

## Briefing Note

# Indigenous Peoples' Rights and the 2030 Agenda



(September 2017)



*Prepared by the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Division for Social Policy and Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*



## Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development defines the global development agenda for the next 15 years. For indigenous peoples, it is regarded as an improvement compared to the Millennium Development Goals, where indigenous peoples were largely invisible. Indigenous peoples participated in the global consultation process towards the 2030 Agenda and, while not all their concerns were included, their advocacy resulted in a framework that makes explicit references to indigenous peoples' development concerns and that is founded on principles of universality, human rights, participation, equality and environmental sustainability - core priorities for most indigenous peoples. The 2030 Agenda has the potential to be transformative for indigenous peoples, if its implementation respects these principles.

## What is in it? Elements in the framework of 2030 Agenda relevant for indigenous peoples

The 2030 Agenda consists of 17 goals and 169 targets of which 92 % are closely linked to human rights. 73 out of the 169 targets have substantial links to the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>1</sup>.

Leaving no one behind: A key entry point for indigenous peoples in the 2030 Agenda is the Agenda's strong commitment to "leave no one behind" and "reach the furthest behind first". As indigenous peoples across the world still lag behind on most social, economic and political indicators, they should be at the heart of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Human Rights: The 2030 Agenda and its SDGs are unequivocally grounded in human rights, as set out in the preamble of the resolution document "Transforming our world – The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (A/RES/70/1) which states that the SDGs "seek to realize the human rights of all". It envisages a world with universal respect for human rights and human dignity, rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination for all (para 8) and reaffirms the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments and international law (para 19). Moreover, the preamble also highlights the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda "in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law" (para 18). Though not specifically mentioned in the Resolution, the primary international instrument for indigenous peoples is the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Equality: The issue of equality and non-discrimination is integrated throughout the Agenda and there are two dedicated goals on *gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls* (Goal 5) and *Reducing inequality within and among countries* (Goal 10). Further, the imperative to promote equality is consistent across all 17 goals through a commitment to inclusion, to leave no one behind, to reaching the furthest behind first and to data disaggregation to track inequalities. The UN-System has furthermore committed to "putting the imperative to eliminate discrimination and reduce inequalities — within and among countries — at the forefront of UN efforts to support Member

---

<sup>1</sup> Danish Institute for Human Rights (2016) – <http://sdg.humanrights.dk>



States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”<sup>2</sup>, including through developing a shared UN Framework for Action on inequalities and discrimination<sup>3</sup>.

**Participation and Accountability:** Since the Sustainable Development Goals reflect a broad political commitment, the follow-up and review of the implementation of the goals is of particular importance for holding governments accountable. The principles guiding the 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 (para 74). At the national level, States are encouraged to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress and the contribution of indigenous peoples, civil society and other stakeholders is encouraged (para 79). At the global level, broad and balanced participation is strived after at the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) as the main UN platform for follow-up and review.<sup>4</sup>

### **Indigenous key priorities and specific references in the 2030 Agenda**

In contrast to the MDGs, the SDGs explicitly include indigenous peoples. Two of the SDG targets make specific references to indigenous peoples, committing to double agricultural output of indigenous small-scale farmers and to ensure equal access to education for indigenous children. There is also a strong commitment in the 2030 Agenda to empower and engage indigenous peoples in implementing and reviewing progress in achieving the goals.

#### **Where to find the references to indigenous peoples in the 2030 Agenda resolution (A/RES/70/1)**

- Empowerment, engagement and education of indigenous peoples (Preamble: paragraphs 23, 25 and 52)
- Ending hunger through sustainable agriculture (SDG2 , target 2.3)
- Ensuring access to education for indigenous peoples (SDG4, target 4.5)
- Indigenous peoples’ participation in follow-up and review (paragraph 79)

