

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Contribution of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section to the 14th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

January 7, 2015

Summary

The present submission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has been prepared in the context of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. This contribution should be read alongside the report submitted to the Human Rights Council¹ on the relevant developments in human rights bodies and mechanisms and activities undertaken by the OHCHR to contribute to the full and effective realization of the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The recent reports of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples² and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,³ both supported by the OHCHR, also hold relevance. This report is not an exhaustive overview of all OHCHR activities to promote the rights of indigenous peoples but rather an illustration of selected actions taken at country and regional levels and at headquarters in the focus areas to be reviewed by the Permanent Forum during its fourteenth session in 2015. This submission provides, in particular, information on the activities that the OHCHR undertakes to follow-up the Outcome of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It also addresses the activities of the OHCHR in light of the recommendations that the Permanent Forum made at its thirteenth session.

¹ A/HRC/27/30 (Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the rights of indigenous peoples)

² A/HRC/27/52 (Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples); A/HRC/27/52/Add.1 (The Status of Indigenous Peoples Rights in Panama); A/HRC/27/52/Add.2 (The situation of Indigenous Peoples in Canada); A/HRC/27/52/Add.3 (The Situation of Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Peru with regard to extractive industries); A/HRC/27/52/Add.4 (Observations on communications); and A/69/267 (Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples).

³ A/HRC/27/64 (Report of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on its seventh session), A/HRC/27/65 (Access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples - Study of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), A/HRC/27/66 (Promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in natural disaster risk reduction and prevention and preparedness initiatives: Study of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples); and A/HRC/27/67 (Final summary of responses to the questionnaire seeking the views of States and indigenous peoples on best practices regarding possible appropriate measures and implementation strategies to attain the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - Report of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)

Contents

I: OHCHR's work in focus areas to be reviewed by the Permanent Forum in 2015	3
(a) World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and follow-up of its Outcome document ..	3
(b) The Post-2015 Development Agenda.....	5
(c) Indigenous youth, self-harm and suicide	7
II: OHCHR's work in light of the Permanent Forum's recommendations in 2014	8
Special theme: "Principles of good governance consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: articles 3 to 6 and 46"	8
Expert Group Meeting on the theme Sexual Health and reproductive rights	8
Half-day discussion on the Asian region.....	9
Comprehensive dialogue with United Nations Agencies and Funds.....	11
III. Implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum	11
IV. OHCHR policies on indigenous peoples' issues.....	13
V. Recent OHCHR programmes, projects and activities on indigenous peoples' issues....	13
VII: Capacity building programmes on indigenous peoples' issues for OHCHR staff	14
VIII: Focal points on indigenous peoples' issues within the OHCHR	15
VIII: Conferences and other meetings organized or supported by OHCHR in 2014	15

I: OHCHR's work in focus areas to be reviewed by the Permanent Forum in 2015

(a) World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and follow-up of its Outcome document

In the lead-up to the World Conference, the High Commissioner for Human Rights consistently raised the importance of the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples to ensure that the World Conference is organized not only on, but with, indigenous peoples. In addition to calling for an inclusive process and for the integration of human rights standards in the Conference and its Outcome Document, OHCHR, through the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, has played a direct role in supporting indigenous peoples' participation in the Conference and its preparatory process. The Fund supported the participation of 21 indigenous representatives in the preparatory meetings and the participation of 84 indigenous representatives in the World Conference.

In his opening remarks at the World Conference, the newly appointed High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein emphasized the need for the United Nations to open its doors even wider to accommodate the full participation of indigenous peoples, and that efforts should be strengthened to ensure that indigenous peoples are fully embedded in all international initiatives that affect them, including in the Post-2015 Development Goals. He also called for national action plans and strategies to be developed and underlined that such plans should be fully consistent with the principles and objectives of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In addition to the statement delivered by the High Commissioner, the OHCHR, as the chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG) made an intervention to highlight the importance of the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples at all stages of the follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference. OHCHR also drew attention to a series of thematic papers ranging from land rights to traditional knowledge which have been prepared by the IASG to contribute to the World Conference⁴.

