



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES INDIGENOUS VOICES

MEDIA ADVISORY

International Day to focus on indigenous peoples and HIV/AIDS

In commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9 August) – which will focus this year on indigenous peoples and HIV/AIDS – Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro will lead an observance at UN Headquarters on Monday, 10 August.

At the event in New York, remarks by senior UN officials and indigenous representatives will be followed by a performance of Crimean Tatar singing and dancing, and a panel discussion, moderated by Tonya Gonella Frichner, Member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (see full programme below).

Indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women, are particularly vulnerable to the threat of HIV/AIDS, suffering disproportionately from a number of socio-economic difficulties that increase the spread of the disease, including poverty, marginalization, homelessness and poor access to education.

Indigenous communities often lack access to basic health care and culturally-adequate information on the causes, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, indigenous peoples tend to be isolated from decision-making processes, and are therefore seldom involved in the formulation of effective strategies to prevent the spread of the disease.

In a message to mark the Day, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized the vulnerability of indigenous peoples to HIV/AIDS, noting that, “It is essential that indigenous peoples have access to the information and infrastructure necessary for detection, treatment and protection”.


The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted in 2007, underscores the right of indigenous peoples to all social and health services, and to the enjoyment of the highest standards of physical and mental health.

For more information on the Day, visit: <http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenous/2009/>

MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS: Journalists without UN accreditation who wish to attend the event should follow the instructions for obtaining accreditation at www.un.org/media/accreditation For media enquiries or interviews, please contact: Charlotte Scaddan, Department of Public Information, tel: 917-367-9378, e-mail: scaddan@un.org. For Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, please contact: Broddi Sigurdarson, tel: 917 367 2106, e-mail: IndigenousPermanentForum@un.org.



United Nations



PROGRAMME
Monday, 10 August, 2.00-5.30p.m.
Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters

Welcome Ceremony

Welcome by Master of Ceremonies Roberto Múcaro Borrero (Taíno, Puerto Rico), Chairperson, NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Message from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Message from the President of the General Assembly

Statement by Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Sha Zukang

Message from the Chairperson of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz

Cultural Performance: Crimean Tatar singing and dancing

Panel Discussion: Indigenous Peoples and HIV/AIDS

Moderator: Tonya Gonella Frichner, Member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Panellists:

Kent Lebsock, 2 Spirit Society

Howard Njoo, Director General at the Centre for Communicable Diseases and Infection Control of the Public Health Agency of Canada

Olivia Belen Sloan, Johns Hopkins University

Marine Davtyan, Liaison Officer, UNAIDS

This event is organized by the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues DSPD/DESA, and the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

The International Day of the World's Indigenous People is officially commemorated annually on 9 August in recognition of the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 1982.

