**Concept note**

**Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

**Report to the General Assembly 2018**

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ SELF-GOVERNANCE**

**Introduction**

In her 2018 report to the General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will look at institutions and systems of indigenous self-governance and autonomy. The aim of the report is to make an overall mapping of institutions of indigenous self-governance and identify good practices as well as challenges that the different models face. The report will be an introductory report to the subject, with which the Special Rapporteur expects to engage further during her mandate.

**Background**

Different self-governance institutions and systems for indigenous peoples exist across the world, including indigenous parliaments and organisations, institutions to ensure indigenous peoples’ participation in decision-making of the State and on matters concerning them, indigenous legal institutions and indigenous self-governance in specific sectors such as related to health, education, culture, justice or the like. Some of these self-governance arrangements are grounded in constitutions, while others are rooted in legislation, treaties or other arrangements.

The well-functioning of these systems is essential for the full realisation of indigenous peoples’ rights more broadly, and in particular their right to self-determination and development. In the era of the Sustainable Development Goals, the indigenous systems of self-governance and autonomy will furthermore play an essential role in ensuring that the implementation of the sustainable development framework will be relevant for indigenous peoples; guided by indigenous values and in line with the rights of indigenous peoples.

While good practices of indigenous self-governance exist, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples continues to hear accounts from indigenous peoples highlighting the multiple implementation obstacles these systems face. The ability to self-govern is furthermore under increased pressure by globalisation and the continued quest for natural resources on the lands and territories of indigenous peoples.

The right to autonomy and self-government is referred to in Article 4 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples stating that ”*indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions*”. The UN Declaration furthermore expands on this right across the various thematic articles related to the rights of indigenous peoples to maintain their juridical, social, political, economic, cultural and other systems and institutions.

**Call for submissions**

With this notice, we call for submission of inputs to inform the 2018 General Assembly report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, on the topic of indigenous peoples’ self-governance.

In particular, the Special Rapporteur seeks inputs on some of the following areas:

* Examples of institutions and systems of indigenous self-governance, including indigenous governments and parliaments, indigenous organisations, indigenous traditional systems of governance, systems for indigenous participation in State decision-making or sectoral self-governance within the education, health, culture, justice, economic and social development or other sectors.
* The legal basis of the indigenous self-governing institutions (whether they are rooted in constitutions, legislation, policies or on other grounds) and the cooperation between the concerned indigenous institutions and the State.
* Main challenges faced by the indigenous self-governance institutions and systems
* Mechanisms to ensure representation of different indigenous peoples and subgroups of indigenous peoples (women, youth, indigenous peoples with disabilities, elderly, minority groups of indigenous peoples and others) in the indigenous self-governance institutions
* Examples of good practices of indigenous self-governance and their impact on the rights and well-being of the concerned indigenous peoples
* Examples of indigenous self-governance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Kindly submit maximum 5 pages with inputs on relevant areas.

Please note your name and contact information on the submission.

The submission should be sent to indigenous@ohchr.org.

Deadline by 31st of May 2018.