In addition, the proposed global list of indicators<sup>5</sup> to measure progress on the SDGs includes several indicators that indigenous peoples had called for, including indicators that measure income of indigenous small-scale food producers and indigenous peoples’ access to education. The proposed indicator to measure secure land rights makes an important reference to “type of tenure” which can capture the dimension of collective land rights which is central to indigenous peoples’ collective relationship to their lands, territories and resources. Of particular relevance is also the indicator on peoples’ perception of discrimination based on prohibited grounds of discrimination in international

<sup>2</sup> Statement by the Chief Executive Board for Coordination (27 April 2016)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/CEB\\_2016\\_6%20Add.1%20%28inequalities%20framework%29.pdf](http://www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/CEB_2016_6%20Add.1%20%28inequalities%20framework%29.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> A/RES/70/299 (Resolution on Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the Global Level)

<sup>5</sup> In March 2017, the Statistical Commission agreed, as a practical starting point, on a proposed global indicator framework with a list of 230 global indicators (See the entire list in the UN Document E/CN.3/2017/2). The global indicator list will be undergoing further technical review and updating.



human rights law, which could be used to trace progress on indigenous peoples' experiences of discrimination.

The global indicator list constitutes a practical starting point, while Member States have expressed a need for further methodological development and improvement of data availability, which at a global level will be taken forward by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs<sup>6</sup>. Further, national statistical offices will now be developing national indicator frameworks, where it is essential to advocate for inclusion of the relevant global indicators as well as call for additional indicators of relevance to indigenous peoples in the local context.

Disaggregation of data: To ensure that no one is left behind, the 2030 Agenda calls for States "to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts" (target 17.18). Data-disaggregation according to indigenous or ethnic identity across all sustainable development goals must also be included to monitor progress for indigenous peoples. A critical priority at national level is therefore to ensure that data disaggregation includes "indigenous identifiers" (for instance language or self-identification) in official statistics to capture the inequalities indigenous peoples face across all the sustainable development goals. Furthermore, the adoption of a human rights-based approach to data is essential, including respecting self-identification.<sup>7</sup>

#### Land rights, poverty and hunger

The sustainable development goals could contribute to securing indigenous peoples' control over their land, territories and resources. The SDG targets, for instance, recognise the importance of equal rights to economic resources as well as equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources and traditional knowledge. In addition, the 2030 Agenda's emphasis on promotion of resilient and sustainable agricultural practices and maintenance of seed diversity are consistent with efforts to promote for food security and poverty eradication amongst indigenous peoples.

##### **Find the relevant targets:**

- Equal rights to economic resources (SDG1, target 1.4)
- Promotion of resilient and sustainable agricultural practices (SDG2, target 2.3 and 2.4)
- Maintenance of seed diversity (SDG2, target 2.5)
- Equitable sharing of benefits from traditional knowledge (SDG2, target 2.5)

Yet, land is not merely an economic asset for indigenous peoples. It is defining element for their identity, culture and their relationship to their ancestors and future generations. There is a need for recognition of indigenous land tenure systems as well as of the situation of indigenous nomadic and semi-nomadic communities. To secure indigenous peoples' land rights in reality, land demarcation

---

<sup>6</sup> The Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs is a working group under the Statistical Commission:  
<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/>

<sup>7</sup> A Human Rights-Based Approach to Data, *Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Development Agenda*, OHCHR (February 2016) <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf>



and titling as well as special protection against land grabbing and encroachment are crucial. Furthermore, it is essential that the 2030 Agenda implementation is taking in to account the principle of free, prior and informed consent and adequate consultations related to indigenous peoples' lands and development priorities, as referred to in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

#### Social Security, health and education

The 2030 Agenda has strong elements related to social development, including securing access to health, education as well as social protection with the explicit goal of reaching the most vulnerable. To overcome discrimination against indigenous peoples, who are overrepresented amongst the vulnerable, poor, illiterate and unemployed, additional efforts are needed in provision of social services as well as more broadly in the public sphere. These should follow a rights-based and culture-sensitive approach, which respects language diversity, education in mother tongue, traditional health practices and indigenous medicine. Further, it is important to strengthen and support indigenous peoples' own methods of providing these services.

