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#### **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

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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 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

### Update on indigenous peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Note by the Secretariat

#### Summary

The present report provides an update on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from the perspective of indigenous peoples. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as an expert body of the Economic and Social Council, plays a significant role in providing expert advice on how to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples are effectively accounted for and realized in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In the report, the Permanent Forum sets outs key elements of General Assembly resolution 74/135 on the rights of indigenous peoples and the activities and outcomes of the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development, including an overview of the voluntary national reviews by Member States of progress achieved towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as they pertain to indigenous peoples, among other stakeholders. The report concludes with highlights from global reports on the sustainable development of indigenous peoples and reflections on the theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development for 2020, "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development".

<sup>\*</sup> E/C.19/2020/1.





#### I. Introduction

- When the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, in 2015, it established a transformative universal global agenda, serving as a call to action. The Agenda includes six specific references to indigenous peoples, including a commitment to doubling the agricultural output of indigenous small-scale farmers (target 2.3) and a commitment to ensuring equal access to education for indigenous children (target 4.5). In addition to the direct references, many of the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets are pertinent for indigenous peoples. The 2030 Agenda also encourages Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels that are country-led and country-driven and stresses the need for indigenous peoples, among other stakeholders, to participate in such reviews and follow-ups. The overarching framework of the 2030 Agenda contains elements that articulate key development concerns of indigenous peoples. The 2030 Agenda, with its overall focus on reducing inequalities, is of particular relevance to indigenous peoples, who are almost universally in disadvantaged situations vis-à-vis other segments of the population.
- 2. In the 2030 Agenda, States are also called upon to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts (target 17.18). In that regard, the disaggregation of data according to indigenous or ethnic identity across all Sustainable Development Goals is also to be included in the monitoring of progress for indigenous peoples.
- 3. In the 2030 Agenda, Member States also expressed a strong commitment to empowering and engaging indigenous peoples in the implementation of the Goals (General Assembly resolution 70/1, para. 79). In addition to specific references to indigenous peoples, the 2030 Agenda contains a strong commitment to "leave no one behind" and "reach the furthest behind first", which presents an opportunity for indigenous peoples to contribute to its implementation, as they continue to lag behind on most social, economic and political indicators throughout the world.
- 4. In the 2030 Agenda, the international community reaffirmed its commitment to international law and emphasized that the Agenda was to be implemented in a manner that was consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law. The process of implementing the 2030 Agenda presents an unprecedented opportunity for the experiences and perspectives of marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples, to be made visible and to be heard. Although the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is not specifically mentioned in the 2030 Agenda, it remains the primary international instrument for indigenous peoples, providing a road map for incorporating the rights of indigenous peoples into equitable, participatory and people-centred sustainable development.
- 5. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is an expert body of the Economic and Social Council and plays a central role in ensuring that the rights and priorities of indigenous peoples are considered in every aspect of efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The present report follows up on the update on indigenous peoples and the 2030 Agenda that was prepared for the eighteenth session of the Forum (E/C.19/2019/2). It includes substantive inputs from the Permanent Forum for the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum on sustainable

development to be convened in 2020 under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.<sup>1</sup>

6. The present review is carried out against the backdrop of the broader assessment of the implementation of the Goals conducted by Member States when they convened in September 2019 at Headquarters for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit. At that time, Member States concluded that, four years following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the world was not on track to achieve the Agenda. With 10 years left to achieve the Goals, Member States unanimously adopted a political declaration, entitled "Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development: political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit" (General Assembly resolution 74/4, annex) and pledged to mobilize financing, enhance national implementation and strengthen institutions to achieve the Goals by 2030. The Secretary-General further urged Member States to live up to their commitments and issued a global call for a decade of action to mobilize for the 2030 Agenda. He announced that the first annual platform to drive progress towards the Goals would take place in September 2020 and that annual platforms would continue to be convened each year as part of the decade of action.

