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, an inter-agency task team was established, bringing 12 United Nations entities together, including OHCHR, the Development Coordination Office, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ILO, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN-Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization. The aim of the task team was to develop a nimble system to monitor and evaluate human rights, and gender integration in the new generation of common country assessments and cooperation frameworks, to assess patterns and design targeted interventions in support of resident coordinators and United Nations country teams.

55. The task team established a baseline through a desk review that assessed the integration of human rights, the principle of leaving no one behind and gender equality in a new generation of common country assessments and cooperation frameworks. The desk review included the assessment of 46 common country assessments, of which 36 were finalized from 2019 to August 2021 and were

published on the United Nations Sustainable Development Group's country cooperation framework status dashboard.

56. Despite indigenous peoples being explicitly identified in the 2030 Agenda as a vulnerable group that must be empowered (see General Assembly resolution 70/1, para. 23), indigenous peoples are often not only left behind in efforts aimed at achieving sustainable development, but they are also among the groups furthest behind. In the context of the global pandemic, vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, were pushed even further behind through the impact of exacerbated inequalities, including in access to adequate and quality health care as well as COVID-19 vaccines.

57. Closely linked to that scenario are Member State and the Organization's socioeconomic responses to COVID-19 and related recovery plans, which do not always pay adequate attention to the specific situation and needs of indigenous peoples, thus carrying the risk of resulting in interventions that are not tailored enough or do not adequately tackle the root causes of deprivation or exclusion of indigenous peoples.

58. Research has shown that as many as 92 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goal targets reflect international human rights and labour standards. The 2030 Agenda therefore cannot be achieved unless the human rights of the most vulnerable are fulfilled. OHCHR contributions to the work of and through the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies has also led to the identification of key trends and concerns with regard to the concept of Goal 16+, seen as an enabler for the achievement of the entire 2030 Agenda.

59. The need for such work demonstrates that there continue to be challenges to ensuring meaningful participation of marginalized groups, especially when considering intersectional discrimination – such as indigenous women.

60. The extent of exclusion and discrimination faced by indigenous peoples is a significant impediment to achieving sustainable development for all, linked both to Goal 16+ and access to the entire spectrum of human rights, including social and economic rights, which are linked to corresponding Goals.

61. Another challenge has to do with data gaps, in particular with regard to a lack of disaggregated data. Such data could be used to better inform the design of targeted legislation, strategies and programmes.

Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

62. The Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect promotes key elements of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Declaration and implementation of the action plan in its periodic contributions to the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. In 2021, key elements were included at the annual focal point meeting of the Network, which was held virtually on 28 October 2021 and included the participation of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect.

63. In addition, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide raised concerns related to the vulnerability of indigenous peoples and the need to advance key elements included in the Declaration. The Office also continued to advocate for the stronger protection of indigenous peoples in its work both within and outside the United Nations.

64. The Office coordinates the implementation of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech. In that vein, the Office has supported the development

of context-specific action plans, including in Costa Rica, focusing on addressing hate speech directed towards vulnerable populations, including indigenous peoples.

65. The Office further assesses the degree of presence or absence of risk factors in its methodology on the prevention of atrocity crimes. The specific risk factors and indicators are listed and described in the report produced by the Office entitled “Framework of analysis for atrocity crimes: a tool for prevention”. In conducting such assessments, particularly in the region of the Americas, the Office considers the situation of indigenous peoples as particularly vulnerable and uses the framework as a tool for assessing the risk of atrocity crimes against them.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

66. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, within its mandate on indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices, and customary sustainable use of biodiversity, has ensured 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.

67. The members of the Working Group on Article 8(j) drafted voluntary guidelines and raised the profile of indigenous peoples and local communities within the Convention process. Indigenous peoples and local communities positioned themselves as essential partners in developing and implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

68. The members of the Working Group on Article 8(j) have adopted practices to ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in its work. Enhanced participation practices in the Working Group on Article 8(j) include such measures as the nomination of an indigenous Co-Chair to assist the Chair, as well as an indigenous peoples and local community bureau, Co-Chairs for sub-working groups and contact groups, and enhanced opportunities to speak on all agenda items.

