



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
5 February 2019
Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Eighteenth session

New York, 22 April–3 May 2019

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Compilation of information received from United Nations system entities and other intergovernmental bodies on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum 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

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/indigenoupeoples/unpfii-sessions-2/18-2.html.

* E/C.19/2019/1.



I. Introduction

1. At each of its annual sessions, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues makes a series of recommendations relating to indigenous peoples. The members of the Forum have often stated that the implementation of the Forum's 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 of the Forum 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 Forum also encourages agencies, funds and programmes that have not done so to provide reports on their work with indigenous peoples.

2. A questionnaire on actions taken to implement the recommendations of the Forum and the system-wide action plan was sent to 50 entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies in November 2018. As at 14 January 2019, responses had been received from the following 16 entities: the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Department of Global Communications, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The complete responses are available at www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-sessions-2/18-2.html.

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

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

3. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity has met 10 times since its establishment at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in 1998. The Working Group has had some notable achievements, including raising the profile of indigenous peoples and local community issues throughout the Convention process. It has successfully developed and monitored the implementation of the programme of work on article 8 (j) and related provisions¹ and issued a number of important guidelines and other tools.

¹ The programme of work on article 8 (j) and related provisions was adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision V/16.

4. A fundamental principle of the programme of work on article 8 (j) has been the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work under the Convention. Measures taken by the Working Group to enhance such participation include the nomination of an indigenous Co-Chair to assist the Chair of the meeting, as well as a bureau of indigenous peoples and local community and Co-Chairs for sub-working groups and contact groups, and enhanced opportunities to make statements on all agenda items. In addition, the secretariat has established specific web pages and web-based tools, including a traditional knowledge information portal, facilitates regular capacity development efforts and manages a voluntary funding mechanism for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in meetings held under the Convention.² The work of the secretariat aimed at engaging indigenous peoples and local communities is seen as a good practice in the United Nations system.

5. The programme of work on article 8 (j) and related provisions is the main instrument that parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have adopted to achieve the commitments set forth in article 8 (j) and related provisions and, later, Aichi Biodiversity Target 18³ by 2020. To date, the programme of work has produced significant results, including a set of principles and guidelines.⁴

6. The biennium 2019–2020 offers indigenous peoples and the Forum an important opportunity: in the lead-up to the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in China in November 2020, the secretariat is embarking on extensive consultations with parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and non-governmental organizations and other relevant organizations to consider possible elements of work for a fully integrated programme of work on article 8 (j) and related provisions within the post-2020 biodiversity framework. It is expected that, in the process leading up to the adoption of the framework, institutional arrangements for indigenous peoples and local communities will also be considered.

7. The Executive Secretary has been requested to consult the secretariat of UNESCO, subject to the availability of resources, in preparing options for possible elements of work aimed at a rapprochement of nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This would ensure that possible elements of work are considered along with other proposals to develop a fully integrated programme of work on article 8 (j) and related provisions in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

8. The Forum is invited to contribute views on possible elements of work relevant to indigenous peoples and local communities, institutional arrangements for such peoples and communities in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and possible elements of work aimed at a rapprochement of nature and culture in that framework. Such contributions or submissions should be made by June 2019 to be considered at the eleventh meeting of the Working Group.

² See www.cbd.int/traditional/fund.shtml.

³ By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

⁴ Available at www.cbd.int/guidelines/.

Department of Global Communications

9. The lead entity for the implementation of the first element of the system-wide action plan, the Department of Global Communications works to raise awareness of the rights of indigenous peoples through consistent messaging and coordinated outreach throughout the United Nations system. The Department continued to chair an inter-agency working group of communications professionals from across the United Nations system, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, FAO, IFAD, the International Organization for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, WHO/PAHO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF and UN-Women. The working group, which has met quarterly since April 2016, implements the joint communications strategy, including key messages, using a range of promotional products in multiple languages, such as digital cards, videos and backgrounders. A shared online platform established in 2016 continues to serve as the main tool for sharing and cross-promoting content.

Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

10. The work of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, at Headquarters and in the field, has served to implement elements across the six components of the system-wide action plan, with a focus on raising awareness of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, developing the capacities of States, indigenous peoples, civil society and United Nations personnel and advancing the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations processes. As indigenous peoples and indigenous rights defenders have increasingly been drawn into conflicts over lands, resources and rights, the Department has placed renewed emphasis on the inclusion of women, indigenous peoples, young people, minorities and others not only in conflict prevention but also as a cross-cutting theme in all areas of its work. The exclusion and absence of dialogue with, or consent from, indigenous peoples are often cited as the main reasons for distrust and unrest in conflicts involving indigenous peoples. Therefore, the Department has supported the inclusion and active participation of indigenous peoples in conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

11. ECLAC reports that the promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples has been mainstreamed into its work. This is reflected in the resolutions and intergovernmental agreements of its subsidiary organs, including the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, a pioneer legal instrument in the field of environmental protection adopted in Escazú, Costa Rica, in March 2018 with the support of ECLAC, explicitly includes references to indigenous peoples. Likewise, at the third meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, held in Lima in August 2018, the countries of the region reaffirmed their commitment to the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development as a road map for the population and development agenda in the region, which includes several priority measures on indigenous peoples within the framework of the Declaration.