### II. Gaps and challenges in achieving the 2030 Agenda for indigenous peoples

- 7. As an advisory body of the Economic and Social Council on indigenous issues, the Permanent Forum includes the consideration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an item on the agenda of its annual sessions. Many of the issues addressed under other agenda items are also of direct relevance to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 8. In the report on its eighteenth session (E/2019/43-E/C.19/2019/10), the Permanent Forum made several recommendations and observations relating to gaps and challenges for indigenous peoples in relation to the 2030 Agenda, on the basis of the key issues emerging from expert panel discussions and dialogues that had been focused on the generation, transmission and protection of traditional knowledge. In its report, the Forum noted that, although there was increasing awareness of the importance of traditional knowledge in international forums related to climate change (Goal 13), environmental degradation (Goal 8), food security and genetic resources (Goals 2 and 15), as well as science, technology and innovation (Goal 17), the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples nevertheless remained threatened by misappropriation, misuse and marginalization. The Forum stated that urgent action was needed to ensure that such knowledge systems did not disappear and called for indigenous knowledge to be recognized as an equal source of information in the interscientific dialogue to meet challenges ranging from sustaining biological and cultural diversity to poverty eradication and ecosystem health.
- 9. The Permanent Forum welcomed the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples to promote and protect their knowledge, in the implementation of article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, regarding traditional knowledge, innovations and practices. The Forum also welcomed steps already taken to include indigenous peoples in the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework

**3/10** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The General Assembly, in its resolution 74/135 on the rights of indigenous peoples, addressed the connection between the 2030 Agenda and indigenous peoples. The Assembly again stressed the need to ensure that no one is left behind and to reach the furthest behind first, including indigenous peoples, who should participate in, contribute to and benefit without discrimination from the implementation of the Agenda. In the resolution, the Assembly also proclaimed the period 2022–2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

to achieve the vision, set out in the Convention, of living in harmony with nature by 2050. The Forum reiterated the importance of data collection and disaggregation for tracking progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in order to ensure that indigenous peoples, who often trail the general population on development indicators, are not left behind.

10. In that vein, the Permanent Forum noted that few countries referred to indigenous peoples in their voluntary national reviews and urged countries undertaking future voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum on sustainable development to include the perspectives of indigenous peoples under all Sustainable Development Goals.

### III. Monitoring the progress of indigenous peoples in implementing the 2030 Agenda

- 11. As recommended by the Permanent Forum and authorized by the Economic and Social Council in 2018, an international expert group meeting was held in Nairobi from 23 to 25 January 2019, on the theme "Conservation and the rights of indigenous peoples", which centred around Goal 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and Goal 15 (protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss). In the ensuing report (E/C.19/2019/7), experts noted that while there seemed to be strong incentives to engage in conservation, especially financial incentives, amid a growing understanding of the need to address climate change, preserve biological diversity and protect wildlife, there were fewer incentives that channelled conservation efforts towards protecting the rights of indigenous peoples or towards including indigenous peoples as partners in conservation.
- 12. Experts further noted that, in order to address challenges relating to conservation issues, it was crucial that indigenous peoples engage in constructive dialogues with governments, conservation organizations and donors to ensure that the establishment, management and monitoring of conservation areas and activities were carried out in close collaboration with indigenous peoples, respecting their rights to free, prior and informed consent and self-determination. Some experts identified the World Conservation Congress in 2020 as an opportunity for the members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature to commit to a set of principles grounded in a human rights-based approach, guided by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, while remaining faithful to the main objectives and goals of a people-centred conservation model.
- 13. The international expert group set out a number of recommendations for promoting the participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples and their development priorities in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the international, regional and national levels. Recommendations contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of indigenous peoples (A/71/229) and the study to examine conservation and indigenous peoples' human rights conducted in 2018 (E/C.19/2018/9) were also endorsed.
- 14. For its part, the Permanent Forum recognized the urgent need for concerted action to address conservation and the rights of indigenous peoples, and held its second dialogue on the topic during its eighteenth session. The Forum also endorsed the recommendations from the expert group meeting and urged States, conservation organizations, indigenous peoples and United Nations system entities to work together in implementing the recommendations. It further expressed concern about continuing violations of the rights of indigenous peoples in relation to conservation

initiatives, noting that it would continue to advance efforts to develop concrete action to ensure that conservation strategies and programmes were in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