69. The secretariat of the Convention established a voluntary funding mechanism to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in meetings held with regard to the Convention.¹⁶ In 2021, the voluntary fund’s coverage was extended to facilitate the online participation of indigenous peoples and local community representatives in the first part of the meeting of the open-ended working group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, held virtually in August and September 2021. Eight indigenous peoples and representatives of local communities were offered technical support to facilitate Internet connectivity to the meeting. A total of 150 indigenous peoples and representatives of local community and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended the first part of that meeting.

70. During the World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature held in 2021, a thematic panel, on the theme “A cultural heartbeat for the future of nature: putting culture in the centre of the post-2020 agenda”, was organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, UNESCO, the secretariat of the Convention, indigenous peoples, local communities and relevant partners to reflect on progress made towards linking biological and cultural diversity in international policymaking.¹⁷

¹⁶ See www.cbd.int/traditional/fund.shtml.

¹⁷ More information is available at www.iucncongress2020.org/programme/official-programme/session-43243.

71. The third of the global thematic dialogues for indigenous peoples and local communities on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was held in August 2021. The meeting was attended by 300 participants and provided an opportunity for indigenous peoples and local communities and Governments to exchange views on recent developments with regard to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including the first draft of the framework, with a focus on traditional knowledge (target 20), customary sustainable use (targets 4, 5, 9 and 10), the contribution of the lands, territories and waters of indigenous peoples and local communities towards meeting area-based conservation targets (targets 1, 2 and 3), equitable participation (target 21), and access to benefit-sharing (goal C and targets 8, 13 and 17).¹⁸

United Nations Children's Fund

72. UNICEF has contributed to the achievement of several actions under the system-wide action plan and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

73. With regard to educational systems and access to culturally sensitive education, UNICEF supports Governments in increasing access to and strengthening the quality of the education provided to indigenous children, fostering intercultural and multilingual approaches. In 2021, the UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean supported the development of the following resources: (a) good practices aimed at ensuring access to education for indigenous students in 14 countries of the region by gathering experiences from ministries of education, indigenous organizations, NGOs and teachers;¹⁹ (b) a regional portal of repositories of intercultural bilingual education materials in regional indigenous languages (ongoing); and (c) guidelines on the elaboration of educational materials in indigenous languages and taking an intercultural approach, available to all the countries of the region (ongoing).

74. UNICEF also provides training to students and offers financial support for the operation of culturally adapted schools. For instance, in Cambodia, UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to mitigate children's learning losses caused by the pandemic, including for hard-to-reach children from indigenous communities, through a radio-based learning programme in indigenous languages.

75. To increase access, UNICEF distributed radios to indigenous children to support their learning during school closures and supported physical follow-up visits by teachers to children's homes.²⁰

76. UNICEF also supports public health authorities in preparing legislation, guidelines and communication strategies, and in generating evidence on the specific health and nutritional challenges facing indigenous peoples so as to inform decision-making. For instance, in northern Colombia, UNICEF, together with WHO/Pan American Health Organization, UNFPA, WFP and in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Colombia, the indigenous authorities and local

¹⁸ More information on the third global thematic dialogue is available on the relevant web page of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Available at www.cbd.int/meetings/POST2020-WS-2021-01.

¹⁹ United Nations Children's Fund, *Intercultural Bilingual Education in Latin America: Progress and Setbacks in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic* (Panama, 2021). The good practices bear testament to the efforts made by ministries of education and local governments, as well as by civil society organizations and teachers, to provide education services during the COVID-19 pandemic to indigenous students without access to digital media (mainly due to a lack of Internet connectivity).

²⁰ See www.unicef.org/cambodia/stories/protecting-multilingual-education-during-pandemic.

government, is implementing an inter-agency strategy to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates among the indigenous peoples.

77. UNICEF continues to foster the participation of indigenous children and adolescents in decision-making processes about issues that affect their lives and to collect their input on national or local development priorities. In Cambodia, as part of the recent midterm review of the country programme for the period 2019 to 2023, UNICEF engaged adolescents and youth aged between 14 and 19 years to participate in a virtual consultation on adolescent development and participation. Their collective inputs were considered seriously for inclusion and implementation for the current biennium of the country programme.

United Nations Development Programme

78. UNDP contributed to efforts under the system-wide action plan for harmonized, system-wide messaging and awareness-raising on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by contributing to system-wide advocacy and social media and sharing stories on indigenous peoples.

79. On 9 August 2021, the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, Youth Co:Lab, an initiative co-led by UNDP and Citi Foundation, launched a campaign to highlight the contributions that young indigenous peoples across Asia and the Pacific are making through social entrepreneurship to address the challenges faced by their communities. The campaign included blogs, videos, a quiz and a social media campaign.²¹ To highlight and promote the contributions of young indigenous peoples towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals in a continual manner, a repository of human-centred stories was created on the Youth Co:Lab website, with new content being added on a rolling basis. The Equator Initiative published a blogpost, entitled “Indigenous peoples need recognition and reciprocity”, in August 2021.

80. In Thailand, UNDP worked with indigenous peoples on a project aimed at preventing violent extremism. The purpose of the project was to improve public awareness of the emerging legislation. More than 20 discussions were held through an online platform, from August to October 2021, with a view to fostering a better understanding of the impact that the draft law would have on people’s lives.

81. UNDP cooperates with and supports States and indigenous peoples at the country level with regard to national action plans, strategies and other measures aimed at achieving the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It also promotes the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals with and for indigenous peoples through its work at the global and country level; engages with and supports the media zone of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; contributes to advocacy and to communication with and for indigenous peoples through its programmes;²² and works jointly with other United Nations entities, technically and financially, to support the implementation of the system-wide action plan.

²¹ More information can be found on the relevant web page of Youth Co:Lab, available at www.youthcolab.org/indigenous-peoples.

²² Examples include the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, the Equator Initiative, Youth Co:Lab, the Business and Human Rights initiative, the UNDP-Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions partnership, the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, the New York Declaration on Forests and the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network.

82. UNDP applies its Social and Environmental Standards, which are mandatory for all UNDP projects.²³ The Standards are comprised of several elements: overarching policy and principles, project-level standards and the policy delivery process. The project-level standards further support the implementation of the commitments made by UNDP to promote respect for human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability and relate to areas such as sustainable natural resource management, displacement and resettlement, cultural heritage and indigenous peoples. Throughout 2021, UNDP continued to apply the relevant standards and policies through the available mediation, stakeholder response, grievance and other mechanisms.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

83. UNESCO supports the implementation of the system-wide action plan through its inter-agency role and strengthens the operationalization of its policy on engaging with indigenous peoples²⁴ within the framework of its Medium-Term Strategy.

84. In the light of the fact that UNESCO is the lead agency for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022–2032) and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), in the Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2022–2029, the inclusion of indigenous peoples is highlighted for cross-cutting attention, with particular attention being paid to indigenous knowledge systems, languages and culture.

85. In 2017, the Executive Board of UNESCO noted with satisfaction the UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples. The policy guides the organization's work in all areas of its mandate that involve or are relevant to indigenous peoples and are of potential benefit or risk to them. Furthermore, it ensures that UNESCO policies, planning, programming and implementation are in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

86. In the newly adopted Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2022–2029, greater intersectoral cooperation is envisioned, with one of the five intersectoral programmes focused on promoting indigenous knowledge, culture and languages as a pathway to inclusion. Indigenous peoples are seen as key partners for UNESCO and throughout the United Nations system, and are described as primary actors in protecting natural resources, ensuring nature-based solutions and enriching cultural diversity and human creativity. Indigenous peoples are important partners in the delivery of UNESCO programmes and strategies, as well as in its external cooperation on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystems Restoration, and the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028.

87. UNESCO is the lead agency for two United Nations Decades (see para. 84 above), global processes that provide the opportunity to implement the UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples and to carry out the system-wide action plan in a progressive manner.

88. In 2021, the UNESCO secretariat participated in two of the task teams under the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues. As a result of this process, UNESCO will contribute to the first system-wide workshop with resident coordinators and resident coordinator offices on the role of indigenous knowledge in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and common country plans, scheduled to be held on

²³ See <https://www.undp.org/accountability/social-and-environmental-responsibility/social-and-environmental-standards>.

²⁴ See <https://en.unesco.org/indigenous-peoples/policy>.