12. Regarding the right to information, ECLAC has continued to strengthen national capacities to better include indigenous peoples in the collection of national statistics,

with a view to the 2020 census round in particular, working with State agencies and indigenous peoples' organizations. It has done so through systematic technical assistance to the countries of the region, the organization of and participation in training workshops and national and regional meetings and the preparation of manuals and technical documents. Such work emphasizes the need to establish mechanisms in order to ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples in the entire process of information generation. In this regard, ECLAC highlights the experience of Colombia, a pioneer country in applying free, prior and informed consent in its 2018 population and housing census, with the support of ECLAC.

13. ECLAC has increased its production of up-to-date information about indigenous peoples and policy recommendations to close the gaps between rights standards and the daily lives of indigenous peoples. It has developed specific regional studies on such issues, which have also been included in its position papers. The publication of *Los Pueblos Indígenas en América (Abya Yala): Desafíos para la Igualdad en la Diversidad* (Indigenous Peoples in America (Abya Yala): Challenges for Equality in Diversity), part of a series, is worth mentioning in this regard. A new regional study on the topic "Rights of indigenous peoples in America: Abya Yala and its inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", is currently being prepared.

14. Regarding the production of information, the system of sociodemographic indicators for indigenous peoples and populations of Latin America has been updated continuously for online consultation.⁵ The actions carried out by ECLAC with regard to the Sustainable Development Goal indicators explicitly include the disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples, in particular actions relating to the strengthening of national capacities for their production. In this regard, the countries of the region have adopted 16 indicators of collective rights of indigenous peoples for the regional follow-up to the Montevideo Consensus, which are complementary to the Sustainable Development Goals and respond to the concerns of indigenous peoples.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

15. FAO undertook a wide range of activities to implement the system-wide action plan. Regarding the first element of the action plan, in January 2018 FAO organized a regional high-level forum on the empowerment of indigenous women for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean and a global high-level expert seminar on indigenous food systems.⁶

16. At the forty-fifth session of the Committee on World Food Security, in October 2018, FAO supported the participation of indigenous peoples and of a representative of the Forum, and it organized a side event focused on indigenous peoples' communal access to land. It also organized several side events within the framework of forums at the regional and national levels, such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, in Bangkok, the sixth Global Environment Facility Assembly, in Viet Nam, and the Global Land Forum, in Indonesia.

17. In 2018, FAO delivered key messages based on the Declaration, including a video message of the Director General of FAO to the seventeenth session of the Forum, highlighting the importance of land, territories and resources, the Director General's message on the International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9 August) and the FAO statement on the rights of indigenous peoples, delivered to the Third Committee at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

18. In 2018, FAO promoted the Global Campaign for the Empowerment of Indigenous Women for Zero Hunger in collaboration with indigenous women's

⁵ Available at https://celade.cepal.org/redatam/pryesp/sisppi/sisppi_notastecnicas.pdf.

⁶ See www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/1028024/.

organizations. The Campaign, which is active in more than 15 countries and has the support of Governments and more than 96 organizations, was presented by the United Nations country team in India, UNFPA in Geneva, government offices in Colombia and Paraguay and several organizations at events that reached stakeholders throughout the world.

19. The activities, statements and advocacy-related actions of FAO were disseminated through more than 20 web articles, five publications and more than 50 videos.

20. To support the implementation of the Declaration, FAO supported several Latin American countries in implementing initiatives to promote the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. FAO also supported the implementation of four national advocacy plans from the FAO-International Indigenous Women's Forum national leadership schools of indigenous women in El Salvador, Panama, Paraguay and the Philippines (2015–2017).

21. FAO and indigenous organizations jointly supported two capacity-building processes in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and in Central America relating to the right to free, prior and informed consent and to community forest management, respectively. In Costa Rica, India and Indonesia, FAO provided technical assistance for the implementation of policies addressing the collective rights of indigenous peoples to land, territories and resources.

22. To support the rights of indigenous peoples with regard to the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda, FAO convenes an interdepartmental working group on indigenous peoples, composed of technical experts from various areas of the Organization who facilitate the implementation of the FAO policy on indigenous and tribal peoples across the Organization's activities.

23. Leaders of the five FAO strategic programmes have been meeting regularly with the FAO indigenous peoples team to receive regular updates and integrate indigenous peoples' activities into the programmes. In 2018, FAO participated in the annual global meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, held in Colombia, and signed agreements with more than nine organizations to advance work on indigenous issues relating to the FAO programme of work with indigenous peoples. FAO continues to work on issues faced by indigenous women and young people through tailored activities relating to those two important thematic areas.

