



2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF  
**Indigenous Languages**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE AND INTERNAL RULES**

The current document provides information on the work of  
the Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages

10 December 2021

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## Background

In its resolution A/RES/74/135, on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the period 2022-2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL2022-2032). The General Assembly resolution invited the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to serve as the lead organization for the International Decade in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and other relevant agencies, within existing resources.

The UNGA resolution “proclaims the period 2022-2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, to draw attention to the critical loss of Indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages and to take urgent steps at the national and international levels, and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to serve as the lead agency for the International Decade, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and other relevant agencies, within existing resources”<sup>1</sup>.

The UNGA resolution also “invites Member States to consider establishing national mechanisms with adequate funding for the successful implementation of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages in partnership with Indigenous peoples, and invites Indigenous peoples, as custodians of their own languages, to initiate and develop appropriate measures for the implementation of the International Decade”.

Pursuant to the resolution (A/RES/74/135), UNESCO will facilitate the organization of the IDIL2022-2032 through a series of actions, including, but not limited to:

- (i) Elaboration and contribution to the implementation of the **Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages**<sup>2</sup> (Global Action Plan) through evidence based, inclusive, participatory and open consultations with representatives of Member States, Indigenous peoples, Indigenous Peoples’ institutions and organizations, United Nations entities, academia, civil society organizations and other public and private actors;
- (ii) Establishment and maintenance of the international governance mechanism entitled **Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages** (Global Task Force) to provide strategic direction and oversight in the planning, implementation and monitoring of progress made towards attainment of the objectives established by the Global Action Plan;
- (iii) Development and contribution to the implementation of a **Resource Mobilization Strategy** to provide a comprehensive framework to ensure adequate, sustainable, flexible and sufficient resources for the implementation and attainment of the major objectives of the Global Action Plan, and the realization of programmes and projects to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages (Ref.: UNESCO 210 EX/Decision 5.I.D);
- (iv) Preparation of and contribution to the implementation of a **Global Communication Strategy** for the IDIL2022-2032 to raise greater awareness on the importance of Indigenous languages

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<sup>1</sup> A/RES/74/135, Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Articles 24 and 25. <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/135>

<sup>2</sup> Global Action Plan of International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL2022-2032), UNESCO 40 C/INF.14. Ref.: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379853?posInSet=11&queryId=f4082765-2f1f-4710-a706-047db14472d1-draft-data-410>

for societal development, connection, and stimulation of dialogue among different stakeholders, impact new knowledge and mobilization of resources, communication of results and information sharing; and other.

It is through the establishment of the Global Task Force that the principles of inclusion, openness, participation and multistakeholder engagement will be ensured and applied in its work. The current document sets out the Terms of Reference and internal rules of procedure of the Global Task Force.

As lead UN agency, together with UNDESA, UNESCO shall facilitate the organization of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL2022-2032). In the context of the IDIL2022-2032, the seven socio-cultural regions are determined to give broad representation to the world's Indigenous peoples, as per the Human Rights Council Resolution 33/25 (para 4, footnote 3) and the UN Secretary General's report ([A/HRC/21/24](#), para 14; [UNPFII 2020-2022](#)), Indigenous Peoples in cooperation with the Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages (IDIL2022-2032), UN entities, and other regional and national partners. UNESCO Member States are invited to contribute to the organization of the International Decade within their respective electoral groups in accordance with relevant resolutions adopted by General Conference of UNESCO.

## Article 1. Mandate

- 1.1. The Global Task Force is established as an **international governance mechanism**, to ensure equitable participation of all stakeholders in the International Decade and to provide advice and guidance on the preparation, planning, implementation and monitoring progress towards attainment of the objectives of the Global Action Plan.
- 1.2. The work of the Global Task Force will be based on the following general principles:
  - (i) **Building on the lessons learnt, international standards and normative framework and documents.** The Global Task Force will facilitate the implementation of the Global Action Plan, taking into consideration the lessons learned from the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL2019), the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples (1995-2004), the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (Outcome document, [Ref.: A/RES/69/2](#)) and the World Conference Against Racism (Declaration and Programme of [Action](#)), as well as other pertinent events to be held during the Decade, as well as to build on the international normative frameworks, documents and standards.
  - (ii) **Equality, diversity, inclusion, and participation.** Selection of the members for the Global Task Force (Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee) should be carried out through regional consultations with the participation of relevant stakeholders and involvement of UN-system entities, including representatives of national governments, Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions, UN mechanisms, and UN-system entities.
  - (iii) **Rotation.** Since the International Decade of Indigenous Languages will require work over a 10-year period, a rotation system among the members responsible for the international governance mechanism will be established and working modalities agreed.

