

Global Indigenous Women's Caucus

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues - Writing an
Intervention

Presentation by American Indian Law Alliance & TONATIERRA - An Embassy of Indigenous Peoples

What is UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

UNPFII

- The United Nations Permanent Forum is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), with a mandate to discuss Indigenous Issues related to the following six mandated areas of the UNPFII
 - Economic and Social Development
 - Education
 - Culture
 - Health
 - Environment
 - Human Rights

Permanent Forum Mandate

- Provide expert advice and recommendations on Indigenous issues to the Economic and Social Council as well as to programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations. The Economic and Social Council shall raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities related to Indigenous issues within the UN system and may prepare and disseminate information on Indigenous issues.
- The Permanent Forum is one of three UN bodies that is mandated to deal specifically with Indigenous peoples issues. The other two are the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Speakers List & Written Interventions

Week 1- Signing up for Agenda Items

Register for speakers list Monday 15 April in Conference Room E Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30pm for the following agenda item:

- Item: 4 Discussion on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights), with reference to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Register for speakers list Monday 15 April in Conference Room E Time: 5-6pm for the following agenda item:

- Item: 3 Special theme of session: “Enhancing Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: emphasizing the voices of Indigenous youth

Speakers List & Written Interventions

Week 2 - Signing up for Agenda Items

Register for speakers list Tuesday 16th of April in Conference Room E Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30pm for the following agenda item:

- Items: 5 (g) Thematic dialogues: financing of Indigenous Peoples' work and participation in the context of inter alia, development, climate, environment and biodiversity

Register for speakers list Monday 22nd of April in Conference Room E Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30pm for the following agenda item:

- Items: 5 (d) Human rights dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; annual review of progress on the implementation of general recommendation No.39 (2022)

Register for speakers list Monday 22nd of April in Conference Room E Time: 5-6pm for the following agenda item:

- Item: 6 Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and emerging issues

Interventions

- There are 13 funds and programmes, 15 specialized agencies, 5 regional commissions and 6 training institutes within the UN systems and agencies. There are 29 Inter agency coordination mechanisms. It is important to familiarize yourself with the objectives and mandates of each these agencies and systems. This will help in finding the agency and UN body you will name in your intervention.
- In order to get the best results and to have the most effective participation include the appropriate agencies and systems as part of your recommendations in the Interventions and statements submitted. Make sure that you name the UN agencies that can best assist in dealing with the issues you are facing. (FAO, WIPO, UNESCO, etc)
- Reviewing the Agenda- It is important to review the entire agenda and decide if you will be writing an intervention for each agenda item, or if you will write one intervention to address all the agenda items. Typically it is recommended to write an intervention for each agenda item, however many are not afforded the opportunity to be present for the entire session and may choose to write one intervention to address various and/or all agenda items

Interventions cont...

- Making a recommendation: When writing an intervention, it is important to raise awareness to the issue you are discussing, but it is equally important to provide a recommendation to address the issue. This is where you present ideas for a resolution / suggest remedies / action steps. The Recommendations section is key. It is the most important part of your intervention and what will be included in the final report of the UNPFII that is submitted to the ECOSOC.
- Recommendation Database: When making specific recommendations for UN agencies and/or bodies to do a study, write a report, or take a specific action, it is helpful to find out if there has already been a similar recommendation made by the Permanent Forum, or if the UN agency and or body has already taken action and what the outcome is. At this point you can call for further action, or reiterate and call attention to the Permanent Forums Recommendation. The recommendation database is a helpful tool in locating past recommendations and followup actions if any have been taken. The recommendations database can be found on the Permanent forum website: <https://unpfii.desa.un.org/> , CHIRAPAQ resource - <https://yanapaq.info/en/>
- Navigating the Recommendations databases: The recommendations database allows you to search for recommendations made by the Permanent Forum by using key words, such as UN agency names (CEDAW, UNESCO), or areas of work (Human Rights, Indigenous Women, Culture, education etc.) The database will give you a summary of the recommendation, the full text that was in the Permanent Forums final report. The UN database no longer provides a description of implementation.

Interventions cont..

- Referencing past recommendations: When referring to a past recommendation include the session report and the paragraph number. It is also helpful to use the actual text of the recommendation made by the Permanent Forum in your intervention.
- Language when writing interventions: The UN has its own jargon that is used in reports, studies, etc. It is sometimes difficult to understand and in turn it is challenging for Indigenous Peoples to convey a message or address an issue using the UN language. However challenging, it is important to use this jargon when writing interventions.
- Time Limits: Presenters will have time limits when presenting their interventions, anywhere from 2-3 minutes depending on the amount of people on the speakers list and the discretion of the Chair of the Permanent Forum. It is important to speak slowly and clearly, but in a timely manner when presenting to assist with those translating in the different languages.
 - Participants can make a statement only under the name of the organization they are registered with.
 - Each organization can speak only once under each agenda item

Requesting Studies

- First, request it through an intervention during the Permanent Forum and ask the Permanent Forum members to carry out a study. Ask the Forum member or members that you wish to direct this to prior to your intervention and determine if they are agreeable. Make sure your request is succinct.
- Secondly, you can ask one of the UN agencies to conduct the study. We suggest that the agency and request is included in your intervention.
- Request one of the various research and training institutes established by the General Assembly to perform independent research. Some of these, such as the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, only report to the General Assembly.
- The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, or EMRIP also conducts studies.

Basics of Writing an Intervention

- Thank the presiding official by saying "Thank you Mr./ Madame/ Honorable Chair/ President..." It is also appropriate to recognize and thank the other members of the Permanent Forum.
- Briefly introduce yourself and your nation and/or organization.
- Provide a brief narrative statement about what issue is being addressed, name the agenda item, and mention the key point of the intervention.
- List (and number) your Recommendations to the PFII. Remember to be realistic in your recommendations. Do not ask for actions or create recommendations that cannot be met by the PFII or that are inconsistent with the UN system.
- Narrative – you can discuss the issue further, more in depth, with key examples from real, urgent situations. Here you can speak about the nature of the concern, and how the issue is currently affecting your tribal nation, your homelands, the continuity of your culture, etc. This is also where you can elaborate on linking your issue to the special theme if any, and/or the specific Agenda item/number, provide data and statistics, and relevant quotes.
- Conclusion: A brief closing statement including thanking the Chair and the Permanent Forum again, and end your presentation.