



**IWGIA**

INTERNATIONAL WORK GROUP FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

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## ***The Indigenous World:*** **Four Decades of Documenting Indigenous Peoples' Rights**

Launch of *The Indigenous World 2026* & Celebration of 40 Years of publishing *The Indigenous World*

Side event for the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2026  
13:15 – 14:30 NY time, Wednesday 22 April, Room CR-3

For 40 years, *The Indigenous World* has been one of the most consistent and comprehensive sources of documentation on the situation and rights of Indigenous Peoples worldwide. Produced annually by IWGIA, the publication draws on the knowledge and contributions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous authors, experts, and organizations from across the globe, providing authoritative analysis on developments affecting Indigenous Peoples in more than 60 countries across all 7 socio-cultural regions and across more than 20 international processes and mechanisms.

The 2026 edition marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this unique publication — a milestone that highlights both the enduring value of long-term documentation and the importance of centering Indigenous perspectives in global discussions.

The annual launching of *The Indigenous World* provides a unique opportunity for IWGIA to organize a panel with Indigenous leaders, UN mechanisms and other key stakeholders to address some of the core trends and developments with regards to Indigenous Peoples rights over the past year.

In light of the main theme of the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, “*Ensuring Indigenous Peoples’ health, including in the context of conflict,*” the editorial theme of the 40<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Indigenous World*— “*Peace and Security*”— offers a timely and relevant lens to explore how conflict continues to undermine the rights, wellbeing, and safety of Indigenous Peoples.

In a time when democratic and civil society spaces are shrinking and conflict rhetoric is heightening, the peace and security of Indigenous Peoples and their rights, particularly to land, territories and resources is increasingly becoming threatened. It is crucial to emphasize that Indigenous Peoples must not be rendered invisible in today’s peace and security discourses. Many Indigenous communities and their territories are disproportionately and devastatingly affected by armed conflicts, civil unrest, militarization, the war against illegal cartels, and territorial sovereignty disputes between States. In many cases, their steadfast defense of their lands, rights, and ways of life places them in direct opposition to all parties involved in conflict — State forces, armed groups, private interests, and criminal networks — making them targets of violence, displacement, and persecution. These dynamics often unfold without acknowledging Indigenous Peoples in policy frameworks or peacebuilding strategies. Their exclusion perpetuates cycles of violence and undermines efforts toward sustainable peace in all societies.

We are delighted to once again have the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN in New York join us as co-sponsor for the launch of the book.