



# THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

## North America Regional Dialogue

Thursday 25 April

Conference Room 11

10:00 – 11:15

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will hold a Regional Dialogue for North America during its 23rd session to meet with representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Member States. UN agencies, funds, programmes, regional and national Human Rights Institutions, and academia are also welcome to attend.

The aim of the regional dialogues is to discuss issues of relevance in the countries of the region and identify how to sharpen the focus and impact of the Permanent Forum's analysis and recommendations. The objectives of these dialogues include the following:

- Identify specific issues or challenges for Indigenous Peoples in the region and share lessons learned from Indigenous Peoples, Member States, UN agencies, and other stakeholders
- Provide a space for Indigenous Peoples, Member States, and UN systems to exchange information and perspectives in an informal and constructive setting to facilitate consensus building
- Identify strategic measures that can be taken to advance the rights of Indigenous Peoples at all levels and highlight specific thematic areas and/or emerging issues that the Permanent Forum may wish to focus on at future sessions



**Guiding Themes:**

In preparation for the Dialogue, participants are invited to consider the following guiding themes:

- Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and emphasizing the voices of Indigenous youth
- Assuring international and regional actors demonstrate, through their interventions, actions and funding; an understanding of a "Rights-Based approach" as opposed to a "stakeholder or equity approach" in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This includes Member States, UN agencies, funds, and programmes
- Recognizing the interrelated and holistic nature of health and wellbeing for Indigenous Peoples by prioritizing the health of mother earth, deconstructing neo colonial powers, recognizing sovereignty, supporting self-determination, and acknowledging the need to preserve Indigenous languages and culture within the outcomes of the World Health Assembly's Resolution on Improving the Health of Indigenous Peoples

(The dialogue will begin with introductory remarks and will be moderated by Members of the Permanent Forum of the North American region (Geoffrey Roth, Keith M. Harper). After the opening remarks, participants will be invited to reflect on the guiding themes and discuss the major issues encountered by Indigenous Peoples within the regional and national contexts of North America.

Interventions from States and Indigenous Peoples should be brief and address a specific issue so that the discussions can be conducted in an interactive manner. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and not read pre-written statements.



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## Tentative programme:

1. Welcome remarks by the region's Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
2. Interactive discussion between Members of the Permanent Forum, Indigenous Peoples, Member States, UN Agencies, and representatives of academia
3. Concluding remarks by the region's Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

*Recommendations database of the Permanent Forum: <https://unpfii.desa.un.org/>*