##### **Find the relevant targets:**

- Social protection systems for all (SDG1, target 1.3)
- Healthy lives and well-being (SDG3, all targets)
- Inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning (SDG4, all targets)

#### Environmental sustainability

Many indigenous peoples live in biologically diverse regions and have accumulated valuable traditional knowledge about nature and sustainable practices, which can contribute to achieving the SDGs related to environmental sustainability. The goals on climate change adaption, sustainable management of oceans use, forests and water resources, for example, reflect priorities that indigenous peoples have called for over decades to protect the ecosystems and biodiversity of their mountains, rivers, forests, wetlands and plains. Indigenous peoples can also contribute towards the SDG targets on increasing awareness on lifestyles in harmony with nature as in targets 12.8 and 4.7 - for instance through integrating indigenous knowledge into formal education. Yet, there are some risks and gaps in the 2030 Agenda. While the goal on sustainable consumption recognises the need to reduce waste generation, it does not mention the principle of free, prior and informed consent related to disposals and storage of hazardous materials on indigenous peoples' territories, as provided by the UN Declaration. The 2030 Agenda also has a strong focus on sustainable tourism and promotion of local culture and products but do not directly recognise, protect or promote indigenous cultures as a

##### **Find the relevant targets (sources):**

- Increased awareness on lifestyles in harmony with nature (SDG 12, target 12.8 and SDG 4, target 4.7)
- Reduction of waste generation (SDG 12, target 12.5)
- Sustainable tourism (SDG12, target 12.b)
- Climate change adaption (SDG13)
- Conservation and sustainable ocean use (SDG14)
- Sustainable ecosystems and forest management (SDG 15)
- Sustainable water management (SDG16)



contributor to tourism. Hence, it becomes essential to ensure that the 2030 Agenda is implemented in line with existing rights of indigenous peoples.

#### Promoting inclusive and peaceful societies and reducing inequalities

The Agenda's goals on social, economic and political inclusion as well as on equality and non-discrimination have the potential to address the persistent marginalization that many indigenous peoples face. Goal 16 focuses on promoting

"effective, accountable and inclusive institutions" and includes a target on "responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making", which does go some way towards addressing the root causes of indigenous peoples' lack of access to decision-making and their basic rights. Furthermore, goal 16 aims to promote peaceful societies based on the rule of law with

the protection of basic freedoms and access to justice. This is important given the increasing number of indigenous peoples who experience harassment, killings and disappearances due to their political engagement in environmental or human rights issues. Further, in situations of violence, conflict or post-conflict, the SDGs related to peace and reduction of violence could promote indigenous peoples' access to transitional justice, participation in peace processes and protection of indigenous human rights defenders.

##### **Find the relevant targets (sources):**

- Social, economic as well as political inclusion (SDG10, target 10.2)
- Equality of opportunity and outcome through elimination of discriminatory laws and practices (SDG10, target 10.3)
- Peaceful and inclusive societies and access to justice (SDG16, all targets)

#### Overcoming discrimination through special measures

Target 16.b relates to promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development. For indigenous peoples, this is essential and includes the need for special measures as pointed out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that refers to the need for "effective" or "specific" measures and "necessary steps" to overcome discrimination and ensure the progressive achievement of indigenous peoples' rights (article 21.2). Further, non-discrimination for indigenous peoples both has an individual and a collective dimension and is strongly related to the right to self-determination and cultural integrity. These principles should be promoted in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

