

Questionnaire to DPPA-DPO-PBSO on Indigenous issues 2022

Question 1

Please provide a brief overview of actions taken or planned in 2022, to follow up on the [UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues \(UNPFII\) recommendations](#).

In November, as recommended by the UNPFII and authorized by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), DESA organized a three-day international Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the theme “Truth, transitional justice and reconciliation processes” in Santiago, Chile. The Americas Division (AD), in its capacity as focal point on Indigenous issues in DPPA, provided support to the EGM. The Director of the Americas Division (AD) attended the EGM and briefed experts on the mandate and scope of the work of the UN on prevention, peace and security and highlighted initiatives in the Americas region. AD also deployed a desk officer to support DESA’s team to take notes and exchange views on the EGM’s recommendations to the UNPFII.

With regards to the UNPFII recommendation #21, in Colombia DPPA has supported the efforts of the Government to fully realize the objectives of the “ethnic chapter” of the 2016 Final Peace Agreement. The “ethnic chapter” sets forth considerations, principles and safeguards to ensure that the ethnic approach is applied in a crosscutting manner in peacebuilding efforts. Its inclusion in the Agreement resulted from strong calls by ethnic organizations in Colombia – Indigenous, Afro-Colombian, Raizal, Palenquero, and Roma communities – and has been recognized as a pioneering development. However, its implementation has been lagging. In October 2022, the parties to the Agreement requested that the verification of the implementation of the ethnic chapter be added to the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, which is backstopped by DPPA. In a letter dated 9 December 2022 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2022/940), the Secretary-General indicated that the full implementation of the ethnic chapter is critical to consolidating peace by addressing deep-rooted patterns of inequality and exclusion of rural regions and ethnic peoples that have perpetuated, and been exacerbated by, the armed conflict. **The Security Council expressed its intent to consider swiftly the request for the expansion of the Verification Mission’s mandate.** [text in yellow to be updated closer to publication, since the Security Council is meeting 11 January 2023 and may issue a resolution on the mandate expansion].

Question 2

Please provide a brief overview of actions taken or planned in 2022 to implement the [UN System-Wide Action Plan \(SWAP\) on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).

The work of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs’ Peacebuilding Support Office (DPPA/PBSO) contributes to the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan on Indigenous Peoples, especially regarding supporting national actors, including civil society, in advancing the rights, inclusion and participation of Indigenous Peoples in political and peacebuilding processes.

The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) supports peacebuilding at the local and community level, alongside preventive engagement at the national level, combining the efforts of the UN with those of civil society organizations. In some of the countries where PBF invests, this includes initiatives that specifically support Indigenous Peoples. In Guatemala, the Fund has long supported projects with a strong focus on Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous women. In 2022, the fund approved new projects that emphasize Indigenous territories and the consolidation of peace infrastructures. In Honduras, the 2022 PBF Strategic Results Framework includes targets to address land conflicts and promote the participation of vulnerable groups, including Indigenous Peoples. Similarly, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, one of the outcomes of the PBF 2022 Strategic Results Framework for the province of Tanganyika focuses on the issue of improving relations and equitable access to resources between Twa and Bantou communities. This builds on previous PBF engagement in the Democratic Republic of Congo supporting geographical areas that host larger communities of Twa people. In Colombia, the PBF is supporting peacebuilding initiatives in communities prioritized in the framework of the 2016 Final Peace Agreement, including Indigenous communities affected by violence in the context of the internal armed conflict.

In 2022 the PBF supported the implementation of projects designed under the Fund's competitive Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI) theme focusing on the protection of civic spaces. A total of seven projects worth US\$9.3 million were approved under this theme notably regarding land, Indigenous Peoples and environmental issues. The Fund's 2022 GYPI focuses on supporting women's civil society organizations, groups, and networks in strengthening their institutional capacity for sustainable contribution to peacebuilding, as well as fostering youth-inclusive political processes and promoting the political participation of diverse young people. As of November 2022, the preliminary results of the competitive GYPI led to the approval of 30 projects totaling US\$50.5 million; 15 of these projects focused on gender equality and 15 on youth empowerment, with some involving Indigenous Peoples .

In 2022, DPPA granted a Sabbatical Leave (SL) of four months to a Staff Member with the Americas Division (AD) to conduct research on climate security and Indigenous issues in Central America. The SL was supported by the German think-tank Adelphi. The SL was instrumental to deepen Americas Division work on climate security and its nexus with the role that Indigenous Peoples can play to mitigate and prevent climate-related risks. As a by-product of the research, DPPA [published](#) an article, both in English and Spanish, featuring an interview with a Guatemalan environmental leader to showcase the importance of supporting the efforts of Indigenous women to protect the environment and strengthen climate change resilience. Moreover, the article was published to mark the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, which this year raised awareness about the role of Indigenous women in the preservation and transmission of traditional knowledge.

In 2022, the Americas Division, in its capacity as Focal Point on Indigenous issues, attended the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to strengthen its engagement with the Forum, relevant UN AFPs as well as Member States. DPPA also held meetings with the Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the UN Special Rapporteurs on the Rights of

Indigenous Peoples to raise awareness and strengthen DPPA's analysis on Indigenous issues. AD also continued to work closely with RCs and UNCTs on prevention initiatives including Indigenous Peoples.