#### A. 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development

- 15. In July 2019, the annual high-level political forum on sustainable development was held in New York under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, under the theme "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality". In accordance with paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, the forum conducted voluntary reviews of the 2030 Agenda, which included reviews submitted by developed and developing countries, as well as relevant United Nations system entities and other stakeholders. It also undertook an in-depth review of progress on six of the Goals: Goal 4, on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong opportunities for all; Goal 8, on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; Goal 10, on reducing inequalities within and among countries; Goal 13, on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and Goal 17, on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.
- 16. As they did in 2017 and 2018, representatives of indigenous peoples participated in the high-level political forum in July 2019. The Permanent Forum was represented at the high-level political forum convened by the General Assembly at the level of Heads of State and Government in September 2019 by one of its Vice-Chairs, Tarcila Rivera Zea, who discussed indigenous perspectives at the Sustainable Development Goals media zone.
- 17. In her summary of the July 2019 high-level political forum (E/HLPF/2019/8), the President of the Economic and Social Council noted, inter alia, that the forum had examined progress in the context of empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality. Regarding Goal 10, she stressed that legal barriers and discrimination were among the biggest challenges to reducing inequality. Many groups, including indigenous peoples, inter alia, were at risk of being left behind if barriers to their full and equal participation in society were not removed. On the issue of the science-policy interface, she urged Governments, academia, the private sector, civil society and others to come together to invest in science for sustainable development mission-driven and innovative approaches that complemented traditional research and noted that such science would be transdisciplinary, incorporating indigenous, local and lay knowledge.
- 18. In its thematic review report on empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality, prepared for the July 2019 high-level political forum, the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals noted that holistic, integrated approaches and strategies were needed and that they should draw on a wide range of forms of knowledge and perspectives, including those of young people and local, traditional and indigenous forms of knowledge, and should be supported by new and emerging technologies (see E/HLPF/2019/6).
- 19. In the report of the Secretary-General on the long-term impact of current trends in the economic, social and environmental areas on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2019/66), prepared for the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, it was noted that some of the worst

20-01437 **5/10** 

impacts of climate change on sustainable development were expected to be felt among those who depended on agricultural and coastal activities for their livelihoods, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable social groups.

- 20. The Secretary-General, in his report on empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality (E/2019/65), which was also prepared for the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Council, stated that implementing the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals required the elimination of all forms of discrimination, the reduction of economic inequalities that undermined human rights and the empowerment and inclusion of the people who were furthest behind. He also stated that national and international human rights institutions could play a role in exposing the exclusionary and discriminatory practices faced by indigenous and ethnic groups and reveal the policy failings and shortcomings of public and private actors in respecting rights and effectively discharging their respective responsibilities.
- 21. Three side events on indigenous issues were featured during the July 2019 high-level political forum: an event on inclusion and empowerment of indigenous peoples: realities on the ground, organized by the indigenous peoples major group on 11 July; an event on farmers and indigenous peoples joining hands to boost the achievement of Goal 13 and its link to Goal 2 on 12 July, organized by the World Farmers' Organization; and an event on peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16 on 16 July, organized by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

### B. Voluntary national reviews at the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development

- 22. In 2019, 13 out of 47 Member States<sup>2</sup> referred to indigenous peoples in their voluntary national reviews. In their respective reviews, those Member States, on the whole, emphasized that the key to ensuring the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the principle of leaving no one behind centred on symbiotic partnerships forged with civil society, the private sector, academia, relevant State entities and indigenous communities.
- 23. Chile stated that, in implementing the 2030 Agenda, the concerns of indigenous groups were among its most pertinent challenges and were being addressed through national agreements with multiple actors and through innovative initiatives such as "Compromiso País", in which the public and private sectors worked together to find solutions to complex social problems. "Compromiso País" included the "no one left behind" objective and was one of the main examples of alliances for integral, sustainable and inclusive development in Chile.
- 24. Guyana reported on its people-focused and people-driven agenda for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and noted that all stakeholders the private sector, civil society, communities, especially indigenous communities and people in vulnerable situations, and development partners were involved to ensure that no one was left behind. A number of interventions, including those targeting indigenous communities in remote areas, had been implemented to reduce poverty levels in both coastal and hinterland regions. Guyana noted that, in pursuing the Goals, it would continue to take deliberate steps and actions to ensure that all segments of its population were counted, including indigenous peoples and those furthest behind or who currently had the fewest opportunities.

<sup>2</sup> Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Congo, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, New Zealand, Philippines, South Africa, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Vanuatu.

