

Member State Global Consultation

Development of a Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous Peoples (GPoA)

8 September 2026

Agenda

- 1. Opening remarks and presentation on the 3rd draft of the Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous Peoples –**
Ms. Alia El-Yassir, WHO Director, Department of Gender, Rights, Equity & Sexual Misconduct Prevention
- 2. Member State comments on the 3rd draft, and Q&A –**
moderated by WHO Secretariat
- 3. Next steps and closing**

Development of the Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous Peoples

- **The 76th World Health Assembly (May 2023)** adopted Resolution 76.16 on the Health of Indigenous Peoples. The resolution requests the WHO Director-General to develop a *Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous Peoples*.
- **The 158th Executive Board (February 2026)** considered the GPoA under agenda item 24 and adopted decision EB158(10), *recommending that WHA79 defer consideration of the draft GPoA to the 80th World Health Assembly in 2027*, through the 160th Executive Board session, to allow additional time for further consultations with Member States, Indigenous Peoples, UN and multilateral agencies, civil society, academia and other actors.
- **WHA79 (May 2026)** considered "The health of Indigenous Peoples" under agenda item 15.3 and adopted the decision recommended by the Executive Board.



Historic resolution calls for action to improve the health of Indigenous Peoples

29 May 2023 | Departmental update | Reading time: 2 min (615 words)

Countries participating in this year's World Health Assembly (WHA76) passed a groundbreaking resolution for the health of Indigenous Peoples. The resolution calls on the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop a comprehensive Global Action Plan for the well-being of Indigenous Peoples and present it at the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly in 2026. The resolution is a historic one, marking the first time the World Health Assembly has passed a resolution specifically addressing the health disparities

Related

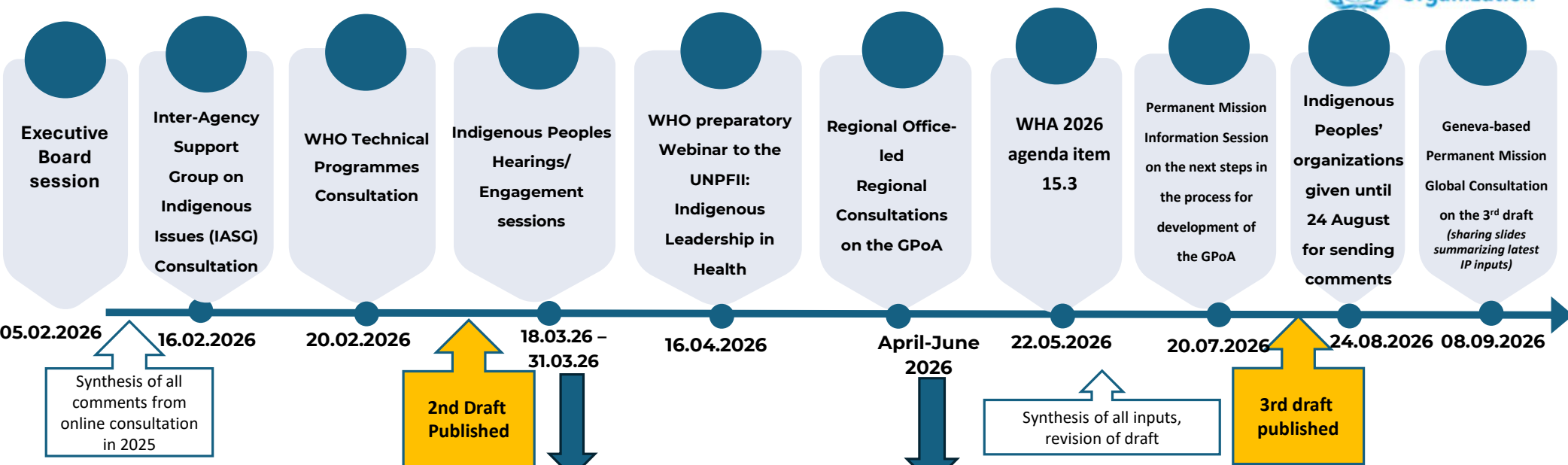
Related documents and publications

Resolution 76.16/CONF.1: The health of Indigenous Peoples

WHA Resolution 76.16 is accessible at:
https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA76/A76_R16-en.pdf

EB Decision EB158(10) is accessible at:
https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB158/B158%2810%29-en.pdf

GPoA Timeline (Q1-Q3 2026)