#### **What is not there? Gaps in the 2030 Agenda**

Despite the above advances, the sustainable development goals still have a number of gaps and may also involve potential risks for indigenous peoples. The 2030 Agenda does not have reflect a full recognition of *collective rights* both in terms of land, but also health, education, culture and ways of living. The concept of *self-determination*, as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and essential to indigenous peoples' right to define their economic, political, social and cultural development, is also not strongly reflected. Even if the agenda does recognise poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, there is a recurring emphasis on GDP focused growth, industrialization and increased production, which risks to undermine indigenous peoples' holistic





development approaches. The principle of *free, prior and informed consent*, which is essential to respect self-determination as well as other indigenous peoples' rights is not referred to in the Agenda. The 2030 Agenda furthermore lacks *culture-sensitivity* across several goals such as health and education. For instance, education in mother tongues which is essential to address indigenous peoples' disadvantages in the school system and society at large is not included in the Agenda. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as well as the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group have in addition made several recommendations related to ensuring that implementation of the 2030 Agenda follows a human rights-based approach by adhering to principles of empowerment, inclusion and participation of indigenous peoples as equal partners. It has in this regards been stressed that a human rights-based approach would entail that not only governments, but also the private sector is held accountable to respect the rights of indigenous peoples. Furthermore, the concept of *partnerships* used in the framework of the 2030 Agenda needs to be taken forward in an inclusive way, which apart from the involvement of the private sector includes other stakeholders and their perspectives. In this regard, indigenous peoples have expressed a need for further capacity building of all development actors, including States, the private sector and indigenous peoples on the links between human rights and the SDGs to ensure accountability, non-discrimination and effective participation of rights-holders in the implementation of the SDGs. It is important to continue to engage with this process to bring attention to these issues.

### **What now? Entry points for indigenous peoples' participation in implementation and follow-up and review**

After many years of negotiations, the 2030 Agenda was adopted on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Today after the first years of implementation, more focus needs to be given to concrete actions at the national level, where context-specific implementation plans are taken forward. As the 2030 Agenda is a broad political commitment, the follow-up and review processes will also be essential to ensure accountability. These will take place at national, regional and international levels and promise to be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent as well as people-centred (para 74).

The SDG processes could provide a potential opportunity for establishing a new, transformational partnerships between governments, private sector, civil society and indigenous peoples as right-holders and the central agents of their own development. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as well as the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group have stressed the need to ensure their active participation through transparent and institutionalised mechanisms of consultations and effective representation in SDG implementation and monitoring mechanisms and relevant UN bodies and institutions<sup>8</sup>. For example, they have called for States to provide financial resources for them to engage in national policy formulation, development of national indicators, national shadow reports and for the opportunity to engage actively in the global level High-Level Political Forum. As the processes of planning, implementing and reviewing the 2030 Agenda have not yet been fully

---

<sup>8</sup> Indigenous Peoples Major Group position paper (May 2016) and UNPFII 16<sup>th</sup> Session Report (E/2017/43), Recommendation 92.



developed at country-level, indigenous peoples can still play an active role in the on-going consultations on setting-up these processes.

#### National level

UN Member States have the primary responsibility of implementing the 2030 Agenda, and regional and global reviews are based on national -level review processes. Therefore, engagement of indigenous peoples at national level is of particular importance.

In his report on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, the UN Secretary General highlighted that “the lynchpin of follow-up and review in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals will be the national level.”<sup>9</sup>

States are encouraged to develop national responses to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that can, where appropriate, be based on existing sustainable development strategies. States are also encouraged to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at country level that should be based on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society and other relevant stakeholders. There are a number of possibilities for indigenous peoples to engage in national-level review processes:

- Involvement in the preparation of the national voluntary reviews of States that take place at the yearly High-Level Political Forum. The national voluntary reviews are based on state reports and presentations that have, ideally, been prepared during national consultation processes with relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples. States are encouraged to do at least 2 voluntary national reviews before 2030. In 2016, indigenous peoples were referred to in seven out of 22 of the voluntary national reviews at the High-Level Political Forum. In 2017, 44 countries did voluntary national reviews with several having indigenous populations<sup>10</sup>.
- Partnering with the government agencies and other actors such as UN Country Teams in the mainstreaming and integration of the 2030 Agenda into national, sub-national and local plans and budgets for development.<sup>11</sup>
- The UN system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples is a strong entry point for indigenous peoples to work with the UN at country level. One of the six action elements in the System-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples relates to the implementation of the SDGs – and calls for 1) incorporation of indigenous issues in to programming, 2) participation of indigenous peoples and 3) information gathering and dissemination of information on indigenous peoples in the context of the 2030 Agenda<sup>12</sup>.

