

Human rights Fora serviced by OHCHR

	Forum on Minority Issues	Social Forum	Business and Human Rights Forum	Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy Forum	Permanent forum on people of African descent¹
Resolution	HRC resolution 6/15; renewed by A/HRC/19/23	Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of HR Res. 2001/24; A/HRC/6/13.	HRC resolution 17/4; 35/7	A/HRC/RES/28/14; 34/41	A/RES/69/16; A/HRC/34/33, A/HRC/30/17; A/RES/73/262
Mandate	HRC Res. 6/15 HRC (reaffirmed in A/HRC/19/23): “To provide a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, which shall provide thematic contributions and expertise to the work of the independent expert on minority issues. The Forum shall identify and analyse best practices, challenges, opportunities and initiatives for the further implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities; “	Res. 2001/24: (a) To exchange information on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and their relationship with the processes of globalization; (b) To follow up on situations of poverty and destitution throughout the world...; (c) To propose standards and initiatives of a juridical nature, guidelines and other recommendations...; (d) To follow up the agreements reached at the major world conferences and the Millennium Summit... HRC Res. 6/13: “A space for interactive dialogue between the United Nations human rights machinery and various stakeholders...”	HRC Res. 17/4: “Forum on Business and Human Rights under the guidance of the Working Group to discuss trends and challenges in the implementation of the Guiding Principles and promote dialogue and cooperation on issues linked to business and human rights, including challenges faced in particular sectors, operational environments or in relation to specific rights or groups, as well as identifying good practices	A/HRC/28/14, para. 1: “to provide a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to the relationship between these areas” and to “identify and analyse best practices, challenges and opportunities for States in their efforts to secure respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law”	A/RES/73/262: the permanent forum on people of African descent “will serve as a consultation mechanism for people of African descent and other interested stakeholders as a platform for improving the quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent and to contribute to elaborating a United Nations declaration, which is the first step towards a legally binding instrument, on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent.” A/RES/69/16: “to establish a forum to serve as a consultation mechanism” A/HRC/30/17: HRC <i>recommends</i> that the mandate of the Forum serve not only as consultative mechanism for people of African Descent in the diaspora, but also as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council on the plight and needs of the People of African Descent.

¹ This section contains all previously adopted references relating to the forum.

Leadership	UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues	HRC	Working group on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	HRC	A/RES/73/262: N/A. A/RES/69/16: The GA requested the “Human Rights Council to allocate two or three days of the annual sessions of one of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms [...] that shall be devoted to the purpose of the Forum. A/HRC/34/33: The HRC decided “to allocate three days of the annual session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action will be devoted to the forum on people of African descent.”
Location	Geneva	Geneva	Geneva	Geneva	Based on GA res. 73/262 (see see A/C.5/73/15) Alternate between Geneva and New York
No. of participants	500-600	300 (varies with topic)	2200-2700	300-600 (varies with topic)	➔ To be seen
No. of funded participants	13+ panelists, including travel of 10 panelists, SR and Chair	15+ panelists	15 sponsored panelists and 5 members of the Working group	10 panelists and Chairperson In 2018, the Forum partnered with the International Parliamentary Union, as the Chair was its Secretary General, who funded a number of parliamentarians that participated as panelists.	9 experts and 25 civil society participants. Based on 73/262 (see A/C.5/73/15)
Duration/ Frequency	2 days, yearly	2 or 3 days, yearly	3 days, yearly	2 days, every 2 years	3 days; based on GA res. 73/262 (see A/C.5/73/15)
Time of the year	Late November	Early October	Mid-November	Late November	➔ To be defined
Panels (no. of panelists)	4 panels, 5 panelists each	5 panels, 3-7 panelists each	60+ panels, 3-7 panelists each	4 panels, 4 panelists each	➔ To be defined

<p>NGO Participation</p>	<p>A/HRC/RES/19/23, para. 6: Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; the Forum shall also be open to other non-governmental organizations whose aims and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, based on arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, through an open and transparent accreditation procedure in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Human Rights Council, which will provide for the timely information on participation and consultations with States concerned. The Forum is an open platform. Specific HRC restrictions (such as ECOSOC status) do not apply. In practice, the Secretariat manages the online registration process.</p>	<p>A/HRC/6/13, para 10: Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and will also be open to other non-governmental organizations whose aims and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including newly emerging actors..., as well as representatives of the private sector, on the basis of arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, through an open and transparent accreditation procedure, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, while ensuring the most effective contribution of these entities. The Forum is an open platform. Specific HRC restrictions (such as ECOSOC status) do not apply. In practice, the Secretariat manages the online registration process.</p>	<p>A/HRC/17/4, para. 13: Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; the Forum shall also be open to other non-governmental organizations whose aims and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including affected individuals and groups, based on arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, through an open and transparent accreditation procedure in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Human Rights Council</p>	<p>A/HRC/34/41, para. 3: Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; the session shall also be open to other non-governmental organizations whose aims and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, based on arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and practices observed by the Human Rights Council, through an open and transparent accreditation procedure...” In practice, the Secretariat manages the online registration process. The list of organisations approved for accreditation are posted on the Human Rights Council Extranet to ensure an open and transparent accreditation procedure and timely information on participation of and consultations with the States concerned in accordance with A/HRC/34/41.</p>	<p>➔ To be defined based on GA Res 73/262 (see A/C.5/73/15) on the participation 25 civil society participants.</p>
<p>Chairperson</p>	<p>The President of the Human Rights Council to appoint for each session, on the basis of regional rotation, and in consultation with regional groups, a chairperson of the Forum among experts on minority issues.</p>	<p>A/HRC/6/13, para. 6: The President of the Human Rights Council appoints, from candidates nominated by regional groups, the Chairperson-Rapporteur for each session, bearing in</p>	<p>A/HRC/17/4, para. 15: HRC decided “that the Working Group shall guide the work of the Forum and prepare its annual meetings”, and invited “the Working Group to chair the Forum.” The Forum is chaired by the Working group.</p>	<p>A/HRC/28/14, para. 5: The President of the HRC appoints the Chairperson on the basis of regional rotation and in consultation with regional groups, from candidates nominated by</p>	<p>➔ To be defined</p>