- (iv) **Action driven.** The Global Task Force should make use of, build upon, and coordinate activities with other relevant existing mechanisms at the regional, national, or local level in relation to Indigenous Peoples and their languages in an efficient and effective manner.
- (v) **Participation.** Full and effective participation by Indigenous Peoples, women and men, and youth, through their institutional representatives from all the seven socio-cultural regions should be ensured to give a broad representation to the world's Indigenous peoples. Inclusion of Indigenous peoples should be ensured in the work of the Global Task Force and other relevant international initiatives and events, based on the principle of respect for regional processes of decision-making by Indigenous peoples (see the Sub-chapter. Background).
- (vi) **International cooperation.** The Global Task Force should develop the appropriate means to receive inputs from governmental, civil society organizations and other relevant academic, public and private actors.
- (vii) **Sustainability.** The Global Task Force should also ensure a smooth transition period between key milestones (every three years), potentially by providing necessary support and sharing accumulated governing memory to any future member of the Global Task Force.
- (viii) **Work ethics.** The highest ethical standards, with respect for dignity, worth, equality, diversity of opinion, privacy, and where necessary, confidentiality of information with which they may be entrusted in the performance of functions (including in private meetings), with zero tolerance for harassment will be expected of all members of the Global Task Force.

## Article 2. Structure

2.1. The Global Task Force shall be composed of the following entities:

- **Steering Committee including Advisors to the Steering Committee**
- **Ad-hoc group(s)**
- **Multi-stakeholder consultative meeting**

## Article 3. Appointment

3.1. The appointment of members to the Steering Committee, Advisors to the Steering Committee and members to the Ad Hoc group(s) of the Global Task Force shall vary depending on the type of membership:

- (i) **Representatives of UNESCO's Member States**
  - For the appointment of representatives of UNESCO's Member States, for the Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee for a three-year period, UNESCO shall issue a letter addressed to the Chair of each Electoral Group of UNESCO Member States requesting that they launch a nomination procedure.

- In order to ensure a rotation principle among the members at the Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee for the three-year period, the nominated Member States shall agree among themselves on their rotation sequence on the Steering Committee (one year) and as Advisors to the Steering Committee (two-year period).
- The appointment of the same members for a consecutive three-year period to the Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee shall be agreed within the Electoral Group, but a priority would be given to new members.
- The Chair of each Electoral Group shall communicate a decision of the Electoral Group to the UNESCO Secretariat within an established timeline.

**(ii) Representatives of regional Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions**

- For the appointment of regional representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions (in an organizational capacity only), for the Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee, UNESCO will issue an Open Call and disseminate it through its official communication channels, including a dedicated website and social media, and other existing mechanisms.
- The regional nomination process should be initiated by Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions at the regional, national, and local levels. The nomination procedure shall be established by the Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions.
- In an observer capacity, the UNESCO Secretariat could facilitate organization of such consultations using remote online communication facilities.
- The Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions should elect a Chair for the regional consultations who shall be responsible to communicate a decision to the UNESCO Secretariat within an established timeline.
- In order to ensure a rotation principle among the members at the Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee for the three-year period, the nominated Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions shall agree among themselves on their rotation sequence on the Steering Committee (one year) and as Advisors to the Steering Committee (two-year period).
- The appointment of the same organizations for a consecutive three-year period to the Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee shall be agreed by Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions involved in the nomination process, but a priority should be given to the new organizational members.

**(iii) Representatives of UN Indigenous mechanisms**

- For the appointment of representatives of UN Indigenous mechanisms namely the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), for the Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee, UNESCO will issue a letter addressed to the Secretariat of the UNPFII (UNDESA) and EMRIP (OHCHR).
- The decision on the nomination of three representatives for the Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee shall be communicated to UNESCO Secretariat. In order to ensure a rotation principle among the members at the Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee for the three-year period, the nominated representatives of the UN Indigenous mechanisms shall agree among themselves on their rotation sequence on the Steering Committee (one year) and as Advisors to the

Steering Committee (two-year period). The decision shall be communicated to UNESCO Secretariat.

- The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (a current mandate holder within the established appointment period) shall receive an invitation letter, from UNESCO Secretariat communicated through the OHCHR, to be a member of the Steering Committee. The decision shall be communicated to UNESCO Secretariat.

(iv) **UN system entities**

- UNESCO as a lead UN agency for the organization of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages will provide Secretariat functions for the Global Task Force working in close cooperation with other UN entities – the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat (UNDESA) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR).
- Other UN-system entities may decide to join the Global Task Force in the capacity as Advisors to the Steering Committee.

(v) **Member of the Ad-hoc group(s)**

- Upon recommendation of the Global Task Force, UNESCO Secretariat shall establish up to five (maximum) Ad-hoc groups based on the recommendation of the Steering Committee of the Global Task Force. The mandate of the Ad-hoc(s), as an open-ended group, is to elaborate a proposal related to the specific task defined by the Steering Committee.
- UNESCO Secretariat shall make a public announcement on the dedicated IDIL2022-2032 website on the establishment of the Ad-hoc group(s) within an established timeline and defined task(s).
- Interested individuals and representatives of organizations or institutions (experts in the subject area), particularly Indigenous, shall express their interest to UNESCO Secretariat by sending an email or uploading a letter on the dedicated online platform in a written form including supporting argumentation for the application (also see Article 15. Ad-hoc group(s)).
- UNESCO Secretariat shall decide on the membership composition of the Ad-hoc group(s).
- A final list of members of the Ad-hoc group(s) shall be transmitted by UNESCO Secretariat to the Steering Committee for information. A work progress and outcomes shall be presented during the meetings of the Steering Committee by UNESCO Secretariat in cooperation with co-chairs and rapporteur(s) of the Ad-hoc group(s).