19 January 2022. Furthermore, as of December 2021, UNESCO has taken on the role of Co-Chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, and will continue to advance the work to implement the system-wide action plan.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

89. With a view to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in the context of the pandemic, UN-Women facilitated the participation of indigenous women in international forums, including the First Summit of Indigenous Women of the Amazon Basin, held in Colombia in October 2021.

90. The UN-Women Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean continued to strengthen its relationship with the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean through the provision of technical support for the development of a report on indigenous women and the 25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.²⁵

91. In partnership with the Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú, 800 indigenous women in the highlands of Peru received small farm animals, as well as seeds and assistance in deploying irrigation systems in family orchards. Those combined initiatives contributed to strengthening food security in the community and providing indigenous women with supplies to aid in the recovery from the pandemic.

92. Furthermore, 930 families in the Argentine Province of Chaco received food, medicines and personal protection equipment to help them to cope with the ravages of the pandemic. That action was supported by young indigenous women who were directly involved in getting aid to the people most in need in the community, especially the elderly.

93. In addition, the staff of the Regional Office made significant contributions to the draft general recommendation on indigenous women and girls of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

94. During the lockdown in India, UN-Women, through its Business Sector Advisory Council, supported over 70 tribal girls from villages in Gujarat to gain access to decent job opportunities with the company Voltbek Home Appliances, at the latter's request.

95. The UN-Women country office in India also partnered with the NGO Bangla Natak on inclusive and sustainable development and the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples through theatre- and culture-based approaches aimed at empowering women and youth to safeguard their rights, as well as to bring about social change on the tea estates of Assam, with a focus on women tea-pickers from tribal communities. Financial and technical support were provided to implement the programme successfully.

96. More than 300 Twa women were provided with dignity kits in Burundi on the occasion of the International Day of Indigenous Peoples.

97. Eighty-five provincial staff working on ethnic minority affairs in the Hoa Binh and Bac Giang Provinces of Viet Nam were also trained to promote the use of gender-

²⁵ See Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, "Informe de FILAC y ONU-Mujeres revela que la participación política de las mujeres indígenas sigue siendo limitada en escenarios comunitarios y en el sistema político estatal y municipal". Available at www.filac.org/informe-de-filac-y-onu-mujeres-revela-que-la-participacion-politica-de-las-mujeres-indigenas-sigue-siendo-limitada-en-escenarios-comunitarios-y-en-el-sistema-politico-estatal-y-municipal.

responsive budgeting in a national programme on poverty reduction in disadvantaged mountainous and remote regions.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

98. In 2021, in the implementation of the work of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, relevant actions were devised to implement the system-wide action plan.

99. Pursuant to the Paris Agreement on climate change, States parties “should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on ... the rights of indigenous peoples”. Therefore, the right to participate in decision-making is of relevance to the work being carried out under the Platform.

100. Several activities contained in the initial two-year workplan of the Platform were relevant in that regard. Under activity 9, existing policies, actions and communications, including nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and other policies and communications relevant to the Framework Convention, were mapped to identify whether and how they incorporated considerations and the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities.

101. Under activity 10, States parties to the Framework Convention, as well as indigenous peoples, local communities and others, were called upon to submit annual reports on the implementation of good practices aimed at fostering the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in national climate policies. Lastly, under activity 12, information was gathered about national and regional platforms and the promotion of the Platform at those levels.

102. The activities implemented by the Platform through its initial two-year workplan contributed directly to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 13, on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts and, in particular, target 13.b of the Goals on promoting mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

103. Under activity 4, there was a focus on developing the capacities of States parties to the Framework Convention to engage indigenous peoples in the relevant work being carried out under and outside the Framework Convention process. Thematic training workshops with an indigenous-peoples-based approach contributed to the development of capacities among national governments so as to enable a respectful engagement with indigenous peoples that was responsive to their needs and concerns in the context of a changing climate.

104. Twenty-four knowledge holders who were nominated from each of the seven indigenous sociocultural regions participated in several events at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

105. In 2021, UN-Habitat issued three statements on indigenous peoples: (a) a statement to the twentieth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; (b) a statement by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, on the

occasion of International Day of Indigenous Peoples;²⁶ and (c) a statement in support of the report to the General Assembly of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people on the priority theme “Impact of the coronavirus disease on the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples”.