- 25. The Congo reported that the implementation of the principle of leaving no one behind was reflected in the strategic axes of its national development plan (2018–2022). Regarding the inclusion of indigenous peoples, the strategy of the Congo was focused on: (a) promoting and facilitating access to primary and secondary education, and literacy of in-school and out-of-school children and adolescents; (b) access to quality health and nutrition services, HIV/AIDS prevention and care services, and improved drinking water and sanitation and hygiene services; (c) the defence of the cultural identity of indigenous peoples and their access to land and natural resources, so as to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in sustainable forest management and the protection of their usufructuary rights; (d) access to microcredit to promote income-generating activities and employment; (e) and raising awareness among the Bantu with the aim of changing social norms and reducing discriminatory attitudes and actions.
- 26. New Zealand reported that the voluntary national review reflected its context and that the special status of Maori as the *tangata whenua*, indigenous people of New Zealand, was of profound importance and fundamental to its national identity. The review incorporated the concept of *kaitiakitanga*, or guardianship, of its natural environment. New Zealand noted that it wished to see the full range of its indigenous ecosystems and species thrive from the mountains to the ocean depths, with *Māori iwi* and *hapū as kaitiaki* as active partners in managing biodiversity. New Zealand also announced that it was developing a national policy statement on indigenous biodiversity, which would set out objectives and policies to improve how regional councils and territorial authorities managed and protected indigenous biodiversity on both public and private land.
- 27. South Africa reported that its national development plan was closely aligned to the 2030 Agenda, which prioritized the elimination of poverty, the reduction of inequality and growing an inclusive economy by 2030. In the spirit of leaving no one behind, its science, technology and innovation system continued to invest in programmes that also advanced the inclusion of indigenous knowledge holders and innovators.
- 28. Although most countries focused on developing targeted policies and programmes aimed at benefiting indigenous peoples, several also engaged in active partnerships with indigenous peoples to design and implement such policies and programmes. Despite the designation of 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages, no activities were mentioned in this regard in the national voluntary reviews. Furthermore, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was only referred to in one review (Timor-Leste). Reporting on good practices and the inclusion of indigenous peoples under each Sustainable Development Goal, as repeatedly recommended by the Permanent Forum, for the most part, remains very limited and rare.

### C. Global reports on sustainable development, including for indigenous peoples

29. In a note by the Secretariat transmitting the input from the fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (E/HLPF/2019/3/Add.4), the key messages contained an emphasis on the need to strengthen information systems in order to ensure the availability of reliable and timely data that were disaggregated for gender, age and disability, in particular, labour market data and statistics, and a need to ensure non-discrimination and equality of treatment for all workers, including indigenous peoples. It was also noted that appropriate measures and stronger action were needed to enhance access to education, health and employment opportunities for

20-01437 **7/10** 

girls and young women, vulnerable and other marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples, by integrating those issues into national development plans and budgets.

- 30. At its sixth session, the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development stressed that, with economic prosperity and social progress in the region threatened by environmental degradation and climate change, there was an urgency to act on climate change. However, while the transition to a low greenhouse gas economy was expected to lead to a net creation of jobs, including green jobs, the challenge remained to ensure that the greening of economies did not threaten the livelihoods of marginalized groups, such as indigenous peoples. The Asia-Pacific Forum also recommended strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems to collaborate with diverse stakeholders on disaggregated data collection, with a specific focus on vulnerable groups, including indigenous groups. Lastly, representatives of stakeholders expressed their views that leaving no one behind was of particular relevance to indigenous peoples and marginalized peoples, including youth and people affected by conflicts, disasters and human rights abuses (see E/HLPF/2019/3/Add.2).
- 31. In the 2019 Quadrennial Report on Regional Progress and Challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group for the region proposed a list of approaches for a comprehensive response to the challenge of inclusion, inter alia, an intercultural approach favouring integration and inclusion, noting that in all analyses of poverty and exclusion, regardless of the development indicator used, indigenous peoples appeared to be furthest behind.
- 32. In *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019*, it is noted that, from 1 January to 31 October 2018, the United Nations recorded and verified 397 killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists in 41 countries. An average of nine people were murdered weekly on the front lines of efforts to build more inclusive and equal societies, an increase from the average of one victim per day from 2015 to 2017. One in two such victims had been working with communities on issues involving land, the environment, poverty, the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples, or the impact of business activities.
- 33. The indigenous peoples major group for sustainable development produced a report for 2019 entitled "Inclusion, equality and empowerment to achieve sustainable development: realities of indigenous peoples". In it, the major group noted that the voluntary national reviews of many States reflected higher rates of incidence of poverty, illiteracy, early marriage and health issues in remote areas. The group stressed that the majority of indigenous peoples in developing countries were in rural areas and that the national plans of Governments did not reflect targeted interventions to address those challenges, including sufficient budget allocation. On the contrary, economic growth targets in the territories of indigenous peoples were extractive in nature and the protection of their rights to their lands and resources and their effective participation in decision-making were not fully granted. Thus, indigenous peoples faced serious threats not only in the context of being left behind but also of being pushed behind in the name of national economic growth for sustainable development.
- 34. In its report, of the group further noted that attaining Goal 16 remained a challenge for many indigenous peoples, in particular with respect to the provision of legal identity for all, including birth registration. Many State bodies did not have facilities in remote areas for birth registration. At the same time, large numbers of indigenous people in remote areas had difficulty in complying with requirements for legal registration and birth registration owing to high rates of illiteracy, language barriers and a lack of assistance from government agencies. The lack of legal identity