3.2. The rules and procedure of the Multi-stakeholder consultative meeting will be established at later stage.

## **Article 4. Adoption of the Terms of Reference**

4.1. The members of the Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee shall agree on the Terms of Reference at the meeting and operate within established framework during a three-year period.

- 4.2. The list of members of the Global Task Force shall be updated annually.
- 4.3. The Terms of Reference can be amended on consensus or majority basis (see Article 18. Quorum and decision-making and Article 20. Decision-making process). An item shall be included on the agenda of the meeting.

## Article 5. Role of the Steering Committee

- 5.1. The role of the Steering Committee is to provide guidance on the overall implementation of the Global Action Plan, including, but not limited to, the following functions:
- Provide guidance and recommendations for elaboration, monitoring and implementation of the Global Action Plan;
  - Monitor new requests addressed to the Steering Committee by external partners on an ad-hoc basis;
  - Provide guidance for the elaboration of a Resource Mobilization Strategy and mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the Global Action Plan;
  - Recommend the establishment of the Ad-hoc group(s);
  - Provide periodic updates, feedback and stimulation of dialogue with members of the Advisors to the Steering Committee, members of the Ad-hoc group(s), UNESCO Secretariat and other external partners, using remote communication means when appropriate;
  - Facilitate reporting to the United Nations, UNESCO and other international governing bodies on the implementation of the International Decade, as well as of legacy documents;
  - Stimulate the involvement of Indigenous Peoples' in the International Decade;
  - Prepare follow-up or monitoring proposals for the International Decade including UN and UNESCO governing bodies and other organisms.
- 5.2. The Steering Committee meetings will be attended by members of the Steering Committee, the Advisors to the Steering Committee, and observers as well as other UN-system entities. Meetings are open to the public (except private meetings, which will be attended by the members of the Steering Committee and UN-system entities only).

## Article 6. Key principles

- 6.1. The following principles are to be taken into consideration for the establishment and functioning of the Steering Committee:
- **Multistakeholder engagement** through the involvement of governments, Indigenous peoples' representatives, UN mechanisms and UN-system entities;
  - **Geographical balance, equal opportunities for men and women, and disability inclusiveness;**

- **Expertise and competence** in the field of international cooperation, linguistic diversity and multilingualism, and other relevant domains.

## Article 7. Membership of the Steering Committee

7.1. The Steering Committee shall consist of the representatives (**19 in total**) of following categories of members:

- UNESCO's Member States (2 Co-chairs and 4 members);
- Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' institutions and organizations or institutions from the seven sociocultural regions (2 Co-chairs and 5 members);
- Representatives of UN Indigenous mechanisms:
  - 1 member representing the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII);
  - 1 member from the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP);
  - 1 - The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- UN-system entities (3 members):
  - UNESCO (serving as the Secretariat of the Global Task Force),
  - UNDESA, and
  - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

7.3. The Steering Committee shall include the Advisors to the Steering Committee as per the procedure established (Ref. Articles 12-14, Annex II).

## Article 8. Nomination of Co-chairs

- 8.1. Members of the Steering Committee have a right to express an interest to act as Co-chair of the Steering Committee for one year period, except the UN-system entities. The Co-chairs will consist of two Co-chairs from the UNESCO Member States and two Co-chairs of the Indigenous Peoples' institutions and organizations.
- 8.2. A dedicated item on the nomination of Co-chairs shall be included on the agenda of the Steering Committee meeting of the Global Task Force.
- 8.3. Members of the Steering Committee will inform UNESCO Secretariat five working days before the meeting about their expression of interest by email and confirm it publicly at the Steering Committee's meeting. The Steering Committee will agree on the nomination of Co-chairs in accordance with the established nomination procedure and decision-making process (Article 20. Decision-making process).
- 8.4. In the absence of expression of interest and seats being not filled by all Co-chairs from Steering Committee's members, Advisors within own category (Member States or Indigenous Peoples'

organizations and institutions) have a right to express an interest in accordance with the established nomination procedure to act as a Co-chair for one year period.

- 8.5. The Steering Committee will agree on four Co-chairs in accordance with the established nomination procedure and decision-making process (see Article 18. Quorum and decision-making and Article 20. Decision-making process).
- 8.6. Until decision is made, the Co-chairs nominated for a previous period will continue their mandate until new Co-chairs are nominated.