		mind the principle of regional rotation.	Within the Working group, the chair position rotates among members of the Working group on a 6 months basis.	members and observers of the Council	
Theme	HRC Res. 6/15 (reaffirmed in A/HRC/RES/19/23): The theme to be discussed during the Forum is decided by the HRC each year. In addition “the independent expert on minority issues shall guide the work of the Forum and prepare its annual meetings” and he/she is invited “to include in his/her report thematic [...] recommendations for future thematic subjects, for consideration by the Human Rights Council.	A/HRC/6/13, para. 5: The theme to be discussed during the Forum is decided by the HRC each year. In practice, the sponsor in consultation with other countries proposes the theme, which is then endorsed by the HRC.	HRC decides the theme to be discussed. In addition, HRC invited the Working Group “to submit a report on the proceedings and thematic recommendations of the Forum to the Human Rights Council for its consideration.” (A/HRC/35/7, para. 9)	A/HRC/28/14, para. 8: The HRC decides the theme of the discussion.	→ To be defined
Reporting	HRC resolution 6/15 (reaffirmed in A/HRC/RES/19/23): “The chairperson, serving in his/her personal capacity, shall be responsible for the preparation of a summary of the discussion of the Forum, to be made available to all participants of the Forum” In addition, the Independent Expert on Minority Issues is invited to “include in his/her report thematic recommendations of the Forum”. In practice, the summary of discussions of the Forum and the recommendations presented as a report at the March session of the Human Rights Council, under HRC agenda item 5. The Special Rapporteur includes a brief summary on the work of the Forum, in her/his thematic report, presented at the March session of the Human Rights Council every year, under HRC agenda item 3. There is also the summary of the Chair of the Forum: a separate document similar to the report, which is not an official UN document, but is posted online.	Res. 2001/24: the Social Forum was invited “to submit to the Sub-Commission [...] a separate report, containing a comprehensive and detailed summary of the discussion” and “to submit recommendations, including draft resolutions, to the Sub-Commission” In practice, the report is submitted by the Chairman-Rapporteur who, since 2006, reports to the Human Rights Council. The report contains a summary of the discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the Forum.	A/HRC/35/7, para. 9: “the HRC invited the Working Group “to submit a report on the proceedings and thematic recommendations of the Forum to the Human Rights Council for its consideration”. In practice, the Working group reports to the HRC during the June session.	A/HRC/28/14: “the chairperson, serving in his or her personal capacity, shall be responsible for the preparation of a summary of the discussions of the Forum, to be made available to all its participants.” In practice, the Chairperson-Rapporteur(s) report on each session of the Forum to the Human Rights Council at the session of the Council during which the resolution on HR, Democracy and the Rule of Law is tabled and voted on.	→ To be defined

Forum supported by DESA

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	
Resolution	ECOSOC res. E/2000/22
Mandate	“advisory body to the Council with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues within the mandate of the Council relating to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.” In doing so the Permanent Forum shall: (a) Provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Council, as well as to programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations, through ECOSOC; (b) Raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities related to indigenous issues within the UN system; (c) Prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issue
Leadership	Eight members to be nominated by Governments and elected by the Council, and eight members to be appointed by the President of the Council following formal consultation with the Bureau and the regional groups through their coordinators, on the basis of broad consultations with indigenous organizations, taking into account the diversity and geographical distribution of the indigenous people of the world as well as the principles of transparency, representation and equal opportunity for all indigenous people, including internal processes, when appropriate, and local indigenous consultation processes. Methods of work indicate Chair may be elected by rotation. The sixteen members will serve in their personal capacities as independent experts on indigenous issues. They will be appointed for a period of three years with the possibility of re-election or reappointment for another 3-year period. The methods of work indicate appointment of Chair through rotation.
Location	According to resolution E/2000/22, the Permanent Forum shall meet “at the United Nations Office at Geneva or at United Nations Headquarters or at such other place as the Permanent Forum may decide in accordance with existing financial rules and regulations of the United Nations” (E/2000/22, para. 4). In practice, the Permanent Forum holds its sessions in New York.
Participants	500+
Duration/ Frequency/ time of the year	Annually for 10 working days (E/2000/22, para. 4); April/May
Discussion issues format	In addition to the six mandated areas (economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights), each session is thematically focused on a specific issue. During the Forum’s first six sessions, a specific theme was discussed each year. Since 2008, it has adopted a bi-annual working method of one year with a specific theme and the next year focusing on review of implementation. In addition to the six mandated areas of the UNPFII, the Forum also works on a number of other cross cutting topics that are of major significance to indigenous peoples: Gender and Indigenous Women; Children and Youth; Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda; Data and Indicators.
Participation	“States, United Nations bodies and organs, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council may participate as observers.” (E/2000/22, para. 1). “[O]rganizations of indigenous people may equally participate as observers in accordance with the procedures which have been applied in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommittee on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.” (E/2000/22, para. 1).
Reporting	The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum submits annual reports, including studies and recommendations to ECOSOC.