reduced their mobility and access to basic government social services, such as health care, education and employment. They were also more vulnerable to abuse, discrimination, exploitation and violence and had no recourse to justice. This was particularly the case for indigenous women and girls. Furthermore, the lack of data disaggregation by ethnicity was contributing to the invisibility of indigenous peoples, as they remained marginalized and discriminated against.

35. The group emphasized that there was therefore a need for States to prioritize capacity-building and the allocation of sufficient resources for data disaggregation, including by ethnicity. In the recommendations section of the report, the group concluded that the continuing violation of the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples posed a major obstacle to ensuring the pledge of leaving no one behind.

## D. International expert group meeting on peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16

- 36. From 19 to 21 November 2019, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized an international expert group meeting on the theme "Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16" in Chiang Mai, Thailand. A separate note by the Secretariat thereon (E/C.19/2020/7) is being submitted to the Permanent Forum at its nineteenth session. At the meeting, experts stressed that, in order to achieve truly lasting peace, the marginalization and discrimination of indigenous peoples, as well as the expropriation of their lands, must end; their own conflict resolution systems must be recognized and applied to their specific situations; and national laws and peace accords must guarantee their rights, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- 37. It was reiterated that Sustainable Development Goal 16 was the basis for the attainment of many of the rights enunciated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Discussions were firmly grounded within the context of the implementation of the Goals and how indigenous peoples and their organizations could influence the process and the outcomes.
- 38. The report of the Forum containing a summary of the discussions and any recommendations made by the Forum on this issue will be submitted as an input to the 2020 high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

# E. Theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development for 2020: "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development"

- 39. The participants at the high-level political forum convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council at its 2020 session will consider the theme "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development", which will focus on the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals. At the time of writing, 50 countries, including 23 that had participated previously, had volunteered to present national reviews.
- 40. The United Nations system has turned its attention to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the

20-01437 **9/10** 

reorganization of the development system at both the country level and at Headquarters. The reorganization provides new opportunities to advance the implementation of the Goals for indigenous peoples, as detailed in the note by the Secretariat to the nineteenth session of the Permanent Forum on the update on the promotion and application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (E/C.19/2020/6).

41. In the context of the reforms, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Division for Inclusive Social Development, has also been expanding its technical assistance to support Member States, upon their request, in meeting the Goals, with a focus on leaving no one behind. For example, the Division, together with United Nations partners, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), is currently cooperating closely with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development of Uganda and its National Indigenous Peoples' Resource Committee on the preparation of an affirmative action programme on indigenous peoples in Uganda. Since 2016, the Division has also cooperated with the Office of the Vice-President of Namibia to support an extensive participatory process for the finalization and validation of the Government's white paper on the rights of indigenous peoples in Namibia. Such support is provided within the framework of the system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the 2030 Agenda, and includes policy and legislative review, capacity development for government officials and indigenous representatives, and the organization of dialogues that bring together relevant stakeholders.