24. Regarding the fourth element of the system-wide action plan, FAO released an e-learning course on free, prior and informed consent accessible to FAO staff worldwide. Together with the International Indigenous Women's Forum, FAO designed the curricula for four regional training-of-trainer courses for indigenous women in the framework of the Leadership School of Indigenous Women. With regard to indigenous food systems, FAO and other technical organizations established a strong collaboration to design the methodology to profile such systems.

25. In addition, the FAO indigenous peoples team screened more than 50 projects at the global level for compliance with the FAO safeguards on indigenous peoples and cultural heritage, against free, prior and informed consent needs and for alignment with the FAO policy on indigenous and tribal peoples.

26. To contribute to the development of capacities of States, indigenous peoples, civil society and United Nations personnel, FAO, in collaboration with the International Indigenous Women's Forum, implemented four regional training-of-trainer courses for 120 indigenous women from Africa, Asia, Central America and South America. Finally, to contribute to advancing the participation of indigenous

peoples in United Nations processes, FAO supported the participation of indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women and young people, to global high-level events and trained more than 40 FAO staff on the implementation of free, prior and informed consent.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

27. In the past decade, with the approval of the policy on engagement with indigenous peoples in 2009, IFAD engagement evolved at a rapid pace, and mechanisms were set up to apply the Fund's principles within the framework of international instruments in close partnership with indigenous peoples, United Nations mechanisms and partner organizations. This resulted in the strengthening of the credibility and visibility of IFAD at the global level and recognition of IFAD as a champion among United Nations organizations, international financial institutions and indigenous peoples' organizations in contributing to the translation of the aspirations of the Declaration into concrete actions.

28. The Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, a unique process aimed at institutionalizing consultation and dialogue with representatives of indigenous peoples' institutions, convenes every other year in conjunction with the IFAD Governing Council. "Promoting indigenous peoples' knowledge and innovations for climate resilience and sustainable development" is the theme of the fourth global meeting of the Forum, to be held in February 2019. In preparation for the Forum, four regional consultations were held in November and December 2018 in Fiji, Indonesia, Kenya and Panama to ensure that the Forum reflected the diversity of perspectives of indigenous peoples in the countries where IFAD operates.

29. The workshop participants assessed the progress of IFAD engagement with indigenous peoples and tracked the status of implementation of the recommendations arising from the third global meeting and the regional action plans agreed upon with IFAD regional divisions in 2017. Country-level policy dialogues, supported by IFAD since 2015, have contributed to mainstreaming indigenous peoples' issues at the regional and country levels in IFAD programmes and projects. Based on the experience emerging from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Myanmar, Nepal, Paraguay and the United Republic of Tanzania, other countries have shown interest in policy dialogue. A new grant was approved by IFAD to support the process in Cameroon, Panama, Peru and Uganda and to continue to strengthen the processes in the other countries, in close partnership with United Nations agencies and country teams.

30. Best practices are being implemented in the Latin America and Caribbean region in terms of effective participation of indigenous peoples, including in country strategic opportunities programmes and project design teams and in pioneering country policy dialogues among indigenous peoples, Governments and United Nations country teams. A recent milestone of country-level policy dialogues supported by IFAD was the launch in El Salvador of the country's national action plan on indigenous peoples by its President in December 2018.

31. IFAD continues to support indigenous peoples' organizations through the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility. In response to the fifth call for proposals of the Facility, launched in April, some 700 project proposals were submitted by indigenous peoples' communities and their organizations in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

32. In line with the recommendations of the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility 2017–2020 cycle will finance a minimum of 35 demand-driven projects that will further empower indigenous young people in four areas: food security and nutrition; access and rights

to land, territories and resources; access to markets; and climate change mitigation and adaptation. IFAD resources dedicated to the financing of the selected proposals amount to \$1.47 million.

International Labour Organization

33. The ratification and full and effective implementation of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), is critical to achieving the ends of the Declaration and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. As the secretariat of the Convention, ILO provides support to its constituents and to indigenous and tribal peoples, guided by the ILO strategy for action concerning indigenous and tribal peoples. The strategy is articulated in the following seven themes: (a) promoting the Convention and its implementation; (b) strengthening institutionalized dialogue, consultation and participation; (c) improving livelihoods and working conditions; (d) extending social protection; (e) indigenous and tribal women; (f) closing the knowledge gap; and (g) partnerships.

