



Tadodaho Sid Hill (right), Chief of the Onondaga Nation, with young participants at his side, delivers the ceremonial welcome

12.05.2016 – Monday 9 May marked the Opening Ceremony of the UN’s Fifteenth Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues ([PFII](#)), of which this year’s theme is “Indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution”.

The session, which is held at the UN headquarters in New York from 9 to 20 May, brings Member States and indigenous peoples’ representatives together in addressing:

- The implementation of the six mandated areas of the PFII with reference to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ([UNDRIP](#))
- Conflict, peace and resolution
- Coordination among the three UN mechanisms on indigenous affairs

A dialogue will take place with the [Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) and the [Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#). The session will also consider the future work of the PFII and emerging issues.

[In a video message](#), UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the launch of a plan to realize the full rights of indigenous peoples who are increasingly being drawn into conflicts over their lands and resources.

“Member States are beginning implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#), the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) and the [Paris Agreement](#) on climate change,” Ban underlined. “We must ensure that indigenous peoples, including women, participate and benefit.”

The issues of peace and conflict – often relating to indigenous peoples’ lands, territories and resources, and to their rights and distinct identities – are at the forefront of this year’s discussions, at which over 1,000 indigenous participants from all regions of the world are attending.



[UNRIG: Review of the Sustainable Development Indigenous Peoples](#)
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