## **Article 9. Responsibilities of the Co-chairs**

- 9.1. Four Co-chairs will serve one year on the Steering Committee (two Member States; two Indigenous Peoples' organizations or institutions), preferably from different regions and respecting gender balance, for the responsibilities listed as follows:
  - Contribute to the preparation of the agenda of each meeting;
  - Ensure that agendas and supporting materials are delivered to members, in coordination with the UNESCO Secretariat;
  - Make the purpose of each meeting clear to members and explain the agenda at the beginning of each meeting;
  - Chair the meetings of the Steering Committee (on rotation basis);
  - Clarify and summarize what is happening throughout each meeting;
  - Run the meeting by managing time allocations on each agenda item and keeping all meetings to one day or less;
  - Encourage broad participation from members in discussion by calling on different people.
  - End each meeting with a summary of decisions and assignments;
  - Follow up with consistently absent (in cases of more than half of annual meetings) members to determine if they wish to discontinue membership;
  - Convoke ordinary meetings;
  - Call extraordinary meetings, in cases of emergency, in close consultation with UNESCO Secretariat;
  - Organize private meetings on selected agenda items in close consultation with the members of the Steering Committee present only.

## **Article 10. Responsibilities of members of the Steering Committee**

- 10.1. Steering Committee members have the following responsibilities:
  - Understand the goals, objectives, and desired outcomes of the International Decade;
  - Promote and represent the interests of other stakeholders from their electoral group (UNESCO Member States as per the agreements with electoral groups) or region based on the prior consultations with relevant stakeholders, and share information within their electoral group or region;
  - Actively contribute to the International Decade's outcomes and overall success;

- Act on opportunities to communicate positively about the International Decade;
- Provide advice on the International Decade's financial decisions – especially in fundraising and in responding to issues, risks and proposed action plan changes.
- Actively participate in meetings through attendance, discussion, and review of minutes, papers and other Steering Committee documents;
- Support open discussion and debate, and encourage fellow Steering Committee members to voice their insights;
- Share with and consolidate information from Advisors to the Steering Committee, Electoral Groups of UNESCO Member States, regional and national Indigenous Peoples' organizations or institutions, UN mechanisms, United Nations Interagency Support Group and UNESCO Intersectoral Task Team of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.
- Provide their expertise on a voluntary and non-remunerated basis.
- Inform the UNESCO Secretariat as soon as possible, but no less than five business days before the scheduled meeting, if they intend to nominate an alternate to a meeting.
- In case of termination in the work of the Global Task Force, inform UNESCO Secretariat by email.

## Article 11. List of members of the Steering Committee

11.1. The Annex I includes a list of members of the Steering Committee to be updated annually.

## Article 12. Advisors to the Steering Committee

12.1. The Advisors to the Steering Committee will consist of representatives (**minimum 30 in total**) rotating between membership of the Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee:

- UNESCO's Member States (2 per electoral group – 12 members);
- Representatives of Indigenous peoples' institutions from seven sociocultural regions (2 per region – 14 members);
- Representatives of UN Indigenous mechanisms (2 representing the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; and 2 from the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Advisors' membership may be expanded to include additional members, as follow: (i) if nominated, other United Nations Special Rapporteurs holding mandates relevant to the subject area; (ii) other UN-system entities expressing interest in participating in the Global Task Force.

## Article 13. Responsibilities of Advisors to the Steering Committee

13.1. The Advisors to the Steering Committee will continually monitor implementation of the Global Action Plan and provide support, in an advisory role only, to the members of the Steering

Committee over a two-year period, on the responsibilities listed below:

- Contribute to the work of the Steering Committee;
- Provide advice for the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of the Global Action Plan;
- Provide advice and guidance on the elaboration of a Resource Mobilization Strategy and mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the Global Action Plan;
- Maintain regular communication and dialogue with members of the Steering Committee, members of the Ad-hoc group(s), UNESCO Secretariat and other external partners, using remote communication means when appropriate;
- Attend meetings of the Steering Committee, without a right to vote, the exception shall be applicable in case of private meetings organized by the Steering Committee.
- Facilitate reporting and oversight of reports to the United Nations, UNESCO and other international governing bodies on the implementation of the International Decade, as well as of legacy documents;
- Support the establishment of Indigenous peoples' own initiatives in terms of their contributions to the preparations for the International Decade;
- Disseminate information at regional and national levels on the outcomes of deliberations of the Global Task Force;
- Prepare follow-up or monitoring proposals for the International Decade including UN and UNESCO governing bodies and other organisms.
- The Advisors to the Steering Committee provide their expertise on a voluntary and non-remunerated basis.

## **Article 14. List of Advisors to the Steering Committee**

14.1. The Annex II includes a list of Advisors to the Steering Committee to be updated annually.

## **Article 15. Ad-hoc group(s)**

15.1. Ad-hoc group(s) shall be formed by the UNESCO Secretariat based on the recommendation of the Steering Committee. Ad-hoc group(s) shall be tasked to provide a forum for consultations with experts who represent their governments, Indigenous Peoples' institutions and organizations, academia, civil society and public and private organizations, and other stakeholders (both in personal and institutional capacity) in order to cover a technical, regional or specific thematic topic or issue. The Steering Committee shall define the purpose, duration and means of execution of their task. Such instructions shall be provided by the Steering Committee (including a purpose, duration, mandate and means of execution of task) and constitute the internal rules and shall be valid for the duration of the Ad-hoc group's function. The Ad-hoc group(s) shall be established for either a fixed or an indeterminate period.

