

ECOSOC – 2025 Management Segment
10-11 June 2025

Talking points for PFII Chair 11 June 2025 AM session

Intervention 1 (3 mins):

How can the voices, knowledge, and priorities of Indigenous Peoples be more systematically integrated into coordinated and inclusive SDG implementation across the ECOSOC system?

General recommendations

- Indigenous Peoples have a wealth of knowledge that can enrich all areas of work across the ECOSOC system.
- It is important that Indigenous Peoples participate in these spaces. This can be improved by:
 - Allocating dedicated funding and technical support to Indigenous Peoples' organizations to meaningfully engage in SDG processes.
 - Supporting Indigenous-led data collection and indicators that reflect Indigenous Peoples' priorities and worldviews, including for instance, ensuring Indigenous Peoples' inclusion in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).
 - Promoting dialogue that respects Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems alongside scientific approaches.
 - Involving Indigenous Peoples in co-designing policies and programs, ensuring that Free, Prior, and Informed Consent is upheld.
 - Tailoring SDG strategies to the diverse contexts, globally, of Indigenous Peoples by recognizing their governance systems and development visions and priorities.
 - Encouraging Member States to report on Indigenous Peoples' inclusion in their national SDG strategies, including reporting during the annual High-Level Political Forum.

These are some ideas but I want to end off with a recommendation coming out of our most recent report that relates to this topic:

- **Ensure Inclusive Decision-Making and Legal Recognition:**

Indigenous Peoples must be fully included in decision-making processes, with targeted efforts to eliminate structural barriers, violence, and discrimination—particularly against Indigenous Two-Spirit individuals. All UN reports, mechanisms, and processes must reflect their experiences and rights. National legislation, policies, and governance should recognize and integrate Indigenous Peoples’ rights and self-determination.

Intervention 2 (3 mins):

What are the key ways the Forum is helping strengthen accountability and multilateralism through its advisory role to ensure no one is left behind in a rapidly changing world?

- The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is a vital subsidiary body of ECOSOC, providing a unique space for advancing Indigenous Peoples' rights and development within the UN system.
- Each year, more than 1000 Indigenous Peoples from across the globe congregate at the UN HQ to, through this platform, bring forward critical issues, shape global discussions, and influence decision-making.
- The Forum actively promotes the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which is foundational to ensuring Indigenous Peoples’ rights are respected in all development efforts. This includes advocating for free, prior and informed consent, self-determination, territorial land rights, and cultural preservation.
- The annual sessions of the Forum serve as platforms for bringing visibility to Indigenous Peoples’ Issues and underscores potential solutions to overcoming challenges. Facilitated dialogue among Indigenous Peoples, Member States, UN agencies, and participants from Indigenous Peoples organization highlight progress and gaps in the implementation of Indigenous Peoples’ rights, generate specific, actionable and measurable recommendations, and foster transparency and mutual accountability.
- There is always room for improvement to ensure that no one is left behind. To conclude, our most recent report includes the following recommendation:

- **Strengthen Indigenous Women's and Youth Engagement:** UN entities, Member States, and partners are urged to provide sustained funding and support for meaningful Indigenous youth participation across all relevant UN forums. Adequate financing will empower youth to contribute to shaping a sustainable and inclusive future.

The UN should enhance the participation of Indigenous women and youth in decision-making processes by investing in capacity-building, facilitating knowledge exchange, and expanding advisory roles across the system.