OHCHR field presences have also been actively engaged in the preparations for the World Conference, including through preparing information notes on the World Conference and

⁴ <http://www.un.org/en/ga/69/meetings/indigenous/documents.shtml>

facilitating discussions between indigenous representatives about their participation in the Conference. For instance, in July 2014 OHCHR in Guatemala held bilateral meetings with indigenous representatives and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote indigenous participation in the preparatory activities for the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples. The OHCHR regional office for South America (Chile) organized and participated in the “National Meeting of Indigenous Peoples towards the World Conference” within the framework of an interagency project with indigenous leaders. The meeting aimed at promoting the participation of indigenous leaders in the World Conference, including in the Outcome Document drafting process.

OHCHR intends to play a key role in the follow-up of the Conference, both as the chair of IASG and through its leadership in respect of many human rights elements of the Outcome Document. For example, it is attaching great importance to providing strong support to the review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the Human Rights Council, which requires inclusion of indigenous peoples in the process.

The need to introduce more inclusive UN processes and recognition of a specific status of indigenous representative structures were among the key issues raised by indigenous representatives in the lead-up to the World Conference. The Outcome document requests the Secretary-General to submit, through ECOSOC, to the 70th session of the General Assembly, specific recommendations on how to enable participation of indigenous peoples’ participation at the UN, building on the Secretary General’s report on this topic submitted to the Human Rights Council in 2012⁵, and OHCHR looks forward to contributing to the development of such recommendations, bearing in mind its past work on this topic. The OHCHR also stands ready to provide support to the development of national action plans and strategies, as envisaged in paragraph 8 of the Outcome Document.

During the OHCHR’s chairmanship of the IASG, a key priority of the IASG will be to follow up the Outcome Document of the World Conference. The preparation of a System Wide Action Plan (SWAP) was a key topic for discussion at the annual meeting of the IASG on Indigenous Issues that the OHCHR hosted in Geneva on 1-2 December 2014. IASG is now working actively to support the Senior Official of the United Nations system responsible for coordinating follow up action for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, Mr. Wu

⁵ A/HRC/21/24 (Ways and means of promoting participation at the United Nations of indigenous peoples’ representatives on issues affecting them – Report of the Secretary General)

Hongbo, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, to develop a SWAP. In keeping with its mandate to promote and protect human rights, the OHCHR will work towards a SWAP that has human rights at its core, that yields concrete action on the ground in the spirit of One UN and that builds on existing initiatives and good practices, such as the OHCHR fellowship programme, UN Indigenous Peoples Partnership (UNIPP) and the UNDG Guidelines on indigenous issues. Discussions at the IAGS meeting also resulted in enhancing joint efforts towards operationalizing indicators for indigenous peoples' well-being. Such work will build on IASG members' existing work on indigenous-specific indicators and will include consultations with indigenous peoples and States.

OHCHR field presences will also continue their engagement with the World Conference and the implementation of the Outcome Document. For instance, at its annual meeting in September 2014, the OHCHR Regional office for Central America, through its Regional Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples, decided that its activities will be oriented to the implementation of two recommendations from the Outcome Document of the World Conference: recommendation 10 on disaggregated data and indicators for indigenous peoples well-being; and recommendation 31 to develop an Action Plan to achieve the ends of the Declaration.

(b) The Post-2015 Development Agenda

OHCHR works to ensure that human rights, including the standards of equality and non-discrimination, underpin the new development agenda, which will require targets and indicators that reflect indigenous peoples' rights and their perspectives on development. To this end, OHCHR has supported ongoing advocacy that is taking place in New York (including through statements of the High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner), provided inputs to UN positions as well as and carried out substantive technical work to support Member States

OHCHR has also contributed to national consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Since Guatemala was selected as a pilot country for national consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, OHCHR Guatemala and the United Nations country team has worked to ensure that indigenous peoples were included in the consultations and that the final report reflected their views. To that end, OHCHR Guatemala organized seminars for indigenous organizations and indigenous women, with the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), respectively. The seminars enabled reflections on the current Millennium Development Goals framework and the results obtained so far.

In July 2014, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the Chair-Rapporteur of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues issued a joint press release calling for the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the new development agenda. They also called for the disaggregation of data across all indicators in order to enable a better assessment of the status and conditions of indigenous peoples with regard to the goals, and for the inclusion of Free, Prior and Informed Consent of indigenous peoples.