15.2. Ad-hoc group(s) shall have an essential mandate and/or specific task to accomplish through regular meetings, all the work necessary to collect, analyze, disseminate among other

stakeholders, and assess progress in knowledge within the sphere of their competence.

- 15.3. Depending on the subject matter, the Ad-hoc group(s) shall consist of a group of individual experts who represent their governments, Indigenous Peoples' institutions and organizations, academia, civil society and public and private organizations, and other stakeholders (both in personal and institutional capacity). Members of the other bodies forming the Global Task Force could be involved in the work of the Ad-hoc group(s). Priority should be given to those candidates who are recognized subject matter experts at an international level, particularly Indigenous, and shall be selected for their competence.
- 15.4. Members of Ad-hoc Group(s) may be requested to provide UNESCO Secretariat with a statement covering potential conflicts of interest between themselves and any commercial entity, if any. The members of the Ad-hoc group(s) would provide their expertise on voluntary and non-remunerated basis. To the extent possible Ad-hoc Group(s) shall have adequate geographic representation and gender balance.
- 15.5. The Ad-hoc group(s) shall elect two co-chairs and rapporteur to contribute to the preparation of the proposal in cooperation with UNESCO Secretariat.
- 15.6. Members of Ad-hoc group(s) will be invited to their meetings, mainly using remote online services, by the UNESCO Secretariat or other UN-system agency, if agreed.
- 15.6. If required, Ad-hoc group(s) could break into smaller sub-groups to deliver on a part of the objectives. A regular update of the work of Ad-hoc group(s) will be provided by the UNESCO Secretariat to the Steering Committee in cooperation with co-chairs and rapporteur(s).
- 15.7. The UNESCO Secretariat may place at the disposal of Ad-hoc group(s) the necessary facilities, including a workspace (online or/and physical), including translation and documentation.

## **Article 16. List of Ad-hoc groups and members**

- 16.1. The Annex III includes a list of Ad-hoc groups and members to be updated annually.

## **Article 17. Observers**

- 17.1. The ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the Steering Committee are open to observers (other stakeholders who do not belong to the Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee), except the private meetings.
- 17.2. Observers should inform the UNESCO Secretariat of their intention to participate in meeting (or permanently in future meetings) to no less than five business days before the scheduled meeting.

- 17.3. The Steering Committee may admit permanent observers at the ordinary meetings who would be invited to future meetings of the Steering Committee unless the meeting is private. The permanent observers will receive information about the meetings and have not right to vote or contribute to the establishment of quorum.
- 17.4. The floor will be opened for observers once requests to speak from members of the Steering Committee and the Advisors to the Steering Committee have been completed.
- 17.5. Observers (governmental, organizational and individuals) can express their interest to be granted a permanent observer's status. A formal request by email: indigenous.languages(at)unesco.org shall be addressed to the UNESCO Secretariat.
- 17.6. The Annex IV provides a list of permanent observers to be updated annually.

## Article 18. Quorum and decision-making

- 18.1. A minimum number of **(9 out of 16)** Steering Committee members are required for decision-making purposes with a voting right (see Article 18. para 18.2 regarding the participation of UN-system entities and Advisors). The meeting without quorum could take place without a decision making. The quorum must include:
- A minimum number of members (3) from the Member States,
  - A minimum number of members (4) from the leaders and representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions from the seven sociocultural regions (Africa, Arctic, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia, North America, and the Pacific),
  - A minimum number of members (2) from designated UN Indigenous mechanisms (UNPFII, EMRIP and the Special Rapporteur).
- 18.2. The Advisors to the Steering Committee and UN-system agencies, including UNESCO, UNDESA and OHCHR, do not contribute to the establishment of a quorum and have no right to vote.
- 8.3. Advisors to the Steering Committee could provide their views to the relevant representatives to the Steering Committee prior to the vote and do not contribute to the establishment of quorum and have no right to vote.

## Article 19. Alternation

- 19.1. Members representing Indigenous Peoples' organizations and institutions and UN mechanisms serving at the Steering Committee may alternate among Advisors to the Steering Committee in case of absence in order to ensure their participation in meetings, discussions as well as in

decision making. UNESCO Secretariat should be informed about alternation of members five business days in advance of a Steering Committee meeting.

19.2. UNESCO Secretariat shall be informed in case of change of representative of Member State five business days in advance of a Steering Committee meeting.

## Article 20. Decision-making process

20.1. The Steering Committee will make decisions if quorum is ensured based upon the options described below:

- **Consensus:** a majority of Steering Committee members present approve a given course of action and the minority agrees to go along with the course of action. A consensus decision does not require voting. A consensus can be reached with or without modifications to the original proposal.
- **Majority (9):** a course of action requires support by a majority of Steering Committee members who attend the meeting.

## Article 21. Frequency of meetings and communication

21.1. The members of Steering Committee shall discuss the schedule of meetings. UNESCO Secretariat shall organize the meetings (virtual or in presentia). Steering Committee meetings should be aligned to the key milestones of the IDIL2022-2032 work plans. Other scheduling alternatives are to meet monthly, quarterly, or according to another schedule set out by the Steering Committee and UNESCO Secretariat. Virtual meetings using remote online communication tools will be a major working modality.