106. UN-Habitat worked on mainstreaming in high-level forums the right to adequate housing of indigenous peoples, as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. At all such forums, it highlighted the fact that the right to adequate housing and all other rights of indigenous peoples could only be achieved through policies that were in strict alignment with the principles of free, prior and informed consent and meaningful consultation, as provided for in the Declaration.

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

107. UNITAR is working at multiple levels towards its implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

108. Each edition of the UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking Capacities of Indigenous Peoples’ Representatives includes a session conducted by an indigenous expert, focusing on challenges and successes in the implementation of the Declaration at the national, regional and international levels. Recent UNITAR training programmes²⁷ and briefings have included a review of progress and challenges in Africa, North America, the Pacific region and internationally.

109. Owing to the pandemic, UNITAR did not conduct any international training programmes on indigenous peoples in 2021.

110. In 2021, UNITAR engaged and planned briefings with indigenous alumni, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

United Nations Population Fund

111. The UNFPA Strategic Plan for the period 2022–2025 (DP/FPA/2021/8) contributes to ensuring that UNFPA sustains progress in implementing the system-wide action plan. In the Strategic Plan, the focus is on the principle of leaving no one behind and on reaching the furthest behind first, taking into consideration factors and characteristics often associated with discrimination and exclusion, including ethnicity. To translate into action the ambition of UNFPA to reach the furthest behind first, UNFPA has developed a dedicated operational plan on leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first with a view to ensuring that a comprehensive organizational approach to those efforts is taken.

112. At the global level, UNFPA has played an instrumental role in facilitating United Nations-wide support for implementing the system-wide action plan as Co-Chair (with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat) of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples’ Issues for the biennium 2020–2021.

113. In 2020, UNFPA, in partnership with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, led the process of developing the call to action on building an inclusive,

²⁶ Text of the statement by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat available at <https://unhabitat.org/statement-by-the-executive-director-of-un-habitat-maimunah-mohd-sharif-on-international-day-of-the>.

²⁷ See <https://unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/peace/our-portfolio/indigenous-programme>.

sustainable and resilient future with indigenous peoples, issued by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in November 2020.

114. Through the call to action, the commitment was affirmed at the highest level of the leadership of the United Nations system to support Member States in promoting, protecting and realizing the rights of indigenous peoples and to provide support to resident coordinators and United Nations country teams with a view to intensifying efforts towards implementing the system-wide action plan.

115. To ensure the implementation of that call to action, UNFPA, in its role as Co-Chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, disseminated it to resident coordinators and their offices and documented the good practices of United Nations country teams.

116. In 2022, UNFPA is coordinating a three-part series of dialogues with resident coordinators to strengthen their knowledge of the rights of indigenous peoples and the role of the United Nations in supporting the realization of those rights at the country level.

117. UNFPA, through its technical expertise and broad in-country presence, has made a valuable contribution to strengthening normative operational linkages on the rights of indigenous peoples. In 2021, an important opportunity in that regard was the elaboration by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of a new general recommendation on indigenous women and girls. To help shape the general recommendation and ensure that it contributed to strengthening the normative framework on the sexual and reproductive health rights of indigenous women and girls, a comprehensive submission was made through the UNFPA headquarters and its regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean, based on evidence and experiences drawn from the field.

World Food Programme

118. WFP carried out five in-depth assessments of indigenous peoples' vulnerabilities to food insecurity. A key component of conducting those assessments was strengthening the capacity of its offices to undertake the work. As a result, multiple meetings were held to share the results of the assessments within country offices, regional bureaus, United Nations country teams and externally through events, including at a side event of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in April 2021.

119. WFP commissioned an operational study on how language might be an underexplored driver of vulnerability among the affected populations that it serves. The objective is to improve the accountability and effectiveness of WFP programmes by reducing language-induced barriers that could prevent WFP and its partners from communicating with some of the most marginalized individuals and groups, including indigenous peoples.

120. Within the framework of a programme funded by the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund and led by WFP, UNICEF and WHO in cooperation with the Government of the Congo, the WFP country office rolled out several activities aimed at promoting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, with particular attention being paid to indigenous peoples. The purpose of the joint programme is to develop the capacity of the Government to implement laws and systems aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples.