---

<sup>9</sup> *Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level*, report of the Secretary-General (January 2016)

<sup>10</sup> For overview of Voluntary National Reviews, see: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2017>

<sup>11</sup> UN Development Group's guide on Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for UN Country Teams is available at: <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/UNDG-Mainstreaming-the-2030-Agenda-Reference-Guide-Final-1-February-2016.pdf> and the UNDG Guidelines to Support Country Reporting on the SDGs is coming soon: <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Guidelines-to-Support-Country-Reporting-on-SDGs.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> Link to online version of the system-wide action plan: <http://bit.ly/1ruOgrs>





- Participation in multi-stakeholder briefings, consultations, workshops and capacity building activities related to the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda.
- Participation in the SDG multi-stakeholder national level committees/commissions.
- Collaborating with other key stakeholders including National Human Rights Institutions, civil society, the private sector, trade unions etc.
- Engaging in the development of national indicators and complementary data in cooperation with National Statistical Offices.<sup>13</sup>
- Using Community-Based Monitoring and Information Systems to develop their own capacity to generate information that can be used for reporting on national and global level. The Indigenous Navigator project provides examples of community-based data that report and relate to the SDGs<sup>14</sup>.
- Linking SDG implementation and monitoring at national level with existing and on-going human rights monitoring mechanisms, including to the human rights treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review, and with national actions plans for the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

#### Regional level

Follow-up and review at regional level will be based on national-level reviews and at the same time contribute to the review at global level. Focus will be on identifying regional trends and address specific regional challenges including trans-boundary issues. In the 2030 Agenda resolution, States are encouraged to identify the most suitable regional forum to engage in. Emphasis is also put on the importance of building on already existing regional mechanisms. Several regions have already set up Regional Forums on Sustainable Development and the first meetings have taken place in several regions in particular in preparations for the High Level Political Forum.<sup>15</sup> Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have been engaged in a consultative process to define the scope and modalities of the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in the region. The UN Regional Economic Commissions together with regional institutions such as the European Union, the African Union, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Arab League will also play a role in the process.<sup>16</sup> In some contexts, it may be possible for indigenous peoples to participate in the regional forums including in consultations on scope and modalities of the forums together with other stakeholders. Participation could take place through regional level indigenous peoples' organisations<sup>17</sup>.

---

<sup>13</sup> The Indigenous Peoples Major Group has suggested that states should adopt National Sustainable Development Strategies through a participatory process with substantive inputs from stakeholders. The group has also encouraged the inclusion of an indigenous identifier in national censuses and suggested that 2030 Agenda reports by National Statistical Offices should be complemented by shadow reports from civil society.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.indigenousnavigator.org/statistics/>

<sup>15</sup> See a list of regional Forums at [www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org](http://www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org)

<sup>16</sup> *Regional Views on 2030 Agenda Follow up and Review Framework*, Regional Commissions New York Office, 2015

<sup>17</sup> For example, In April 2016, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact participated in a session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development where they called for inclusive and effective participation of indigenous peoples, and in particular indigenous women, in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.



### Global level

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the main forum for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at global level. The HLPF meets once a year for two weeks where regional and national progress reports are on the agenda together with thematic reviews, review of the means of implementation and new and emerging issues. The Secretary-General's compilation report of global SDG data is presented as well as the quadrennial UN Global Sustainable Development Report. The main outcome of the Forum will be a Ministerial Declaration that captures the essence of the policy recommendations put forward during the Forum.