21.2. Communications and dissemination of documentation will be sent by email or using online platform dedicated to the IDIL2022-2032. Information about the meetings will be also shared using social media channels when possible.

21.3. The contact information about the membership including the members of the Steering Committee, Advisors to the Steering Committee, Ad-hoc groups and permanent observers will be made publicly available on the IDIL dedicated website (name, gender, position, title of organization, country and email address, and photos taken during the meetings). The emails will be shared using the Cc (Carbon copy) function which will make all emails addresses visible to all recipients.

21.4. When possible, an in presentia meeting will be organized (e.g. separate meetings organized during or outside the sessions of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other large-scale events scheduled to take place between 2021 and December 2023 (a current membership period).

## Article 22. Financial resources

- 22.1. The members of the Global Task Force shall explore all possible funding opportunities to ensure their participation including their travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance.
- 22.2. UNESCO Secretariat will only provide support to the members of the Global Task Force for their travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance, translation and interpretation services, and other activities, if the voluntary contributions would be earmarked, and made available to the UNESCO Secretariat in the Global Task Force meetings.
- 22.3. The members of the Global Task Force shall explore all possible funding opportunities to ensure implementation of the activities related to the implementation of Global Action Plan.
- 22.4. A separate item on the financial resource mobilization efforts on voluntary contributions shall be included on the agenda of each meeting of the Steering Committee in order to inform the members of the Steering Committee about the funding opportunities.
- 22.5. The members of the Global Task Force shall provide advice and guidance for the preparation and implementation of the Global Action Plan and Resource Mobilization Strategy.

## Article 23. Working languages

- 23.1. Meetings of the Steering Committee will be interpreted in English and French, whenever voluntary contributions are earmarked for the interpretation, and made available to the UNESCO Secretariat, interpretation services in official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish) may be provided by the by UNESCO Interpretation Services and shall be considered as an official interpretation.
- 23.2. Given the fact that there could be members and observers who do not use English or French, and that the allocation of financial resources may not be available, volunteers for interpretation into non-UN languages shall be provided by external interpretation services using remote online services without foreseeing any travels to the meetings taking place in presential.
- 23.4. The provider(s) of external interpretation services in non-UN languages will inform UNESCO Secretariat about its contribution five business days in advance. UNESCO Secretariat will not be involved in the selection process of non-UN languages interpreters.
- 23.3. The interpretation in non-UN languages provided by the volunteers for interpretation shall be considered as non-official interpretation. In case of dispute, the interpretation provided in English and French will prevail. The interpretation into non-UN languages shall apply UNESCO's guidelines for interpretation (of non-official nature). The call for non-official interpretation could be carried out through institutions of the Steering Committee', Advisors' or/and permanent observers.

## Article 24. Agenda, minutes, and decision papers

- 24.1. Meeting documentation will be sent and/or posted on a dedicated online platform for use by the members of the Global Task Force five business days in advance of a Steering Committee meeting by UNESCO Secretariat. This package of working documents in English will include the following:
- (i) Agenda for upcoming meeting.
  - (ii) Minutes of previous meeting, if any.
  - (iii) Additional documents, if any.
  - (iv) Any other information to be considered at the meeting.
- 24.2. Meeting documentation shall be provided in English and French, if voluntary contributions are earmarked for translation, and made available to the UNESCO Secretariat, translation into the remaining official languages of the United Nations may be provided.
- 24.3. UNESCO Secretariat will prepare the agenda, minutes and other documents for the meetings of the Steering Committee.

## Article 25. Glossary

### **Ad-hoc groups**

The Ad-hoc groups support the work of the Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee by providing a forum for consultations with a group of individual experts who represent their governments, Indigenous Peoples' institutions and organizations, academia, civil society and public and private organizations, and other stakeholders (both in personal and institutional capacity) in order to cover a technical, regional or specific thematic topic or issue. The Ad-hoc group(s) consist of a group of individual experts, representatives of relevant public and private organizations, academia, civil society representatives, and other stakeholders (both in personal and institutional capacity).

### **Advisors to the Steering Committee**

The Advisors to the Steering Committee are a part of the Steering Committee, appointed in the advisor's capacity for a period of two years. The Advisors to the Steering Committee will provide advice and guidance on the elaboration, implementation, and monitoring of the Global Action Plan, as well as on the elaboration of a Resource Mobilization Strategy and mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the Plan. They will also support the establishment of Indigenous peoples' own initiatives for the International Decade. In accordance with the rotation principle among the members at the Steering Committee and Advisors to the Steering Committee, they will provide support, in an advisory role only, to the members of the Steering Committee over a two-year period.

### **Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (Global Action Plan)**

Global Action Plan is a strategic document providing all stakeholders with the foundation for a joint action, to outline the strategic approach, major actions, guidance on implementation, monitoring and governing structures and suggested measures to be taken by UN-system entities, governments,

Indigenous Peoples' institutions and organizations, broader civil society, academia, the private sector and other interested actors to achieve the major objectives of the IDIL2022-2032.