34. In 2018, ILO implemented targeted interventions to support constituents and indigenous and tribal peoples in Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru and provided improved assistance to several other countries. Activities included capacity-building regarding the Convention; technical advisory services regarding related laws, institutions and public policies; addressing and preventing forced labour and child labour; promoting green jobs; studies and surveys on employment, skills and working conditions of indigenous workers, with a specific focus on indigenous women's voice, participation and economic empowerment. Country-based projects supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cameroon and Guatemala seek to enhance the working conditions of indigenous women in selected economic sectors, such as construction, domestic work and plantations.

35. ILO is taking part in the Indigenous Navigator initiative of 2017–2020, a global effort supported by the European Union. The initiative supports indigenous peoples' efforts to monitor their rights and development through an integrated framework grounded in the Declaration and the Convention and supports local communities in 11 countries. Given its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and the outcome document of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the Indigenous Navigator framework is also used to promote the active participation and visibility of indigenous peoples in Sustainable Development Goal-related processes at the national and international levels as means for ensuring that they are not left behind.

36. ILO is preparing a virtual learning platform on the Convention in collaboration with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation. Furthermore, tools for the training of judges on the Convention are being prepared. As mentioned above, the ILO is also considering the preparation of a code of practice or guidance to provide practical guidance for implementing the Convention. A series of case studies documenting experiences regarding consultations with indigenous and tribal peoples are being carried out to promote learning within and across countries, with first studies on Chile and Norway already publicly available, while others are under preparation.

37. While developing capacities to develop knowledge on the content and scope of the Convention as a key area, ILO uses participatory methodologies to bring together various actors and stakeholders to share experiences and perspectives, including those relating to policy design, implementation and evaluation. In collaboration with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the Fund for the

Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, ILO organized a regional training workshop on the Convention in Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala, in April, with constituents and indigenous peoples' representatives from nine countries. In September, an experience-sharing workshop on the Convention was held in Geneva. ILO publications issued in 2018 are available at www.ilo.org/indigenous.

United Nations Children's Fund

38. The work of UNICEF on indigenous issues is integral to the organization's strategic plan 2018–2021, aimed at realizing the rights of every child, especially the most disadvantaged, and seeking to operationalize the pledge of leaving no one behind, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

39. In 2018, UNICEF activities were focused on supporting the increased access of indigenous children, adolescents and young people to essential services in all areas that affect their well-being and the realization of their rights. Activities included promoting intercultural and bilingual education, ensuring birth registration, promoting social inclusion, expanding access to culturally appropriate health services, water and sanitation infrastructure, and programmes to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation. Offices in countries affected by crisis sought to address the threats that it poses to the rights of indigenous children, adolescents and young people, including the risk of violence and trafficking, interruption of schooling and access to other basic services. Other efforts were aimed at helping to preserve traditional knowledge and culture and mitigating the disproportionate effects of environmental degradation and climate change on indigenous communities. Through close collaboration and consultation with indigenous communities, UNICEF aimed to ensure that programmes and services were accessible to and respectful of indigenous peoples' cultures and to prevent and mitigate undue harm. At the national level, UNICEF continued to advocate the alignment of policies, legal frameworks, strategies and plans with the Declaration and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

40. UNICEF worked to empower indigenous women and girls by organizing platforms for them to speak about their concerns and the challenges they face, supporting ways for them to share their knowledge within their communities and organizing capacity-building activities to equip them with critical tools to help to realize children's rights. By convening consultations, organizing forums and other participatory activities and providing support to strengthen indigenous peoples' organizations, UNICEF worked to increase the participation of indigenous children, adolescents and young people in the planning, design and implementation of programmes, projects and activities that affect indigenous peoples, and to help to make sure that their voices are heard in decision-making processes.

41. Through research studies and data collection, dissemination and usage promotion, UNICEF has contributed to increasing the knowledge base about indigenous peoples, particularly children, adolescents and young people. UNICEF offices have also supported the creation of publications, multimedia materials and advocacy campaigns, in many cases with the participation of indigenous communities, including children, adolescents and young people, to raise awareness of the situation and rights of indigenous peoples and promote the realization of those rights. It has forged partnerships with indigenous peoples' organizations, including those representing children, adolescents and young people, and has undertaken capacity-building efforts to help Governments, civil society and other actors to better promote and protect the rights of indigenous children and communities.

United Nations Development Programme

42. In 2018, UNDP continued to implement various activities relating to the implementation of the Declaration at the national and international levels.

43. At the international level, key internal resources were strengthened or developed to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples are mainstreamed into UNDP operations and that UNDP programmes on the ground deliver for indigenous communities.

44. Standard 6 of the UNDP social and environmental standards, on indigenous peoples, together with the related project-level screening procedure, remains an integral component of the UNDP quality assurance process; further operational guidance was developed to support the implementation of the standard.

45. A policy guidance paper entitled “What does it mean to leave no one behind? A framework for implementation” was developed to ensure internal conceptual clarity and the effective implementation of the principle of leaving no one behind. In the paper, it is fully acknowledged that indigenous status remains a significant basis for discrimination, and considerations relating to indigenous rights are integrated into the framework.

