

39th session of the Human Rights Council

Annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples

Theme: Participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the development and implementation of strategies and projects in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Concept note (draft as of 27 August 2018)

- Date and venue:** **19 September 2018, 9 to 11 a.m., Palais des Nations, Room XX, Geneva**
(will be broadcast live and archived on <http://webtv.un.org>)
- Objectives:** The panel discussion aims:
- To examine the links between the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - To identify good practices and challenges in the participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples in strategies and projects for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, at international, regional and national level;
 - To propose measures to ensure the participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the development, implementation and monitoring of strategies and policies for the SDGs.
- Chair:** **H.E. Mr. Vojislav Šuc**, President of the Human Rights Council (TBC)
- Opening statement:** **Senior OHCHR Representative**
- Moderator:** **Ms. Erika Yamada**, Chair-Rapporteur of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Panellists:**
- **Ms. Joan Carling**, Co-convenor, Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development
 - **Mr. Q'apaj Conde**, Co-chair, Global Indigenous Youth Caucus; Youth focal point of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development
 - **Ms. María Luisa Silva**, Director of the UNDP Office in Geneva, United Nations Development Programme
- Outcome:** A summary report of the discussion will be prepared by OHCHR and submitted to the Council prior to its 41st session.
- Mandate:** The Human Rights Council decided to hold an annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples in its resolution 18/8 of 29 September 2011. The theme of this year's discussion is mandated by Council resolution 36/14 of 28 September 2017.
- Format:** The duration of the panel discussion will be limited to two hours. A maximum of one hour will be set aside for the podium, including the opening statement, moderator comments, panellist presentations, and their responses to questions and concluding remarks. Speaking time limits for the panellists will be calculated based on the maximum one hour limit for the podium.
- States and observers, including national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intervening from the floor will also have a maximum of one hour. Each speaker will have two minutes to raise issues and to ask questions. The list of speakers for the discussion will be established at the beginning of the panel and, as per practice, statements by high-level dignitaries and groups will be moved to the beginning of the list.
- The practice of having two slots for Member and observer States (2x12), NHRIs (2x1) and NGOs (2x2) will be maintained but the possibility for panellists to intervene in-between will depend entirely on the time used at the start of the panel.
- Interpretation will be provided in the six United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

Accessibility for persons with disabilities:

In an effort to render the Human Rights Council more accessible to persons with disabilities and to promote their full participation in the work of the Council on an equal basis with others, the panel will be made fully accessible. During the debate, international sign interpretation and real-time captioning will be provided and webcasted. In Room XX, four seats are reserved for participants using wheelchairs, in the seventh (last) row. Hearing loops are available for collection from the Accessibility focal point at the Secretariat desk. Oral statements may be embossed in Braille from any of the six official languages of the United Nations, upon request and following the procedure described in the “Accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council for persons with disabilities” (available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Accessibility.aspx>).

Background:

On 25 September 2015, in its resolution 70/1, the General Assembly unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which constitute the framework to guide the efforts regarding the global commitment to eradicate poverty and inequality, under the principle of “leaving no one behind”. All United Nations Member States have committed to these Goals, with 169 universal targets, notwithstanding the different national realities and stages of development.

While the specific SDGs are not framed in terms of human rights, many targets reflect the content of international human rights standards. The preamble of General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, States that the SDGs “seek to realize the human rights of all”. Moreover, 73 out of the 169 targets have substantial links to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, providing a framework that makes explicit references to the concerns of indigenous peoples.

The principles of equality and non-discrimination are consistent across all 17 Goals through a commitment to inclusion, to leaving no one behind, to reaching first those who are furthest behind and to disaggregating data so as to track inequalities, paying special attention to marginalized groups.

Although disaggregated data on indigenous peoples remains limited, where data exists it suggests that they lag behind on essentially all social and economic indicators. Therefore, the overall focus of the 2030 Agenda on reducing inequalities is of particular relevance to indigenous peoples. The 2030 Agenda refers explicitly to indigenous peoples a total of 6 times; three times in the political declaration; twice under Goal 2 on Zero Hunger (target 2.3) and Goal 4 on education (target 4.5), and once in the context of the participation of indigenous peoples during follow up and review at country level. Moreover, two of the Goals make specific reference to indigenous peoples and many of the Goals and associated targets are relevant for them.

There is also a strong commitment in the 2030 Agenda to empower and engage indigenous peoples in discussions on the implementation and the review of progress made in achieving the Goals. According to General Assembly resolution 70/1, the principles guiding SDG follow-up and review processes are based on participation and accountability and should be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent as well as people-centred, gender sensitive, with respect for human rights and with a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those that are furthest behind. The ‘Major Groups’ whose active participation is deemed essential in achieving sustainable development, formalized during the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, include indigenous peoples. Their inclusion means that they participate in and are consulted during intergovernmental processes within the High-level Political Forum.

Background documents:

- [Human Rights Council resolutions 18/8](#) of 29 September 2011 and [36/14](#) of 28 September 2017 on human rights and indigenous peoples
- [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), General Assembly resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007
- [General Assembly resolution 70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”