121. WFP developed a guidance note on free, prior and informed consent. Furthermore, WFP launched its Framework for Environmental and Social Sustainability, which includes Environmental and Social Standards. The rights of indigenous peoples are included under the standard on protection and human rights and are in line with the

provisions stipulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

122. On the WFPGo website, a new web page on indigenous peoples has been created as a resource for WFP staff, providing information on collecting evidence, as well as guidance and experience gained, with a view to supporting engagement with indigenous peoples.

123. A community of practice to promote indigenous peoples' food systems has been in the making as part of a process to engage country offices and regional bureaus in the lead-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit, held on 23 and 24 September 2021, and the pre-Summit sessions, held from 26 to 28 July. The purpose will be to encourage peer-to-peer learning, exchange good practices and know-how among programme officers, and benefit from colleagues' experience.

124. WFP was the lead agency for action track 5, on building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress, and took an active role in all the action tracks of the United Nations Food Systems Summit.²⁸ In collaboration with other United Nations entities and indigenous peoples' organizations, WFP co-facilitated a solution cluster entitled "Empowering communities and indigenous peoples: recognizing rights and traditional knowledge" within action area 4.1 on rebalancing agency within food systems.

125. On 27 July 2021, at the pre-Summit to the United Nations Food Systems Summit, WFP led an affiliate session on indigenous peoples' agency for an equitable and resilient food system, organized in partnership with indigenous peoples' organizations, academia, FAO, the United Nations and civil society organizations. During the session, examples were given to highlight the role that indigenous peoples play as game changers in the restoration, management and protection of lands and resources and to emphasize the ways in which agency and traditional knowledge were critical to transforming food systems and ensuring climate change adaptation. As an immediate follow-up to the Summit, WFP is facilitating the engagement of indigenous peoples' organizations in the School Meals Coalition, as well as supporting the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems.

World Intellectual Property Organization

126. Awareness of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was raised 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 documentation of the Intergovernmental Committee, particularly in the most recent versions of the draft negotiating texts on the protection of traditional knowledge and of traditional cultural expressions.

127. References to the Declaration were also made in the publications entitled *Protect and Promote Your Culture: A Practical Guide to Intellectual Property for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* and "Documenting traditional knowledge: a toolkit", both published by WIPO in 2017.

128. WIPO provided training and mentoring opportunities and information resources to enable indigenous peoples to make more effective use of intellectual property principles and tools in order to prevent the misappropriation of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

²⁸ More information is available on the relevant web page of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, available at www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/action-tracks.

129. For the biennium 2022–2023, the Intergovernmental Committee was mandated to continue to expedite its work with a view to finalizing an agreement on an international legal instrument relating to intellectual property aimed at ensuring the balanced and effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

130. WIPO is mapping existing standards and guidelines, capacities, training materials and resources for the effective implementation of the Declaration. A repository of relevant laws, legislative measures and protocols concerning the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions is available on the WIPO website,²⁹ as are WIPO training materials on the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.³⁰

131. Relevant activities carried out by WIPO include workshops, distance-learning courses, training and mentoring, with the involvement of officials of member States and representatives of civil society and indigenous peoples, whether separately or jointly. WIPO also prepared a number of publications, some of which were specifically for indigenous peoples and local communities.

132. In 2021, owing to the pandemic, technical-assistance activities in support of indigenous peoples were continued online through the organization of several webinars and training courses, with an emphasis on indigenous entrepreneurship and women. In addition, the WIPO Indigenous Fellowship Programme continued in 2021.

133. The WIPO secretariat, with the support of member States of WIPO, took robust measures aimed at enhancing the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in the Intergovernmental Committee, as observers. However, owing to the pandemic, only the forty-first session of the Intergovernmental Committee was held, in August 2021, in a hybrid format.

134. In 2021, the WIPO secretariat supported three virtual meetings of the indigenous caucus, including a special virtual meeting with the Chair-elect of the Intergovernmental Committee ahead of its forty-first session. In addition, the secretariat organized an informal virtual briefing. Online support was provided to facilitate the participation of the members of the indigenous caucus during the forty-first session of the Intergovernmental Committee.

²⁹ See www.wipo.int/tk/en/global_reference.html.

³⁰ See www.wipo.int/tk/en/resources/training.html.