



23RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

PERMANENT FORUM ON *Indigenous* ISSUES

Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in the context of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: emphasizing the voices of Indigenous youth

15-26 APRIL 2024





JUSTICE COALITION OF *Religious*



This guide was produced by the [Justice Coalition of Religious](#) (JCoR), a coalition of 23 non-governmental organizations that are accredited to collectively represent over 200 congregations of Roman Catholic women and men Religious at the United Nations (UN). For centuries, congregations of Religious have served people who have been rendered poor, vulnerable, oppressed, and marginalized by existing global systems. Through our membership in JCoR, we have united with our sister and brother organizations to enhance collaboration among our members – at UN Headquarters and around the world – in our common mission: to improve quality of life for people who are living in poverty and to enhance our stewardship of the natural environment.

The primary aim of our collaboration is to strengthen the capacity of Catholic Religious and their partners to address the root causes of human and environmental suffering.

We work toward this goal by coordinating national, regional, and global efforts of Religious to call on political leaders to take action for a just, equitable, and rights-based implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), the United Nations' Agenda for 2015-2030.

We hope these pages will help empower you join us in this mission!



What is UNPFII23?



The [United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) (UNPFII) was established in 2000 as a response to demands from Indigenous Peoples for a high-level permanent body at the UN. It possesses the mandate to advise the [Economic and Social Council](#) (ECOSOC) on the concerns of Indigenous Peoples and to discuss issues faced by Indigenous Peoples related to economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health, and human rights. More specifically, the Forum:

- Raises awareness and promotes the integration and coordination of activities related to Indigenous Peoples within the UN system
- Prepares and disseminates information on topics concerning Indigenous Peoples
- Promotes respect for and full application of the provisions of the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) and its followup
- Provides expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the ECOSOC

Over the years, the Forum has become a focal point for indigenous matters at the UN and continues to serve as a meeting place for Indigenous Peoples, Member States, civil society, and other stakeholders from around the world. This year, the UN will hold the 23rd Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues ([UNPFII23](#)), with a special emphasis on the central theme of "*Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in the context of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: emphasizing the voices of Indigenous youth.*"

UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The UN General Assembly adopted the [Declaration](#) in 2007. It established a "universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being" of Indigenous Peoples, and it stands today as the most comprehensive global instrument detailing the rights of Indigenous Peoples in international law and policy, setting guidelines for the recognition, protection, and promotion of these rights.

DECLARATION

TOPICS *to follow closely throughout the forum*

Self-determination for Indigenous Peoples

Member States must recognize the governance systems of Indigenous Peoples as a pre-requisite to protect their [rights](#) and self-determination. In addition, it is incumbent on governments and policy-makers to ensure Indigenous Peoples are able to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes that impact their lives. Their free, prior, and informed consent is key at all stages of policy and project development.

Indigenous Youth

Indigenous youth are powerful catalysts for change, and they will inherit the responsibility of protecting Earth for future generations. Accordingly, we must champion their voices and design mechanisms for engagement which encourage their participation in vital decision-making processes.

Financing for Indigenous Peoples

Direct funding mechanisms should be established for Indigenous Peoples to lead their initiatives autonomously, and to ensure equity and equality in access to finance, activities led by Indigenous women and youth should be promoted.

Indigenous Women

Member States must develop comprehensive policies to eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination against Indigenous women and girls in alignment with [general recommendation 39](#) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In addition, governments need to take requisite action to promote meaningful and effective participation of Indigenous women and girls in political and public life at all levels, including promoting access to positions of leadership.



The permanent Forum is a key platform to address pressing challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples. What emerging issues are you following at the UNPFII23? Share your thoughts with us on Facebook and Twitter [@JCoR2030](#)



Forum DETAILS



Click on the following link to view the [official website](#) of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

SCHEDULE

Click on the following link to view the [programme of work](#), which includes:

- Opening and closing sessions
- Discussion on the UNPFII23 theme (see previous page)
- Discussions on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health, and human rights)
- Interactive dialogues with Indigenous Peoples, Member States, UN Agencies, and civil society, including:
 - Regional dialogues
 - Human rights dialogue with the [Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) and the [Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
 - Dialogue on Indigenous platforms established within UN entities
 - Thematic dialogues, including on the financing of Indigenous Peoples' work and participation in the context of development, climate, environment, and biodiversity
- Future work of the Permanent Forum and emerging issues
- Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum

WHEN

15-26 April 2024

WHERE

United Nations Headquarters (Conference Room 4) in New York

FOLLOW ONLINE

Join online to follow the proceedings of UNPFII23 at webtv.un.org (streamed in multiple languages)

SIDE EVENTS

Click on the following link to view the list of official UNPFII23 [side events](#)





Recommended EVENTS

Please visit [JCoR's UNPFII webpage](#) to access a curated list of UNPFII23 parallel events that are recommended by JCoR and our Religious community at the United Nations in New York.

[Click here](#)



Who to follow and tag on
SOCIAL MEDIA



Justice Coalition of Religious

Twitter: [@JCoR2030](#) Facebook: [@JCoR2030](#)

JCoR Members

Click [here](#) to access a Twitter list of JCoR members

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Twitter: [@UN4Indigenous](#) Facebook: [@unpfii](#)

Instagram: [@un4indigenous](#)

NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Facebook: [@NGOCORIP](#)

Your Congregation's NGO at the United Nations

Need help? Find many congregations' NGO's social media details [here](#)

Your government's Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Click [here](#) to access a Twitter list of Permanent Missions to the UN

#WeAreIndigenous

For additional social media resources, including logos, graphics, and messages, visit the official [Trello page](#) for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.



JOIN US IN SOLIDARITY WITH

Indigenous Peoples



Let us pray...

Creator and Sustainer of all life, we lift up the Indigenous Peoples of the world.

Guide our efforts throughout the Permanent Forum, as we advocate in solidarity with our Indigenous sisters and brothers.

Help us collectively cultivate a global community that recognizes the value of Indigenous wisdom, culture, and tradition.

May we pass onto future generations this Earth and all the gifts of Creation that You have provided to us.

Let us elevate Indigenous youth for they are the fruit of the prayers of their ancestors. May the ears and hearts of our policymakers be open to youth voices and the messages they share.

We especially pray for support for Indigenous youth on their path to lead the communities of our future.

Amen.