### **Global Communication Strategy for the IDIL2022-2032**

It is a strategic document to facilitate the organization, communication, information sharing and partnerships among stakeholders involved in the International Decade. The document aims to provide a guidance on awareness raising on the importance of Indigenous languages for societal development, stimulation of dialogue among different stakeholders, including targeted audiences, and by impacting new knowledge and mobilization of resources, communication of results and information sharing.

### **Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages**

Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages is an international governance mechanism to ensure equitable participation of all stakeholders in the International Decade and to provide advice and guidance on the preparation, planning, implementation and monitoring progress towards attainment of the objectives of the Global Action Plan. The Global Task Force provides strategic direction and oversight in the planning, implementation and monitoring of progress made towards attainment of the objectives established by the Global Action Plan.

### **Multistakeholderism**

Multistakeholderism is one of the key principles applied for the organization of the IDIL2022-2032 to guarantee an inclusive, participatory, and non-discriminatory process of all stakeholders. The multistakeholderism employs the involvement of multiple stakeholders together, such as governments, Indigenous peoples' representatives, UN mechanisms and UN-system entities, and any other stakeholder interested in the IDIL2022-2032. The multistakeholderism helps to engage all stakeholders in a common governance and jointly participating in dialogue, decision-making processes and implementation of actions for the IDIL2022-2032. It has been identified as one of the key principles to foster synergies, adequate responses, and leadership during the consultative process for the preparation of the Global Action Plan.

### **Resource Mobilization Strategy**

It is a strategic document designed to guide fundraising efforts for the implementation of the Global Action Plan providing a comprehensive framework to ensure adequate, sustainable, flexible and sufficient resources for the implementation and attainment of the major objectives of the Global Action Plan, and the realization of programmes and projects to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages.

### **Steering Committee of the Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages**

The Steering Committee is a part of Global Task Force which provides strategic direction and guidance to the organization of the IDIL2022-2032. In accordance with the rotation principle among the members at the Steering Committee and the Advisors to the Steering Committee, the members of the Steering Committee are appointed for one year. The Steering Committee members are composed of the Member States from each UNESCO electoral group, leaders and representatives of Indigenous peoples and institutions from the seven socio-cultural regions as well as designated members of UN-three-party mechanism. UNESCO, UNDESA and OHCHR are the members of the Steering Committee with no right to vote and do not contribute to the establishment of a quorum.

### **Socio-cultural regions of Indigenous Peoples**

The seven socio-cultural regions have been determined by the Human Rights Council Resolution 33/25 (para 4, footnote 3) and mentioned in the UN Secretary General's report ([A/HRC/21/24](#), para 14; [UNPFII 2020-2022](#)), to give broad representation to the world's Indigenous peoples. These socio-cultural regions are Africa; the Arctic; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific. UNESCO Member States are invited to contribute to the organization of the International Decade within their respective electoral groups in accordance with relevant resolutions adopted by General Conference of UNESCO.

## Annex I. List of members of the Steering Committee of the Global Task Force (10 December 2021)

Country / Title	Institution	Name
<b>2021</b>		
<b>Member States (UNESCO Electoral Groups)</b>		
Group I. Western European and North American States	Department of Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada, Canada	Mr Paul Pelletier, Director-General, Department of Canadian Heritage, Indigenous Languages Branch
Group II. Eastern European States	Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs, Russian Federation	Mr Timur Tsybikov, Head of Department
Group III. Latin America and Caribbean States	Directorate of Indigenous Languages - Ministry of Culture of Peru, Peru	Mr Gerardo Manuel Garcia Chinchay
Group IV. Asia and Pacific States	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), Australia	Mr Craig Ritchie, Chief Executive Officer
Group V (a) African States	Permanent Delegation of Gambia to UNESCO	
Group V (b) Arab States	Permanent Delegation of the State of Kuwait to UNESCO	H.E. Mr Adam Al Mulla, Ambassador Permanent Delegate
<b>Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' institutions and organizations from the seven sociocultural regions</b>		
Africa region	Coordination Committee of Indigenous Peoples of Africa (IPACC) (Morocco)	Mr Handaine Mohamed, President
The Arctic	Sami Parliament (Norway)	Ms Aili Keskitalo, President
Asia region	Adivasi Ekta Parishad (AEP) (India)	Mr Anabel Benjamin Bara
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Organismo Indígena Naleb (Guatemala)	Mr Álvaro Esteban Pop Ac, Member
Central Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia	Association of Finno-Ugric Peoples (Russian Federation)	Mr Vasily Nemechkin, Member
North America	Anicinabe Algonquin Nation (Canada)	Mr Richard Ejinagosi Kistabish, Member
The Pacific	Kanaeokana, Hawaii (USA)	Ms Malia Nobrega-Olivera, Board Member
<b>Designated members (UN three party mechanism)</b>		
The Representative of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues		Mr Sven-Erik Soosaar (Estonia)
The Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples		Mr José Francisco Calí Tzay (mandate holder, Guatemala)
Representative of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous peoples (EMRIP)		Mr Rodion Sulyandziga (Russian Federation)
<b>UN-system entities</b>		
UNESCO	IDIL2022-2032 Secretariat	
UNDESA		
OHCHR		