There are several possibilities for indigenous peoples to engage in the global-level review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda:

- By advocating for clear modalities on participation in the High-Level Political Forum that facilitate participation of civil society, including indigenous peoples, in the reporting guidelines for the HLPF, including in the Voluntary National Review Sessions
- By submitting inputs to the HLPF on the issues facing indigenous peoples in the countries being reviewed, and advocating that these submissions should be available online, and accessible by country being reviewed
- By participating at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Sessions in April or May, in particular their discussions on the 2030 Agenda and Indigenous Peoples, and providing concrete recommendations to be taken forward in the Permanent Forum's Substantive Input Report to the High Level Political Forum
- By sending inputs and engaging with the global Indigenous Peoples Major Group. The Indigenous Peoples' Major Group is one out of nine major groups of key stakeholders.<sup>18</sup> The Indigenous Peoples' Major Group collaborates with other groups on joint papers and has called for more financial resources for indigenous peoples' participation in the HLPF and for speaking time for the Major Group during the Forum.<sup>19</sup>
- By arranging events before and during the High-Level Political Forum.
- By advocating for the inclusion of indigenous peoples' concerns in the thematic focus at the HLPF.

In his report on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, the UN Secretary General suggested the establishment of an online engagement platform for accessing documentation and providing comments and inputs - as well as the development of a database for NGOs, the private sector and other major groups and stakeholders where they can announce their commitment for achieving the sustainable development goals with measurable milestones and deliverables. Further information is available at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>.

---

<sup>18</sup> The other major groups are: women, children and youth, non-governmental organisations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community and farmers.

<sup>19</sup> HLPF position paper from the Indigenous Peoples Major Group (May 2016). For more on IPMG see: <https://www.indigenouspeoples-sdg.org/>



### Indigenous peoples' inclusion in the High Level Political Forum (2016 and 2017)

Indigenous peoples have taken active steps to make their voices heard at the High Level Political Forum both in 2016 and 2017. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as an expert body of the Economic and Social Council provides annual substantive inputs to the High Level Political Forum<sup>20</sup> and the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group participates in the implementation, review and follow up to the Agenda as one of the 9 major groups. Both in 2016 and 2017, indigenous representatives attended the High Level Political Forum, asking questions to the Voluntary National Reviews; organising parallel events and doing media outreach. In 2017, an Indigenous Voices Zone, a one-day platform covering the High Level Political Forum from an indigenous perspective, raised awareness about the main priorities for indigenous peoples in the 2030 Agenda<sup>21</sup>.

Indigenous peoples' issues have been covered in some of the Voluntary National Reviews and main outcome documents and reports, emerging from the High Level Political Forum. In 2016, 7 out of the 22 Voluntary National Reviews did have a reference to indigenous peoples<sup>22</sup>. In 2017, 43 countries underwent Voluntary National Reviews, several being countries where indigenous peoples are residing. The Ministerial Declaration from High Level Political Forum 2017 (E/2017/L.29) includes 4 direct references to indigenous peoples related to vulnerable groups in the 2030 Agenda; social protection systems for all; small-scale food producers', including indigenous peoples', vulnerability to extreme weather events caused by climate change and land degradation; and awareness raising about the 2030 Agenda to ensure accountability). Also, the ECOSOC President's Summary of HLPF 2017 makes 5 references to indigenous peoples. The report on "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals" by the UN Secretary-General (E/2017/66) refers to indigenous peoples as one of the vulnerable populations, where increased efforts are necessary to ensure inclusive and equitable education (under SDG 4). The report does however not include any disaggregated data based on ethnicity or indigenous identity and did not integrate specific data on the two targets (2.3 and 4.5), where indigenous peoples are referred to directly in the 2030 Agenda.

### General Assembly Third Committee calls for attention to indigenous peoples' rights in 2030 Agenda

In its resolution A/RES/71/178, the General Assembly encouraged Member States to "give due consideration to all the rights of indigenous peoples in fulfilling the commitments undertaken in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the elaboration of national programmes" (paragraph 4). Further, Member States are encouraged to "consider including in their voluntary national reviews for the high-level political forum on sustainable development and their national and global reports information related to indigenous peoples on progress made and challenges in implementation of the 2030 Agenda", and to "compile disaggregated data to measure progress and to ensure that no one is left behind" (paragraph 15). Indigenous peoples can refer to these commitments, when participating in implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

