

- 1) What are the **current or anticipated challenges** Indigenous Peoples and local communities face in engaging with the Article 6.4 mechanism?
2. What **mode of communication** could facilitate better dialogue between the Supervisory Body and Indigenous communities?
3. How would you envision **meaningful long-term engagement and active participation** from Indigenous Peoples and local communities on the work of the Supervisory Body and the mechanism?

All three questions can be answered through a thorough examination of ongoing discussions surrounding the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/321 entitled “Enhancing the Participation of Indigenous Peoples’ Representatives and Institutions in Meetings of Relevant United Nations Bodies on Issues Affecting Them.” While little progress has been made on the implementation of the resolution, there are ongoing negotiations regarding Enhanced Participation taking place in both the Human Rights Council and the United Nations General Assembly that can provide the most up-to-date information on the status.

Indigenous Representatives have consistently asserted that they represent their own distinct category and should not be equated with Non-Governmental Organizations or stakeholders. Grounding this in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Peoples have the right to self-determination and self-government, which provides a framework for working together in a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship. There needs to be a recognition of the limitations that the UN system which encompasses various rules and regulations that determine the level of participation granted to NGOs with consultative status in each meeting. The constraints of these systems, alongside Indigenous Peoples falling under “NGO status” does not allow for effective engagement or participation.

A number of recommendations have been made to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples within UN mechanisms, bodies, and fora, primarily led by the Indigenous Coordinating Body. Their library is an extremely effective resource in developing a way forward: [Library of ICB: Enhanced Participation of Indigenous Peoples' Representative Institutions at the Uni \(notion.site\)](#)

Lastly, the grouping of “Indigenous Peoples” and “Local Communities” is ineffective. The coupling of these groups within United Nations language and mechanisms falsely implies an equivalence in the rights between Indigenous Peoples and local communities, which undermines the progressed achieved by Indigenous Peoples in gaining recognition of distinct status and rights, as exemplified by UNDRIP. In July 2023, a statement was released by the Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Expert Mechanism of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples urging “all UN entities in their methods of work to refrain from conflating, associating, combining, or equating Indigenous Peoples with non-indigenous entities, such as minorities, vulnerable groups, or “local communities.” We further request that all UN Member State parties to treaties related to the environment, biodiversity, and climate change cease using the term “local communities” alongside “Indigenous Peoples,” so that the term “Indigenous Peoples and local communities” is no longer used.”