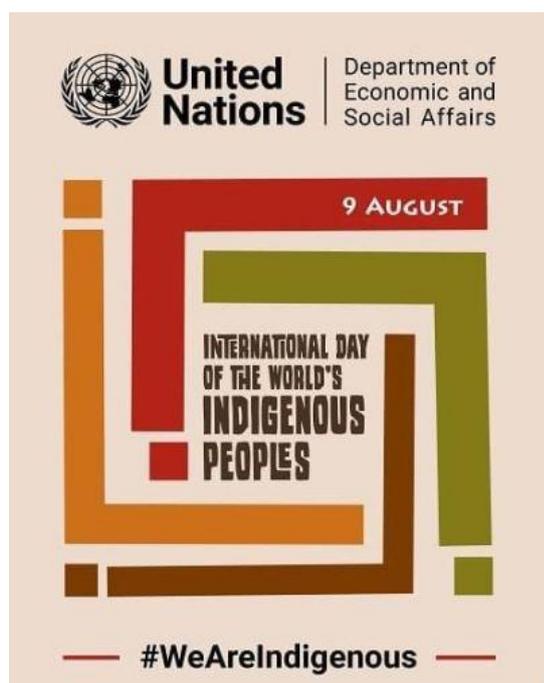


International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples  
Leaving No One Behind:  
Indigenous Peoples and the call for a new social contract  
Virtual commemoration on 9 August 2021

On 9 August, this international day marks the date of the inaugural session of the Working Group in Indigenous Populations in 1982.

There are over 476 million indigenous peoples living in 90 countries around the world, accounting for 6.2% of the global population. Indigenous peoples are the holders of a vast diversity of unique cultures, traditions, languages and knowledge systems. They have a special relationship with their lands and hold diverse concepts of development based on their own worldviews and priorities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated many existing inequalities, disproportionately affecting populations all over the world that were already suffering from poverty, illness, institutional instability, or financial insecurity. These inequalities cannot and must not be ignored. Meanwhile, trust in some of the most important institutions, such as legislatures, law enforcement, media or the private sector, continue to erode, threatening the very fabric of our societies. In many of our societies, the social contract, the unwritten agreement that societies make to cooperate for social and economic benefits, is at the very least, in need of some revision.



## Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract

Monday, 9 August, 9-11 am EST (New York)

Traditional ceremony by **Tadodaho Sidney Hill**, Chief, Onondaga Nation  
Message by **António Guterres**, United Nations Secretary-General  
Message by **Anne Nuorgam**, Chair, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

### Interactive Dialogue



**María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés**,  
President of the 73rd session  
of the United Nations  
General Assembly



**Prof. James Anaya**,  
University of Colorado  
Law School



**Ghazali Ohorella**,  
Moderator,  
Host of Gomaluku  
podcast

Interpretation available in Spanish-English  
and vice-versa provided by:  
Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples  
of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC)



From the perspective of indigenous peoples, the contract is even starker. In many countries, where indigenous peoples were driven from their lands, their cultures and languages denigrated and their people marginalized from political and economic activities, they were never included in the social contract to begin with. The social contract was made among the dominant populations.

The new social contract must be based on genuine participation and partnership that fosters equal opportunities and respects the rights, dignity and freedoms of all. The whole of society, not only governments, but also social activists: indigenous peoples, women, academia, scientists, all have a

role to play in building and redesigning a new social contract that serves the interest of “We, the peoples”

The virtual commemoration included an opening segment with a traditional ceremony, followed by pre-recorded videos of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The interactive dialogue segment was with the participation of two invited speakers: Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces and Prof. James Anaya.

Source UN.ORG/ Indigenous #weareindigenous

Martine Gayon

UN Representative, New York