---

<sup>20</sup> "Update on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda", Substantive inputs to the High Level Political Forum (2017) by the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, E/C.19/2017/5

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/indigenousvoices.html>

<sup>22</sup> E/C.19/2017/5 p. 11



## **Annex 1: Partnerships and integration with existing mechanisms**

The success of the 2030 Agenda can be maximised through the use of building linkages with the existing UN human rights monitoring mechanisms, and drawing on their relevant recommendations, in particular the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review, the human rights treaty bodies, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: As a subsidiary body to the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has a formal role and platform to provide substantive inputs to the thematic reviews of the High-Level Political Forum, highlighting what is needed to ensure that indigenous peoples are not left behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For the 2016 and 2017 High-Level Political Forum, reports were produced and are available under substantive thematic inputs at the formal SDG platform<sup>23</sup>. In addition, in line with its mandate to raise awareness on indigenous issues and provide expert advice on this to the UN system through the Economic and Social Council, the Permanent Forum has made several recommendations related to indigenous priorities in the 2030 Agenda. At the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Permanent Forum, it was decided to include the 2030 Agenda as a standing item at future sessions of the Permanent Forum to facilitate a dialogue between indigenous peoples, Member States and UN Agencies on progress made for indigenous peoples in implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) has consistently included, both directly and indirectly, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in its thematic studies as well as its annual sessions. For example, at the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> session of EMRIP in July 2015 and 2016, the agenda included a discussion on the 2030 Agenda from an indigenous peoples' rights perspective.<sup>24</sup> EMRIP's thematic studies, for instance the right of indigenous peoples to education (2009) and indigenous peoples' right to health (2015), link to key themes of the 2030 Agenda. The annual EMRIP sessions serve as an important opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to discuss the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. The data and information from EMRIP can be useful for the HLPF to ensure that indigenous voices are heard.

The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples "to examine ways and means of overcoming existing obstacles to the full and effective protection of the rights of indigenous peoples" necessitates a consideration of issues that fall within the 2030 Agenda. These issues are dealt with through country reports, thematic studies and communications on case situations as a monitoring tool. These could for example be on indigenous peoples and education systems, the rights of indigenous women and girls and the rights of indigenous peoples in relation to extractive industries.<sup>25</sup> The Special Rapporteur

---

<sup>23</sup> <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org> or [www.un.org/indigenous](http://www.un.org/indigenous) under 2030 Agenda and HLPF

<sup>24</sup> *Post-2015 development agenda and indigenous peoples' rights* <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/090/62/PDF/G1509062.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>25</sup> See the following link for a full list of thematic studies:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/SRIndigenousPeoples/Pages/ThematicStudies.aspx>



appreciates that the SDGs are a crucial issue for indigenous peoples and that indigenous peoples must participate in the conversation on the 2030 Agenda, as demonstrated in her report to the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly.<sup>26</sup> Similarly to EMRIP, although no formal relationship exists between the Special Rapporteur and the High-Level Political Forum, the High-Level Political Forum could benefit from the information stemming from the Special Rapporteur's thematic and country reports.

Human Rights treaty bodies: Due to the links between international human rights treaties and the SDGs, the information collected through the treaty review process is an invaluable source of information for the 2030 Agenda and vice versa. The treaty bodies have already begun to recognise the importance of this complementary relationship by referring to the SDGs in their dialogues with States, for example by including in the concluding observations a link between SDGs and treaty provisions. On 26 June 2015, the Chairpersons of the ten human rights treaty bodies released a joint statement that emphasised the need to ensure that information collected through the treaty body reporting process is used in the SDG reviews.<sup>27</sup> A joint treaty body submission was also submitted to the HLPF for the first review in July 2016. The synergy between human rights treaty bodies and SDGs is particularly relevant to indigenous peoples, as treaty bodies are an important mechanism through which indigenous peoples currently seek the protection and promotion of their human rights. The Treaty Body chairpersons have also strongly urged Member States to incorporate in their work to achieve SDGs the principle of free, prior and informed consent for decisions that affect indigenous peoples, and stressed that goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions should be understood as including indigenous peoples.<sup>28</sup>

