



# Indigenous Leadership for Health

## Virtual Preparatory Event to UNPFII 2026

Interpretation: English | French | Portuguese | Russian | Spanish

 **Thursday, 16 April 2026**  **13:30 – 16:00 CEST**  **Zoom**

**Register:** [who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_7wDcUDp0Qa6roSzVIHlyWg](https://who.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7wDcUDp0Qa6roSzVIHlyWg)

Indigenous Peoples have the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. This virtual preparatory event to the **25th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII 2026)** brings together Indigenous leaders from around the world to shape the forthcoming **WHO Global Plan of Action on the Health of Indigenous Peoples (GPoA)**. Hear inspiring country examples, get insights to Indigenous-led health systems including traditional medicines and practices, and help refine a landmark global plan of action. The event is being co-organized by WHO, the Government of Brazil, the Government of the Philippines, and the Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health, with interpretation by DOCIP.

### Programme Agenda

#### Part I — Global Plan of Action Update

**13:30**

##### Opening Statements by Indigenous Co-Chairs

**Lucinha Tremembé**, Secretary of Indigenous Health, Ministry of Health, Brazil

**Albert Francis E. Domingo**, MD, MSc, Undersecretary of Health and Chief of Staff, Department of Health, Philippines

**13:50**

##### WHO Update: draft Global Plan of Action on the Health of Indigenous Peoples

**Alia El-Yassir**, Director, Department for Gender, Rights, Equity and Sexual Misconduct Prevention, WHO/HQ

**14:05**

##### Lessons from PAHO's Strategy on Ethnicity and Health 2019–2025

**Sandra Del Pino**, Ethnicity and Health Advisor, Pan-American Health Organization// WHO Regional Office for the Americas

**14:20**

##### Reflections on the draft GPoA and How Health will Feature at UNPFII 2026

**Aluki Kotierk**, Chair, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

#### Part II — Indigenous Leadership for Health

**14:40**

##### Roundtable Panel on Indigenous Leadership for Health

**Chair: Melissa L. Walls**, Co-Director and Professor, Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health

##### Panelists:

- **Tuomas Aslak Juuso**, Acting President of the Sámi Parliament of Finland
- **Vital Bambanze**, Director and Co-founder, Unite for the Promotion of the Batwa Community, Burundi
- **Karl Briscoe**, CEO of the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP), Australia
- **Deepa Pawar**, Founder and Director, Anubhuti Trust, Thane District, Maharashtra, India

**15:40**

##### Closing Reflections

- **Albert K. Barume**, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- **Anexa Brendalee Alfred Cunningham**, Chair, and **Sheryl Lighfoot**, Vice-Chair, of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

**Free & Open Registration**

**Register here or Scan the barcode**

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