1	Central, South America and Caribbean (EN, SP, PT, FR)	18.03.2026
2	North America (EN, FR)	20.03.2026
3	Arctic (EN, RU)	23.03.2026
4	Africa (EN, FR, PT)	25.03.2026
5	Central & Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia (EN, RU)	27.03.2026
6	Asia (EN,FR)	30.03.2026
7	Pacific (EN, SP, FR)	31.03.2026

National consultations in different countries

WHO participation/engagement in the UNPFII: focus on health this year

GPoA session at WONCA Rural health conference in New Zealand (12 April)

EMRO Regional Consultation	20 April
EURO Regional Consultation	22 April
PAHO Regional Consultation	5 & 7 May
SEARO Regional Consultation	12 May
AFRO Regional Consultation	3 June
WPRO Regional Consultation	8-9 June
HQ and cross-RO Technical meetings (within WHO)	18 May and 11 June

3rd Draft Global Plan of Action



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3rd draft of the Global Plan of Action went online 31st July 2026



3rd draft GPoA for consultation – July 2026



World Health Organization Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous Peoples (2027-2040)

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Guidance for reviewers:
The maximum wordcount is 5,000 for any WHO global plan of action to be considered by WHO Governing Bodies. Extensive feedback was received on drafts 1 and 2 of this plan. Taking comments onboard often required merging inputs from multiple sources into a single sentence or using specific words to capture the general essence of a much longer text suggestion, while also trying to keep the overall wordcount within 5,000. We appreciate your understanding of these constraints when reviewing the 3rd draft. Please also consider that country-specific orientations can be further integrated in processes of adaptation to country level. Please refer to the paragraph number and section and/or priority and action area when making any additional comments, and please provide full references with links for supporting documents.

Overview of third draft

Acknowledgement

- Recognizing the worldviews, strengths, and rights of Indigenous Peoples in advancing their health and health-related rights.

Background

- WHA 76.16 (2023) mandate, process for development, review of evidence to inform the plan, and how the plan supports implementation of WHA resolution 76.16 and relevant international human rights standards and commitments.

Scope

- Addresses terminology used, acknowledges differing contexts and the importance of local adaptation, delineates the transversal nature of the priorities, states the Plan's timeframe, and target audience.

Guiding principles and approaches

- Free, Prior and Informed Consent
- Human Rights Based Approach
- Right to Self Determination
- Culturally safe, holistic and strengths-based approaches
- Others

Principals and approaches	Goal					
	To promote, provide and protect the physical and mental health and well-being of Indigenous Peoples					
Priority areas	- Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), Human Rights Based Approach, right to self determination, and culturally safe, holistic and strengths-based approaches - Additional approaches: (primary health care; non-discrimination and anti-racism; a life course approach; Indigenous data governance and Indigenous data sovereignty, One Health reflecting Indigenous perspective of planetary health, health equity, gender equality, disability inclusivity.					
	Priority 1: Indigenous Peoples' leadership and engagement	Priority 2: The health of the environment and its link to Indigenous Peoples' health	Priority 3: Quality health and social care services, including in health emergencies	Priority 4: Indigenous Peoples' right to traditional medicines and health practices	Priority 5: Social determinants of Indigenous Peoples' health, & gender inequalities	Priority 6: Evidence generation, digital health Indigenous data sovereignty, and joint accountability
Action areas	1.1: Indigenous Peoples' leadership and engagement in policies & programmes affecting them 1.2 Adequate, predictable and sustainable funding 1.3: Systematic application of FPIC 1.4: Tackling racism and ethnic discrimination 1.5: Indigenous Peoples in the global health architecture	2.1: Climate change mitigation, adaptation and response and Indigenous Peoples' health 2.2: Biodiversity policies, strategies and plans and Indigenous Peoples' health 2.3: Environmental contamination and Indigenous Peoples' health 2.4: Water protection and Indigenous Peoples' health 2.5: National food and nutrition action plans and Indigenous Peoples' traditional food systems	3.1: Indigenous health policies, plans and/or embedded measures 3.2: Health system strengthening where Indigenous Peoples live 3.3: Scaled up health promotion and prevention services benefiting Indigenous Peoples 3.4: Expanded Indigenous health and care workforce 3.5: Reduced out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure impacting Indigenous Peoples 3.6: Indigenous Peoples and health emergencies	4.1: Recognition and respect of the traditional medicines, practices and providers of Indigenous Peoples 4.2: People-centered co-development with Indigenous Peoples of models of integrated health services 4.3: Intergenerational continuity to preserve traditional medicines and practices of Indigenous Peoples 4.4: Prevent the misuse, misappropriation or exploitation of traditional medicines and practices	5.1: Culturally appropriate/Indigenous-led early childhood development and adolescent support 5.2: Indigenous languages and the health sector 5.3: Intermediary health determinants (e.g., housing, water and sanitation, etc) 5.4: Structural determinants of Indigenous health 5.5: Gender equality and ensuring the health of Indigenous women and girls 5.6: Indigenous Peoples in "Isolation and Initial Contact"	6.1: Indigenous leadership and co-development of health research 6.2: Application of the principles of Indigenous Peoples' data sovereignty 6.3: Digitalized health information systems for data on Indigenous health 6.4: Platforms for joint accountability on Indigenous health
WHO Contribution	Country support. Tailored support to Member States, upon request, to deliver on the priorities and action areas in the Global Plan of Action.					
	Leadership and coordination. Strengthened collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and cross-cutting coordination and engagement with relevant UN and multilateral system agencies, human rights mechanisms, civil society, academia and other stakeholders to promote Indigenous Peoples' health.					
	Governance, integration and accountability. Secretariat support reporting to the World Health Assembly on implementation progress, constitution of a dedicated engagement/advisory mechanisms comprised of Indigenous Peoples and establishment of an internal WHO cross-cutting coordination mechanism to support the Plan's implementation.					
	Development of normative products and capacity-building. Mainstreaming a focus on the health of Indigenous Peoples scaled up across all WHO programmes and levels, and co-development with Indigenous Peoples, as appropriate, guidance, tools, and training materials.					