46. Through its role as interim custodian agency of Sustainable Development Goal tier III indicator 16.7.1 on proportional representation in public institutions, UNDP promotes an approach to data disaggregation that takes account of indigenous status and identities to ensure that indigenous peoples play a greater role in political decision-making, including in parliamentary politics, and that public decision-making is more responsive to the aspirations of indigenous communities.

47. In 2018, UNDP implemented multiple activities aimed at advancing the rights of indigenous peoples at the national level, as targeted efforts or as part of broader programmes.

48. Various activities were implemented with a focus on indigenous rights and democratic governance in Latin America. Among other things, these activities resulted in greater access to electoral justice for indigenous communities in Mexico, the development of an integrated national plan for the promotion of indigenous rights in Panama and further reform towards stronger plurinational and intercultural democracy in the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

49. Following the success of the Equator Prize 2017 award ceremony, indigenous peoples and local communities recognized with the Prize in 2017 were celebrated in national-level dialogues and ceremonies organized by UNDP country offices, partners and winners themselves, supported by the Equator Initiative. Furthermore, the Equator Initiative supported Equator Prize winners in connecting with policymakers and sharing their stories and their local solutions to pressing sustainable development challenges.

50. Regional training workshops were co-facilitated by the Equator Initiative in partnership with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and an interactive online platform, Equator Connect, was designed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, resources, successes and challenges faced by indigenous peoples and local communities in conserving, restoring and sustainably managing nature for development around the world.

51. Indigenous peoples remain a high-priority group for the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility in the sixth operational phase, for core and upgraded country programmes.

52. Small Grants Programme results during 2017–2018 include 184 projects in the fifth operational phase and 39 projects in the sixth operational phase that included indigenous peoples and represented approximately 21.5 per cent of the 1,037 Small Grants Programme projects completed in the calendar year 2017–2018. At least 1,657 indigenous peoples have benefited from increased capacities to conceptualize, organize and implement projects that provide for concrete actions to meet their needs, as well as for strong representation in policy advocacy.

53. Among other things, Small Grants Programme projects supported the national system of *resguardos* in Colombia, demonstrated improved techniques in agricultural production in Honduras, worked with the Dao and Cham indigenous peoples in Viet Nam to support the further development of herbal bath services and contributed to the protection of native medicinal plants and traditional handicrafts in Paraguay. Other activities supported biocorridors and connectivity in Ecuador, indigenous networking in Malaysia and capacity development for indigenous forest dwellers in Cameroon.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

54. The mandates of UNESCO in the fields of education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture and communications and information provide opportunities to support the implementation of the Declaration. The UNESCO medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2021 affirms that the Organization will implement the Declaration in all relevant programme areas. A key achievement of the medium-term strategy is the UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples, which provides a house-wide approach guiding all of the UNESCO programme sectors in their interactions with indigenous peoples. In addition to UNESCO initiatives that are dedicated to addressing indigenous concerns, such as the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems programme, all sectors implement a diverse range of activities that seek to promote indigenous peoples' rights. The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of 2003 provides a community-led approach to identifying and safeguarding intangible cultural heritage that recognizes indigenous peoples' rights to their heritage based on the principles of the Declaration. The organization of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages represents another commitment of UNESCO to ensuring that the rights of indigenous peoples and their promotion, access and support are ensured.

55. Within that framework, activities carried out in 2018 included the following:

- Preparations for the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, in collaboration with the Forum and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Official launch of the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage in June, during the forty-second session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Manama.
- Recommendations and an action plan to recognize and incorporate indigenous knowledge and language revitalization into the educational policies of Latin America and the Caribbean, within the Education 2030 Framework for Action. The proposal was presented to the education ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean at the second Regional Ministerial Meeting of Ministers of Education, held in Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, in July.
- Technical support for the Task Force of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on Indigenous and Local Knowledge in the further development of procedures and methodologies for the effective implementation of the approach of the Platform to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge. This includes proposals for a

participatory mechanism and methodological guidance for authors working on assessments of the Platform, to be discussed at the seventh session of the plenary of Platform, to be held in Paris from 29 April to 4 May 2019.

- National- and regional-level projects, in particular in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America, on indigenous knowledge, languages and capacity-building of indigenous young people.
- Recognition, through UNESCO normative instruments, of intangible cultural heritage and territories of indigenous peoples throughout Africa, the Arctic, Asia, Latin America and North America.
- Advancement of indigenous peoples' rights through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, notably Goals 4, 2, 13, 15 and 17.
- Collaboration with United Nations bodies and agencies on the issues faced by indigenous peoples, including the Platform.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

56. In 2018, UN-Women raised awareness of the Declaration through a variety of mechanisms. UN-Women organized the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2018, on the priority theme "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls". Side events during the session included a briefing for indigenous peoples; on indigenous women as key actors in achieving the 2030 Agenda (implementing Sustainable Development Goal 5); and on indigenous women's rights as a vital tool to ensure gender equality and economic and social empowerment. UN-Women also supported indigenous women and their participation in international and regional forums including: side events at the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women focusing on rural and indigenous women; and national conferences, events and workshops that were focused on specific rights of indigenous women. UN-Women also prepared and disseminated publications, including on dialogue with indigenous women in Paraguay.

