

First Intersessional meeting on concrete ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Human Rights Council

Programme of Work

Palais des Nations, Room XX

18-19 July 2024

Thursday 18 July

10:00-10:45: Opening of the intersessional meeting

- Opening by the President of the Council
- Traditional opening ceremony by an Indigenous Elder
- Opening remarks by Abdoul Aziz Thioye, Chief of the Rule of Law, Equality and Non-discrimination Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Opening remarks by the Co-facilitators
 - Binota Moy Dhamai (Indigenous Co-facilitator)
 - H.E. Amanda Gorely, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia (State Co-facilitator)
- Opening remarks by H.E. Ángela Chávez Bietti, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Guatemala, on behalf of the core group of the Human Rights Council resolution on Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples

10:45-13:00: Session 1 – Stocktaking of gaps and good practices regarding Indigenous Peoples participation in the United Nations system

- Presentation by Hernan Vales, Chief, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
 - Stocktaking of gaps and good practices
 - Overview of recommendations stemming from 2022 workshop
- Presentation by Darío Mejía Montalvo, Member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Speakers' list

13:00-15:00: Break

15:00-17:00: Session 2 – Accreditation principles – Guiding question 1 (see below)

- Presentation by Kenneth Deer, Co-Chair of the Indigenous Coordinating Body
- Speakers' list for guiding question 1

17:00 – 18:00: Session 3 - Accreditation criteria – Guiding question 2 (see below)

- Presentation by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Speakers' list for guiding question 2

Friday 19 July

10:00 - 11:30: Session 3 – Accreditation criteria – Guiding question 2 (continued)

- Speakers' list for guiding question 2 (continued)

11:30 – 13:00: Session 4 – Accreditation mechanism – Guiding question 3 (see below)

- Presentation by Sheryl Lightfoot, member of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Speakers' list for guiding question 3

13:00 - 15:00: Break

15:00 - 16:30: Session 5 - Accreditation mechanism – Guiding question 4 (see below)

- Presentation by Sara Olsvig, Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, on behalf of the Indigenous Coordinating Body
- Speakers' list for guiding question 4

16:30 - 17:30: Conclusions and recommendations, including programme of work for the second intersessional meeting

- Speakers' list

17:30 - 18:00: Co-facilitators' summary and closure and traditional closing ceremony

Guiding Questions

1. The 2022 HRC Expert Workshop Report ([A/HRC/53/44](#)) recommended that accreditation criteria should be objective, consistent, transparent, based on the rights of self-identification and self-determination, and flexible to account for the diversity of forms of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions including, but not limited to, Indigenous governments, Indigenous parliaments, councils, assemblies and traditional authorities. Participants in the workshop recognized that defining accreditation criteria would be complex, given the substantial differences existing in the seven Indigenous sociocultural regions. Criteria may not be all met in every case, taking into consideration the differences among regions. Representatives from each region would be best placed to identify those who qualified as Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples had the capacity to recognise each other and were able to distinguish genuine representatives.

Noting the outcomes of the 2022 HRC Expert Workshop report (A/HRC/53/44), what accreditation principles should be included in the accreditation process?

2. The 2022 HRC Expert Workshop Report ([A/HRC/53/44](#)) recommended that accreditation criteria could include but are not limited to: being descended from Indigenous Peoples; identification as belonging to an Indigenous People and being accepted as such by that Indigenous People; the

nature of the representativeness of, and the accountability to, the Indigenous People represented; due establishment of the Indigenous Peoples' representative institution; and ability to participate in the processes and mechanisms of United Nations bodies. Participants in the workshop also recognised criteria could include their relationship to land, and having their own language, culture, spirituality and laws, and the capacity to enforce those laws.

Noting the outcomes of the 2022 HRC Expert Workshop report (A/HRC/53/44), what criteria should be taken into consideration for the accreditation of Indigenous Peoples?

3. The 2022 HRC Expert Workshop Report ([A/HRC/53/44](#)) recommended that an accreditation mechanism should be led by, and consist of, a majority of self-selected Indigenous Peoples' representatives from the seven sociocultural regions. Participants in the workshop recognized that the accreditation mechanism should be fully resourced. Some envisaged the possibility of providing the mechanism with its own secretariat, in particular the mechanism of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance for the National Human Rights Institutions or the accreditation process of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, were considered suitable models.

Noting the outcomes of the 2022 HRC Expert Workshop report (A/HRC/53/44):

- ***What key features should an accreditation mechanism include?***
- ***How could existing UN bodies be adapted or expanded to better facilitate the accreditation of Indigenous Peoples?***

4. The 2022 HRC Expert Workshop Report ([A/HRC/53/44](#)) recommended the mechanism should take decisions by simple majority that are final and not subject to validation by other bodies. Organizations whose requests are rejected should be provided with the reasons for the rejection. The mechanism should include an appeal procedure to address complaints arising from issues relating to accreditation rejections. The work of the accreditation mechanism should be transparent, independent, inclusive (by taking into account the diversity of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions), based on the fundamental principles of self-determination and self-identification, and not undermine existing means of participation.

Noting the outcomes of the 2022 HRC Expert Workshop report (A/HRC/53/44):

- ***What elements should guide the work of the accreditation mechanism?***
- ***What good practices could be adapted from existing accreditation mechanisms?***