Overview of third draft



Priority 1: Promoting Indigenous Peoples' leadership and engagement in actions affecting their health, at local, national and global levels

Extracts/summaries of text (see online draft document for complete text):

Action domain 1.1: Contextually appropriate, fit-for-purpose measures which strengthen ***Indigenous Peoples' leadership and engagement*** in developing, determining, administering, implementing and monitoring and evaluating health policies, programmes, and initiatives affecting them

Action domain 1.2: ***Adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding*** for Indigenous-operated, or co-developed health and social services [...]

Action domain 1.3: Rights-based, equitable and inclusive ***partnership mechanisms and protocols for the systematic application of the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent*** [...]

Action domain 1.4: [...] ***measures to tackle racism and ethnicity-based discrimination*** in the health sector, foster culturally safe health services, promote integrated intercultural care models, and support related intercultural and intersectoral dialogue

Action domain 1.5: ***Strengthened Indigenous leadership across the global health architecture*** [...]

Overview of third draft



Priority 2: Safeguarding Indigenous Peoples' health through healthy environments, now and for future generations

Extracts/summaries of text (see online draft document for complete text):

Action domain 2.1: Ensure Indigenous Peoples' engagement in the *health-related dimensions of climate change mitigation, adaptation and response* strategies, plans, and initiatives [...]

Action domain 2.2: Support Indigenous-led ecosystem stewardship for health and nature-based approaches for health in national and international *policies, strategies and plans for biodiversity protection* [...]

Action Domain 2.3: Strengthen policies, laws, plans and regulations to address the *impacts of environmental contamination on Indigenous Peoples' health* [...]

Action Domain 2.4: Recognize Indigenous Peoples as partners in *stewardship for health-sustaining water sources* [...] and integrate Indigenous knowledge related to health into water governance

Action Domain 2.5: Support *health-promoting Indigenous Peoples' traditional food systems* through Indigenous Peoples' engagement in all stages of national food and nutrition action plans and innovations in public food procurement and social prescribing of traditional and sustainable healthy diets

Overview of third draft



Priority 3: Ensuring holistic health and social care services for Indigenous Peoples' physical and mental health, including in health emergencies

Extracts/summaries of text (see online draft document for complete text):

Action domain 3.1: Advance *health policies, strategies and plans (and/or specific objectives and measures in wider plans)* for the physical and mental health of Indigenous Peoples, with these being co-designed, co-led, and co-implemented by Indigenous Peoples [...]

Action domain 3.2: Strengthen *health systems in places where Indigenous Peoples live*, with people-centred service delivery adaptations for differing Indigenous lifestyles and contexts [...]

Action domain 3.3: Scale up culturally appropriate and strengths-based *health promotion and prevention services* for Indigenous Peoples' physical and mental health [...]

Action Domain 3.4: Strengthen and expand the *Indigenous health and care workforce* [...].

Action Domain 3.5: Reduce *out-of-pocket health care expenditure* impacting Indigenous Peoples

Action Domain 3.6: Enable Indigenous Peoples' systematic partnership in whole-of-society *health emergency prevention, preparedness, response and resilience (HEPR) plans, and National Action Plans for Health Security* [...]

Overview of third draft



Priority 4: Respecting Indigenous Peoples' right to traditional medicines and maintaining health practices

Extracts/summaries of text (see online draft document for complete text):

Action domain 4.1: Ensure *recognition and non-stigmatization of Indigenous Peoples' traditional medicines, practices and providers* in health policies and programming [...]

Action Domain 4.2: Support *people-centered co-development of models of integrated health services* -- using a combination of biomedical and traditional medical knowledge, skills and practices -- that enable traditional medicines and practices of Indigenous Peoples to be integrated within national health systems [...]

Action Domain 4.3: Support *initiatives for Intergenerational continuity to preserve traditional medicines and practices* of Indigenous Peoples [...]

Action Domain 4.4: Support efforts to *prevent the misuse, misappropriation or exploitation of Indigenous Peoples' traditional medicines and practices*, in keeping with UNDRIP Article 31 [...]

Overview of third draft



Priority 5: Addressing the social determinants of Indigenous Peoples' health and gender inequalities

Extracts/summaries of text (see online draft document for complete text):

Action Domain 5.1: [...] culturally appropriate/Indigenous-led ***early childhood development (ECD) and adolescent support*** in Indigenous communities, in ways that foster intergenerational cohesion, cultural continuity and preservation of protective factors for physical and mental health [...]

Action Domain 5.2: Support ***inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' languages*** across the health sector [...]

Action Domain 5.3: Enhance policy and programming on ***intermediary/proximal determinants*** to improve — where relevant — daily living conditions such as housing, water and sanitation, food security and nutrition [...]

Action Domain 5.4: [...] providing evidence, advocating, and action on ***structural determinants*** of Indigenous Peoples' health (e.g., social protection, lifelong learning and education, labour market inclusion [...])

Action Domain 5.5: Ensure attention to ***gender equality and health of Indigenous women and girls*** in health policymaking and programming [...]

Action Domain 5.6: Ensure cross-sectoral public health action in recognition of ***Indigenous Peoples in isolation and initial contact*** [...]

Overview of third draft



Priority 6: Advancing evidence generation, Indigenous data sovereignty, digital health, and joint accountability for the health of Indigenous Peoples

Extracts/summaries of text (see online draft document for complete text):

Action Domain 6.1: Support *Indigenous leadership and co-development of health research* [...]

Action Domain 6.2: [...] adopt *ethical data governance frameworks* that ensure secure, trusted and quality data production, digital health and research approaches [...]. These frameworks should support *application of Indigenous data sovereignty principles* [...]

Action Domain 6.3: Strengthen *digitalized health information systems, across sources, for data on Indigenous health*, while ensuring legal and operational standards for data collection, storage, sharing, analysis and use, protection and prevention of misuse [...]

Action Domain 6.4: [...] establish or reinforce *Indigenous health accountability mechanisms* -- backed by legal, policy and social accountability frameworks -- that protect Indigenous Peoples' health-related rights, give guidance on implementation of relevant actions, and advise on grievance and redress processes. [...]

Overview of the third draft

Support by the WHO Secretariat

- Technical support to countries
- Leadership and coordination:
 - Policy dialogue, convening and coordination, including with IASG
- Governance and accountability:
 - Mainstreaming in WHO General Programme of Work, internal coordination mechanism
 - Leveraging the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNSWAP) and IASG partnerships
 - Appropriate arrangements for the full, effective and equal participation of Indigenous Peoples
- Technical products and capacity building

Adaptation, implementation and M&E

- Plan can be adapted and implemented in line with nationally expressed needs, local contexts, priorities, and financial situations, with due attention to the rights of Indigenous Peoples [...]
- [...] processes jointly designed, developed and led by/with Indigenous Peoples [...]

WHO will work with partners on ***a technical document supporting national-level adaptation, implementation, and country-focused monitoring and evaluation*** of the Plan (building on existing systems and approaches, as appropriate).

Member State Global Consultation on the development of a Global Plan of Action (GPoA) for the Health of Indigenous Peoples



Objectives

- Member States the opportunity to review and discuss the third draft of the GPoA
- Gather feedback for incorporation into the fourth draft of the GPoA

Deadline of 23rd August for written comments:

Sharing example/select inputs from Indigenous Peoples' organizations, academia, professional organizations, etc. received on the 3rd draft.

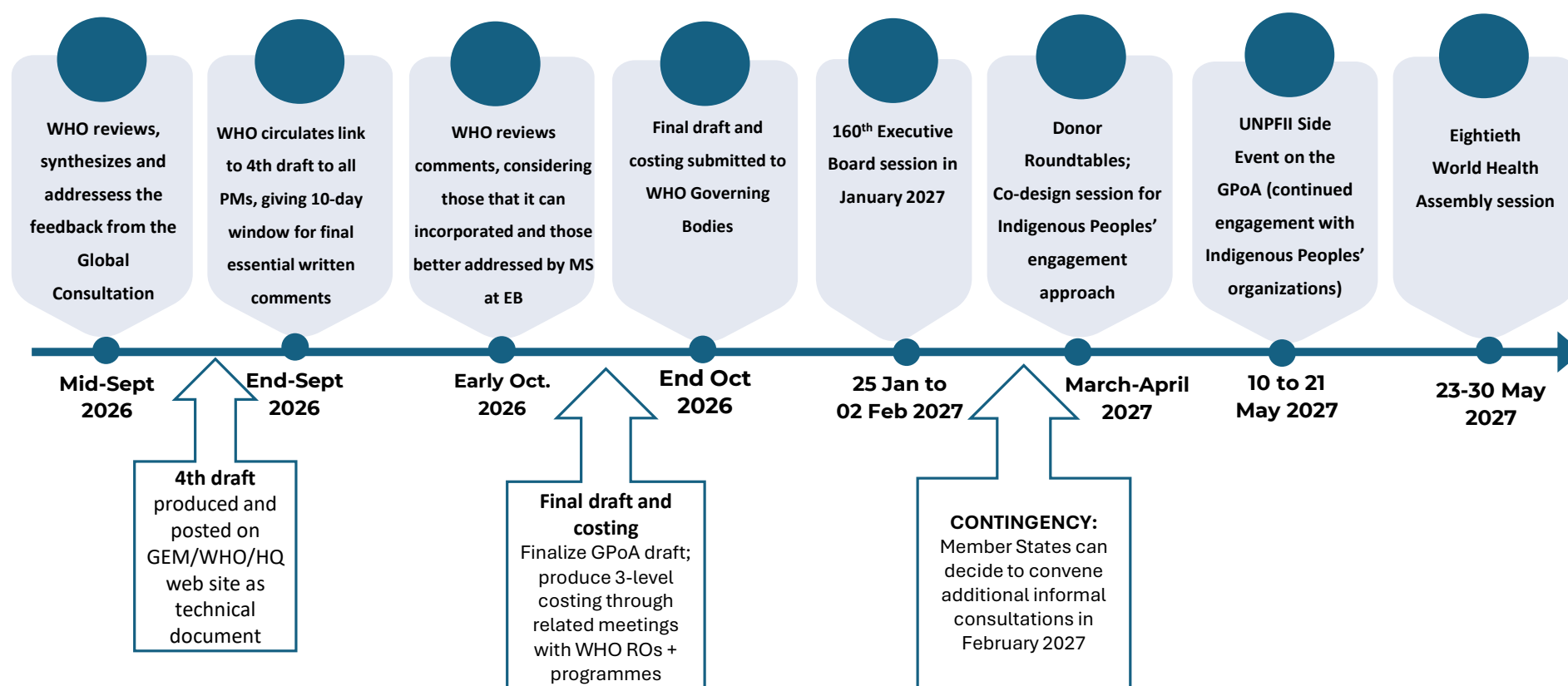
Geneva-based
Permanent
Mission Global
Consultation

8 September
13:00–15:00
CEST
Hybrid

Member State comments

on the 3rd draft of the Global Plan of Action on the Health of Indigenous Peoples

Next steps: GPoA timeline (Sept 2026 to May 2027)



Next steps and closing

To share a copy of a Permanent Mission's statement at today's session, please email it by close-of-business today (8 September 2026) to: gem@who.int

Through its role as Secretariat of the GPoA, WHO remains committed to its contribution to the advancement of Indigenous Peoples' health globally. We thank you for the partnership.

Thank you.