The Human Rights Council: The Human Rights Council is committed to engage in the 2030 Agenda implementation, and has already begun to reference the 2030 Agenda in a large number of its adopted resolutions<sup>29</sup>. It has encouraged Member States to give due consideration to the rights of indigenous peoples in fulfilling the commitments undertaken in the 2030 Agenda, as for instance reflected in its contribution to the High-Level Political Forum in June 2016<sup>30</sup>. Further, it requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to place an emphasis on the SDGs in a number of the reports mandated by the Human Rights Council.<sup>31</sup> Since the UPR includes all civil,

---

<sup>26</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly: "Rights of indigenous peoples, including their economic, social and cultural rights in the post-2015 development framework", p. 2: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N14/497/48/PDF/N1449748.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>27</sup> *Joint Statement of the Treaty Body Chairpersons on Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*: [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/JointstatementTBChairpersonsonPost-2015Agenda\\_Jun2015.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/JointstatementTBChairpersonsonPost-2015Agenda_Jun2015.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> *Joint Statement of the Chairpersons of the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15505&>

<sup>29</sup> For example, A/HRC/RES/30/4: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/RES/30/4](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/RES/30/4)

<sup>30</sup> Human Rights Council contribution to the 2016 High Level Political Forum (June 2016)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/MDG/Pages/The2030Agenda.aspx>

<sup>31</sup> For example, the High Commissioner was requested to prepare an "annual report on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights, with a special focus on the realization of



political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples, the information gathered through the UPR process as well as the UPR recommendations will be invaluable resources for monitoring the 2030 Agenda.

---

economic, social and cultural rights in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”:  
A/HRC/RES/31/5 on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights,  
[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/RES/31/5](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/RES/31/5)





## Resources

### The human rights of Indigenous Peoples

- UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- ILO Convention No. 169
- Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations System, Fact Sheet No. 9 (OHCHR)<sup>32</sup>

### United Nations and Indigenous Peoples

- World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document
- System Wide Action Plan Indigenous Peoples
- United Nations Development Group Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues
- Third Committee Resolutions on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/71/178 in 2016)
- UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues' substantive inputs to HLPF 2017, "Update on the 2030 Agenda and Indigenous Peoples", E/C.19/2016/2

### Tools for implementation of the 2030 Agenda – with respect for indigenous peoples' rights

- Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>
- Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Reference Guide to UNCTs<sup>33</sup>
- Guidelines to Support Country Reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>34</sup>
- Equality and non-discrimination at the heart of sustainable development: a Shared United Nations Framework for Action<sup>35</sup>
- Position papers from the Indigenous Peoples Major Group
- Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda (E/C.19/2016/2)

### Tools for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda

- Guidance Note on Human Rights Based approach to Data (OHCHR)<sup>36</sup>
- Statistics and human rights (OHCHR)<sup>37</sup>
- Indigenous Navigator ([www.indigenousnavigator.org](http://www.indigenousnavigator.org))
- Human Rights and the SDGs - Linkages (OHCHR)<sup>38</sup>
- Database on human rights and SDGs (Danish Institute on Human Rights)
- Indigenous Peoples Major Group List server (<https://www.indigenouspeoples-sdg.org/>)

---

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/fs9Rev.2.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/UNDG-Mainstreaming-the-2030-Agenda-Reference-Guide-Final-1-February-2016.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Guidelines-to-Support-Country-Reporting-on-SDGs.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> [http://www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/CEB\\_2016\\_6%20\\_Add.1%20%28inequalities%20framework%29.pdf](http://www.unsceb.org/CEBPublicFiles/CEB_2016_6%20_Add.1%20%28inequalities%20framework%29.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/StatisticsAndHumanRights.pdf>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/MDG/Pages/The2030Agenda.aspx>