



Follow up to the UNPFII recommendations: Indigenous Peoples and the Media

Multistakeholder event, 23 April 2024, 1.15 pm – 2.30 pm (EST)

Venue: Meeting Room 4 (CR-4), UN Headquarters Building in New York, USA

Live and on-demand webcast coverage on the UN Web TV website: <http://webtv.un.org>

In the margins of the 23rd session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), UNESCO, in cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research of Griffith University (Australia) and other partners, is organizing a multistakeholder event on the implementation of Article 16 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the follow up to the UNPFII's recommendations.

Background

Building on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the importance of media is enhanced in Article 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) acknowledging Indigenous Peoples' right *"to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination"* and inviting States *"to take effective measures to State-owned media duly reflect indigenous cultural diversity. States, without prejudice to ensuring full freedom of expression, should encourage privately owned media to adequately reflect indigenous cultural diversity"*.

In 2023, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) underlined the need for the examination of national policies, practices, and funding programmes on Indigenous Peoples' media in its report to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The UNPFII also mandated UNESCO in partnership with relevant UN entities and Indigenous Peoples, to conduct a study on Indigenous Peoples and the media and present their findings at its annual session in 2025ⁱ.

A further step was taken in the recent resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council in 2023. Both recalls the necessity of fostering cooperation among Indigenous, commercial, community and public service media. In addition, the recommendations urge Member States to review national policies, practices and funding related to Indigenous Peoples' media and the representation of Indigenous content and services in other media represents a significant shift with important implications for the development of free, pluralistic, and independent media for Indigenous Peoplesⁱⁱ.

Follow up to the recommendation of the UNPFII

To respond to the UNPFII recommendation to prepare a study and present it in April 2025, UNESCO organized a series of consultations with Indigenous Peoples, UN system entities, media organizations and civil society (UNPFII Report, 22nd session, E/2023/43-E/C.19/2023/7, paragraph 10).

The outcomes of the first multi-stakeholder consultative meeting "Creating an enabling environment for free and independent Indigenous community media" were published in June 2023ⁱⁱⁱ. Seven recommendations were developed based on the speakers' inputs. The second consultative meeting "The launch of a thematic study on Indigenous Peoples and the Media" was organized on 19 July 2023 on the margins of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)^{iv}. The meeting concluded with two following aspects: the assessment of the status of Indigenous Media around the world and the engagement with States and accountability of Media. To advance on the study, a Working Group for the preparation of the Study was established in November 2023 to guide the literature review, to develop the methodological framework and survey instruments, as well as to establish partnerships with other stakeholders, and other relevant tasks.

Objectives of the multistakeholder meeting

On the margins of the 23rd session of the UNPFII, the multistakeholder meeting will:

- Inform UNPFII members and interested stakeholders of the progress of the study
- Present the results of the desk and literature research conducted around the world in the fields of communication, journalism, media, and Indigenous studies to assess media development, pluralism and diversity in the media and their impact on Indigenous People.
- Discuss strategies to address the identified gaps, challenges, and limitations in the conduct of the study.
- Present the draft methodology and survey instrument for data collection at the global level
- Facilitate dialogue among media organizations, including Indigenous Peoples media, and media experts to develop strategic recommendations to be included in the study.

Agenda I Multistakeholder Event

Follow up to the UNPFII recommendations: Indigenous Peoples and the Media

Date: 23 April 2024, 1.15 pm – 2.30 pm (Eastern Standard Time - EST)

Venue: Conference Room 4 (CR-4), United Nations Headquarters Building
405 E 42nd St, New York, New York 10017, USA

Interpretation: English and Spanish

UNESCO Web page: [LINK](#)

Event page: [LINK](#)

UN Web TV website: <http://webtv.un.org>

1.15 pm – 1.45 pm | Introduction: Reflection on major takeaways from past research and fieldwork experience

- Ms Estelle Zadra, Senior UN Coordination Officer, UNESCO Liaison Office in New York
- Dr Harry Van Issum, Principal Research Fellow, Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research, Griffith University (Australia)
- Ms Heather Anderson, Associate Professor, Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research, Griffith University (Australia)

1.45 pm – 2.15 pm | Debate: Considerations for a representative and evidence-based study

- Mr Francisco Calí Tzay, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Ms Valmaine Toki, Vice Chair, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Issues (EMRIP)
- Mr Robert Doane, Senior Director, National Indigenous Strategy, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation CBC (Canada)
- Ms Francine Compton, Associate Director, Indigenous Journalists Association (IJA)

2.15 pm – 2.30 pm | Next steps: Suggestions for future action

- Questions from the audience
- Suggestions from speakers for future action
- Closing remarks

Chair: Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, Advisor for Communication and Information, UNESCO

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Event related information:

UNESCO Media Pluralism and Diversity web page:
<https://www.unesco.org/en/media-pluralism-diversity>

Multistakeholder event "Follow up to the UNPFII recommendations: Indigenous Peoples and the Media" web page:
<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/follow-unpfii-recommendations-indigenous-peoples-and-media>

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ⁱ Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: report on the 22nd session (17-28 April 2023)
([E/2023/43-E/C.19/2023/7, paragraph 10](#))

ⁱⁱ Human rights and Indigenous Peoples - Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 11 October 2023
([A/HRC/54/L12, paragraph 11](#))

Rights of Indigenous Peoples - Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023
([A/RES/78/189, paragraph 41](#))

ⁱⁱⁱ Multi-stakeholder consultative meeting "[Creating an enabling environment for free and independent Indigenous community media](#)" on 18 April 2023 on the margins of the 22nd session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York

^{iv} Multi-stakeholder consultative meeting "[The launch of a thematic study on Indigenous Peoples and the Media](#)" was organized in partnership with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and the Public Media Alliance (PMA) in Geneva on 19 July 2023 on the margins of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP).