



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES INDIGENOUS VOICES

Training of Trainers on Indigenous Peoples' Issues

ILO International Training Centre, Turin
8-11 June 2009

Indigenous Peoples' Issues in the UN System



United Nations

Overview

- UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues
- Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples
- Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- UN Agencies

Brief overview of UNPFII

- The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is an advisory body of the UN Economic and Social Council.
- Comprised by 16 experts who serve in their personal capacity for 3 year terms
 - 8 nominated by governments
 - 8 nominated by indigenous peoples' organizations
 - Geographic distribution
- Annual session held in New York since 2002. Sessions are open (as observers) to States, UN Agencies, representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations, academics, and NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status (attendance is approximately 1000 people)
- UNPFII Secretariat within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN Secretariat.

Mandate of UNPFII

- To discuss indigenous issues within ECOSOC's mandate, including economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights
- To provide expert advice and recommendations to the Council and to programmes, funds and agencies of the UN
- To raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities related to indigenous issues within the UN system
- To prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues

Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG)

- Established in 2002 to support and promote the mandate of the UNPFII within the UN System
- Currently composed of 34 UN system agencies, funds and programmes and other inter-governmental organizations
- In 2006, the IASG was mandated by UNDG to develop UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, as well as an action plan for their implementation.
- In addition to individual agency reports, the IASG reports annually to UNPFII on actions and results.

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples

- Office established in 2001
- Mandate:
 - a) To examine ways and means of overcoming existing obstacles to the full and effective protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, in conformity with his/her mandate, and to identify, exchange and promote best practices;
 - b) To gather, request, receive and exchange information and communications from all relevant sources, including Governments, indigenous people and their communities and organizations, on alleged violations of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;
 - c) To formulate recommendations and proposals on appropriate measures and activities to prevent and remedy violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people;
 - d) To work in close cooperation, while avoiding unnecessary duplication, with other special procedures and subsidiary organs of the Human Rights Council, relevant United Nations bodies, the treaty bodies, and human rights regional organizations;

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples (cont.)

- The Special Rapporteur works closely with the UNPFII and the Expert Mechanism.
- Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen was the first Special Rapporteur, from 2001 to 2008.
- Mr. James Anaya is the current Special Rapporteur.
- The Special Rapporteur is supported by the Special Procedures Branch of OHCHR.

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- Established in December 2007, under Human Rights Council
- 5 independent experts appointed by President of the Council
- First Session held in Geneva, 1-3 October 2008
- Mandate:
 - Provide the Council with thematic expertise
 - Give advice to the Council based on studies and research
 - Suggest proposals to the council

UN Agencies/ Programmes

- Some UN Agencies have specific policies on indigenous issues or have policies that make reference to indigenous peoples (human rights policies, for example)
- Many UN Agencies have specific programmes on indigenous peoples' issues.
- UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues provide guidance to UN Agencies.

Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005-2015)

1. Promoting non-discrimination and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the design, implementation and evaluation of international, regional and national processes regarding laws, policies, resources, programmes and projects;
2. Promoting full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decisions which directly or indirectly affect their lifestyles, traditional lands and territories, their cultural integrity as indigenous peoples with collective rights or any other aspect of their lives, considering the principle of free, prior and informed consent;
3. Redefining development policies that depart from a vision of equity and that are culturally appropriate, including respect for the cultural and linguistic diversity of indigenous peoples;
4. Adopting targeted policies, programmes, projects and budgets for the development of indigenous peoples, including concrete benchmarks, and particular emphasis on indigenous women, children and youth;
5. Developing strong monitoring mechanisms and enhancing accountability at the international, regional and particularly the national level, regarding the implementation of legal, policy and operational frameworks for the protection of indigenous peoples and the improvement of their lives.

Thank you very much!

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