## Annex II. List of Advisors to the Steering Committee (2021)

Country / Title	Country / Institution	Name
<b>2021</b>		
<b>Member States (UNESCO Electoral Groups)</b>		
Group I. Western European and North American States	Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Government of Norway, Norway	Mr Kristin Solbjør, Deputy Director General
	The Vigdís International Centre for Multilingualism and Intercultural Understanding and UNESCO Category II Center, Iceland	Ms Birna Arnbjörnsdóttir, Professor
Group II. Eastern European States	University of Latvia Livonian Institute, Latvia	Mr Valts Ernštreits, Director
	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to UNESCO, Ukraine	Ms Olga Ganenko, Third Secretary
Group III. Latin America and Caribbean States	Plurinational Institute for Studies of Languages and Cultures (IPELC), The Plurinational State of Bolivia	Mr Walter Gutierrez, Executive Director-General
	Embassy of Paraguay to France, Paraguay	Ms Mónica Cepede
Group IV. Asia and Pacific States	Indira Ghandi National Centre for the Arts, Government of India, India	Mr Ramesh Chandra Gaur, Dean
	Permanent Delegation of Thailand to UNESCO	Mr Pramote Duang-Im, Deputy Permanent Delegate
Group V (a) African States	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Madagascar to UNESCO	Ms Carmen Lahatra, Conseiller
	Permanent Delegation of Zimbabwe to UNESCO	
Group V (b) Arab States	Permanent Delegation of Bahrain to UNESCO	Ms Dalal Saud, Cultural Attaché
	Permanent Delegation of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO	
<b>Representatives of Indigenous peoples' institutions or institutions from the seven sociocultural regions</b>		
Africa region (2)	The African Indigenous Peoples Network (AIPN), Mali	Ms Mariam Wallet Med Aboubakrine, Member
	Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT), Kenya	Mr John Tingoi, Member
Asia region (2)	Tharu Kalyankarini Sabha/ Tharu Welfare Congress, Nepal	Ms Indu Chaudhary (Tharu), Member
	Partners of Community Organizations in Sabah (PACOS Trust), Malaysia	Ms Rita Lasimbang, Member
Central and South America and the Caribbean (2)	Andean Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations (CAOI), Plurinational State of Bolivia	Mr Juan Revollo Valencia, Member
	Associação dos Índios Kokamas Residente no Município de Manaus (AKIM), Brazil	Ms Altaci Corrêa Rubim, Member
The Arctic (2)	Sami Parliament, Sweden	Mr Lars Miguel Utsi, Vice-President
	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Canada	Ms Aluki Kotierk, President
Central Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia (2)	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), Russian Federation	Ms Nina Veysalova, First Vice-President
	Cooperation Council of Estonia's Indigenous Languages, Estonia	Mr Rein Järvelill, Member
Pacific region (2)	First Languages Australia, Australia	Ms Faith Baisden, Manager
	Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori - The Māori Language Commission, New Zealand	Ms Rawinia Higgins, Commissioner

North America (2)	Metis National Council, Canada	Ms Clara Morin Dal Col, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Families and Minister Responsible for Languages
	The U.S. National Organizing Committee for the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages, USA	Ms Ofelia Zepeda, Member
<b>Designated members (UN three party mechanism)</b>		
The Representative of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2)		Mr Alexey Tsykarev (Russian Federation)
		Mr Phoolman Chaudhary (Nepal)
Other relevant Special Rapporteurs		
Representative of the Expert (2) Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)		Ms Margaret Lokawua (Uganda)
		Mr Binota May Dhamai (Bangladesh)

## Annex III. List of Ad-hoc groups and members

Title of the Ad-hoc group:		
Country / Title	Country / Institution	Name
Year		
<b>Member States (UNESCO Electoral Groups)</b>		
Group I. Western European and North American States		
Group II. Eastern European States		
Group III. Latin America and Caribbean States		
Group IV. Asia and Pacific States		
Group V (a) African States		
Group V (b) Arab States		
<b>Representatives of Indigenous peoples' institutions or institutions from the seven sociocultural regions</b>		
Africa region		
Asia region		
Central and South America and the Caribbean		
The Arctic		
Central Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia		
Pacific region		
North America		
<b>Designated members (UN three party mechanism)</b>		
The Representative of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues		
Other relevant Special Rapporteurs		
Representative of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)		
<b>Other</b>		

## Annex IV. List of permanent observers

Country / Title	Country / Institution	Name
<b>2021-2023</b>		
<b>Member States (UNESCO Electoral Groups)</b>		
Group I. Western European and North American States		
Group II. Eastern European States		
Group III. Latin America and Caribbean States		
Group IV. Asia and Pacific States		
Group V (a) African States		
Group V (b) Arab States		
<b>Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' institutions and organizations from the seven sociocultural regions</b>		
Africa region		
Arctic region		
Asia region		
Central and South America and the Caribbean		
Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia		
North America		
Pacific region		
<b>Other organizations</b>		
<b>Individuals</b>		
<b>UN agencies</b>		