57. Measures taken to implement the UN-Women strategic plan 2018–2021 and the UN-Women strategy for the inclusion and visibility of indigenous women to support the implementation of the Declaration at the national level included: (a) support for Governments in the review and implementation of laws and policies (Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras and Nepal); (b) support for indigenous women in consultative platforms (e.g. Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Philippines and Samoa); (c) building the capacity of indigenous women and organizations (e.g. Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia and Viet Nam); (d) developing strategies and plans to further the Declaration (e.g. regional action plan of the Latin America and Caribbean region; El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Kenya); and (e) mainstreaming indigenous issues into common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (e.g. Chile).

58. UN-Women supported indigenous people's rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda through the mainstreaming of indigenous women's issues into the new flagship report on the Sustainable Development Goals. UN-Women worked jointly with United Nations country teams and other United Nations agencies (e.g. United Nations Sustainable Development Group regional inter-agency group on indigenous peoples for Latin America and the Caribbean, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador and Nepal). Lastly, UN-Women provided technical assistance to Governments by integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into development plans (e.g. Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala and Viet Nam).

59. UN-Women efforts to map existing standards and guidelines, capacities, training materials and resources consisted of disseminating the strategy for the inclusion and visibility of indigenous women; supporting the development of guidelines in Colombia, Ecuador and Viet Nam; and conducting training sessions for indigenous women leaders in Chile, Peru and the Philippines.

60. UN-Women provided capacity development and training to indigenous women and civil society organizations at the Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office and in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nepal and the Philippines. Technical assistance was provided to institutions, such as the National Victims Unit in Colombia. UN-Women also encouraged the capacity development of government actors, such as village councils in India and staff of the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs in Viet Nam.

61. Advancing the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations processes aligns with the efforts of UN-Women to raise awareness of the Declaration, including the participation of indigenous women in preparatory meetings for the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women and their attendance at the sixty-first session of the Commission. In addition, UN-Women encouraged the participation of indigenous women at the 2018 Forum and supported civil society organizations in preparing alternative reports for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

62. As acknowledged in the Paris Agreement and decision 1/CP.21, climate change is a common concern of humankind. In addressing climate change, obligations concerning, inter alia, the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities should be respected, promoted and considered. The local communities and indigenous peoples platform is aimed at facilitating full and effective participation of local communities and indigenous peoples in the process under the Convention to help to accelerate the global effort to mitigate and adapt to climate change in an integrated and holistic manner. The platform serves as an inclusive and participatory space where the exchange of knowledge, the building of capacity for engagement and the integration of diverse knowledge systems are conducted in a manner that abides by the principles put forward by the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change in accordance with the Declaration in decision 2/CP.23.

63. The local communities and indigenous peoples platform became operational at the end of 2017 and was further operationalized in December 2018. During that time, significant progress was made. The secretariat of the Framework Convention harnessed its convening capacity to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between parties to the Convention, indigenous peoples and representatives of local communities through the platform. The participation of indigenous peoples in the negotiations was enhanced through the platform: a representative of indigenous peoples was invited to share their perspectives during the discussions, and their views were considered during negotiations on the decision of the Conference of the Parties. In addition, the negotiations were kept open, and indigenous peoples and other observers were invited to attend all the negotiations on the platform. In addition, a multi-stakeholder workshop organized by the secretariat in May 2018 was co-moderated by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and an indigenous peoples' representative. Each of the co-moderators made an equal contribution to the design of the workshop. Furthermore, a new Convention-constituted body, the Facilitative Working Group on the platform, was recently established by the Conference of the Parties and will further operationalize the Platform and facilitate the implementation of its three functions. Its composition is balanced, with an equal number of party representatives and representatives of

indigenous peoples, a first under the Convention process. The Working Group will hold its first meetings in 2019;(nominations are currently being submitted. Upcoming activities will also help to fulfil the three functions of the platform: knowledge, capacity for engagement, and climate change policies and actions, which are synergistic with the system-wide action plan.

64. The participation of indigenous peoples in the international climate change process has thus been, and will continue to be, enhanced. Parties to the Convention have also been supported in their consideration of the rights and views of indigenous peoples, in line with the international standards and the principles that are encapsulated in decision 2/CP.23.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

65. UN-Habitat is mandated to promote inclusive and sustainable cities. It is dedicated to improving the rights of indigenous peoples, as a marginalized group, around the world. UN-Habitat recognizes the unique cultural and social values of indigenous peoples and their invaluable contributions to sustainable urban development, promoting diversity and socioeconomic inclusion. Of particular relevance to the mandate of UN-Habitat is the right to adequate housing, as part of the right to an adequate standard of living, and to promote access to security of tenure and indigenous land rights.

66. UN-Habitat is the focal point of the United Nations system for the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in October 2016. In the lead-up to the event, consultations with indigenous peoples were held throughout the world, and a joint declaration was issued to influence the drafting of the New Urban Agenda. The Agenda promotes equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, and highlights indigenous peoples in that regard.

67. The Indigenous Cities Declaration was launched at YoutHab during the session on indigenous cities at Habitat III. The importance of localizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is highlighted in the Indigenous Cities Declaration, given that more and more indigenous peoples are moving to cities.

68. At the World Urban Forum held in February 2018, UN-Habitat hosted a stakeholders' round table for indigenous peoples that brought together indigenous persons from across the globe, including Africa, Asia and the Pacific, North America and South and Central America. Speakers included women and men from Canada, Ecuador, Honduras and Mexico. The interactive session highlighted the need to engage indigenous peoples in mainstream governance, as well as to strengthen self-governance of indigenous areas. As indigenous peoples become more urbanized, it is critical that they have a voice in local government. Furthermore, rural-urban linkages need to be strengthened so that rural indigenous peoples gain equal access to the economic opportunities of cities while still being able to maintain a traditional way of life in rural areas.

69. In October, UN-Habitat and the community of Asker, in Norway, co-hosted the third Asker Youth Conference on United Nations Day, celebrating the engagement of young people towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through local action. Fifty young people from Asker and the Norwegian communities of Hurum and Røyken convened to discuss the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals. The programme, which highlighted the importance of engaging indigenous youth in governance, was attended by a member of the Nisga'a Nation and North American focal point for the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, Teanna Ducharme.

70. At the programme and project levels, UN-Habitat developed the Environmental and Social Safeguards System, which must be cleared for all project proposals. Within that policy, a section on indigenous peoples ensures that their rights are protected and that the impact of projects on them is considered. This includes potential impacts on indigenous land, cultural heritage and the cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property of indigenous peoples. The System is currently being revised to move from the principle of “do no harm” to that of “do good”.

71. The mainstreaming of human rights into UN-Habitat ensures that all normative and operational work is sensitive to the specific needs of indigenous peoples. As part of human rights mainstreaming, UN-Habitat has developed human rights markers, which ensure that a human rights-based approach is being applied in projects and that relevant human rights, including indigenous rights, are being respected, promoted and fulfilled.

United Nations Population Fund

72. UNFPA carries out its activities in more than 150 countries and territories that are home to the majority of the world’s indigenous population, as well as at the regional and global levels. UNFPA works on the rights of indigenous peoples within the context of its mandate, guided by the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

73. In its programming and advocacy efforts at the national level, UNFPA places emphasis on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous women and girls, with priority given to the recognition of their rights in national constitutions and laws, their right to participate in decision-making and policy processes, to be counted and have their problems adequately visualized in censuses, surveys and administrative data systems and to sexual and reproductive health free from coercion, discrimination and violence and their ability to fully exercise their reproductive rights.

74. UNFPA is also adopting an intercultural approach in its interventions globally, including in health programming. The organization addresses the health needs of indigenous women and girls by strengthening the collection and analysis of data on their health status. In 2018, UNFPA, in collaboration with UNICEF and UN-Women, developed a fact sheet on indigenous women’s maternal health and morbidity. In 2019, it will further disseminate the findings of the study in its advocacy work.

75. In 2019, UNFPA, together with the Centre for Indigenous Cultures of Peru, is scheduled to publish its analysis of the level of implementation of the recommendations on sexual and reproductive health and rights and violence against indigenous women and young people made by the Forum, as well as of the ways in which action on Forum recommendations can be strengthened, in collaboration with indigenous peoples’ organizations.

World Health Organization and Pan American Health Organization

76. The approval of the first Policy on Ethnicity and Health by States members of PAHO at the twenty-ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference was a critical contribution to the achievement of the ends of the Declaration. The Policy, which constituted a framework for member States when addressing the health of indigenous peoples, incorporated the following five lines of action: (a) production of evidence; (b) promotion of policy action; (c) social participation and strategic partnerships; (d) recognition of ancestral knowledge and traditional and complementary medicine; and (e) capacity development at all levels.

77. The Declaration is highlighted in the Policy on Ethnicity and Health. It is also available on the website on cultural diversity and health and promoted through regional PAHO and WHO social media accounts on relevant advocacy days recognized by PAHO and WHO. A strategy and plan of action on ethnicity and health aligned with the Declaration are being developed and are scheduled to be presented in 2019 to member States for approval.

78. Important work is being conducted by PAHO and WHO at the national level on a variety of health topics relating to the health of indigenous peoples, ensuring their participation, including maternal health, communicable and non-communicable diseases and disaster risk reduction. PAHO has provided technical cooperation through the review of laws and plans addressing the health of indigenous peoples. In the field of maternal health, knowledge dialogues between indigenous peoples and health personnel have been conducted in Argentina, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay (including the Chaco region) and Peru to address maternal health priorities. It is important to highlight activities conducted in those countries to promote culturally safe birth with PAHO technical cooperation. In July, PAHO and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights conducted an expert meeting on indigenous peoples' health in the Americas. Members of the Forum also attended the meeting.

79. The Policy on Ethnicity and Health builds upon the global commitment to sustainable development made in the 2030 Agenda: to leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind first. It is particularly relevant to highlight the regional commitments reflected in the PAHO Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage, and the Plan of Action on Health in All Policies. The instruments are in line with Sustainable Development Goal 3, ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and make universal health coverage a central issue and an essential dimension in achieving the Goal on the basis of the principles of equity, equality and non-discrimination.

80. PAHO and WHO have offered virtual and on-site courses in cultural diversity and health.⁷ PAHO and WHO have also been prioritizing technical cooperation to build the capacity of health systems to address ethnicity in harmony with the Sustainable Development Goals and international and regional human rights instruments.

81. The Virtual Health Library on Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine for the Americas, launched in 2018, is aimed at facilitating access to scientific and technical information, as well as bringing together those responsible for public policies, academia, professional associations, health service providers and indigenous organizations, with the common goal of collaboratively developing a virtual space that increases comprehension of the panorama of traditional and complementary medicine in the region. Indigenous young people from the Latin American region developed a regional health plan for indigenous youth in the Americas with the technical support of PAHO.

82. As part of the inter-agency group on indigenous peoples for the Latin America and Caribbean region, the only inter-agency group with a consultative group of indigenous peoples, PAHO has supported, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, the drafting of a regional report on indigenous peoples and the Sustainable Development Goals.

World Intellectual Property Organization

83. Awareness of the Declaration within the negotiations of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge

⁷ See <http://cursos.campusvirtualsp.org/course/view.php?id=39>.

and Folklore of WIPO contributes to its resonance internationally. References to the Declaration are included in the documentation of the Committee, in particular in the most recent version in December 2018, of the draft negotiating texts on the protection of traditional knowledge and the protection of traditional cultural expressions. Some participants in the Committee regularly advocate the use of the Declaration as a key reference. References to the Declaration are also made in WIPO publications relating to the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions whenever relevant. This is the case for two recent WIPO publications, *Protect and Promote Your Culture: A Practical Guide to Intellectual Property for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities* and *Documenting Traditional Knowledge – A Toolkit*.

84. Articles 18, 31 and 41 of the Declaration are relevant to the WIPO programme of work on the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. In furtherance of article 31, WIPO provides training activities and information resources that aim to enable indigenous peoples to make more effective use of intellectual property principles and tools to prevent the misuse of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions by third parties and protect them for their own benefit, if they so wish. On the norm-setting side, the Committee continues to expedite its work with the objective of reaching an agreement on one or more international legal instruments relating to intellectual property that would ensure the balanced and effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. Current discussions include the possibility that indigenous peoples would require free, prior and informed consent for access to and the use of their traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions by third parties.

85. The empowerment of indigenous peoples, as vulnerable peoples, as well as their access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and participate fully in society, are commitments made by the Member States vis-à-vis indigenous peoples within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. WIPO training activities and information resources that address the needs of indigenous peoples for protection contribute to the fulfilment of those commitments.

86. Most WIPO training materials that address the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions are published in furtherance of article 31 of the Declaration and are available on the WIPO website. The 2018 animated video *The Adventures of the Yakuanoi – Navigating Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property* illustrates the issues and opportunities that arise when traditional knowledge interacts with intellectual property. The WIPO publication *Documenting Traditional Knowledge – A Toolkit*, published in 2017, contains guidelines that support the specific interests of indigenous peoples relating to the documentation of traditional knowledge.

87. WIPO programmes relating to indigenous peoples include workshops, distance learning courses and training, involving officials of member States, civil society and indigenous peoples separately or jointly, as well as the dissemination of publications. In 2018, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities were invited to participate in several national or regional practical workshops for various stakeholders. Two indigenous persons were granted a scholarship to fund their attendance at the WIPO-University of Geneva Summer School on Intellectual Property in 2018. The Indigenous Fellowship Programme will continue in 2019.⁸ WIPO staff are briefed on the Committee's negotiations on a regular basis.

⁸ See www.wipo.int/tk/en/indigenous/fellowship.