The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), during its seventh session in July 2014, also held a panel discussion on indigenous peoples and the Post-2015 Development Agenda and proposed that the Human Rights Council urge States to address the concerns of indigenous peoples in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and to take measures to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous youth, in national processes for the implementation of the new development goals.⁶

The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, discussed the Post-2015 Development Agenda and provided input on sustainable development for indigenous peoples in her first report to the General Assembly.⁷ The Special Rapporteur has also indicated that she will focus her mandate on issues related to the social, cultural, economic and environmental rights of indigenous peoples, and how indigenous peoples' rights should be addressed in the processes of defining sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.⁸

The High Commissioner, in his most recent report on the rights of indigenous peoples to the Human Rights Council, has also emphasized the effective participation of indigenous peoples in the process of defining the Post-2015 development goals as crucial to ensuring that they

⁶ UN Doc. A/HRC/27/64

⁷ UN Doc A/69/267

⁸ UN Doc. A/HRC/27/52

yield concrete results and help to address the most urgent human rights challenges that indigenous peoples in all regions continue to face.⁹

(c) Indigenous youth, self-harm and suicide

The OHCHR shares the Permanent Forum's concern over the disparities in access to human development opportunities for indigenous children and youth, and the disproportionate numbers of suicide among indigenous youth.

While the OHCHR does not have initiatives that directly address the situation of indigenous youth and children, several of its programmes and activities support indigenous youth and children, in particular in terms of ensuring their right to consultation and increasing their capacity to defend their rights. For instance, through the Indigenous Fellowship Programme that the OHCHR organizes on an annual basis, indigenous representatives, in particular indigenous youth, are provided with intensive human rights training so that they are better able to defend their human rights.

The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in its most recent study on Access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples,¹⁰ has raised serious concern over the gravity of discrimination of indigenous youth in criminal justice systems, and has called for human rights education for indigenous children and youth to be pursued as a means to empower them as individuals and to achieve the self-determination of their communities.

In the field, the OHCHR Regional office for Central America in Panama has worked towards increasing the capacity of indigenous youth organizations in Panama to use international human rights mechanisms. In June 2014, the office organized a training with indigenous youth organizations on the use of human rights mechanisms, oriented to the submission of reports to Special Procedures and the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. In September 2014, the OHCHR regional office for South America in Santiago prepared, jointly with other UN agencies in Chile, a joint project which was submitted to the United Nations-Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (UNIPP) on the right to consultation of indigenous youths and children. Likewise, the OHCHR Regional office for South America in Santiago,

⁹ UN Doc. A/HRC/27/30

¹⁰ Study on access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples: Restorative justice, indigenous juridical systems, and access to justice for indigenous women, children and persons with disabilities, A/HRC/EMRIP/2014/3/Rev.1, paras. 48-55.

together with other UN agencies in the country, has raised the need for inclusive government consultations with indigenous peoples that includes participation of indigenous women and children (August 2014).

The OHCHR will continue to lend its support to initiatives that support indigenous youth, including the indigenous fellowship programme and projects coordinated by OHCHR field presences.

II: OHCHR's work in light of the Permanent Forum's recommendations in 2014

In light of the Permanent Forums' conclusions and recommendations issued at its thirteenth session in 2014, a brief overview of OHCHR activities in the areas considered by the Forum follows.

Special theme: "Principles of good governance consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: articles 3 to 6 and 46"

Achieving good governance is cross-cutting in the activities of the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (UNIPP) – a joint collaboration between OHCHR, ILO, UNDP, UNPFA and UNICEF at country level to promote the rights of indigenous peoples. Achieving good governance is at the core of UNIPP's thematic areas, in particular in its thematic project interventions to develop the capacities of State institutions to include and recognize indigenous peoples' rights within national legal systems; strengthen indigenous peoples' institutions and organizational capacities to fully participate in governance and policy processes; and work towards ensuring indigenous peoples' access to justice, including through the strengthening of indigenous customary law and justice systems and their inclusion within national legal systems.

Expert Group Meeting on the theme Sexual Health and reproductive rights

OHCHR, servicing the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) also supported the chair of EMRIP, Chief Wilton Littlechild, and his

participation in the three-day international expert group meeting on the theme *Sexual Health and reproductive rights* held in New York on 15-17 January 2014. In his contribution to the meeting, Chief Littlechild highlighted that sexual and reproductive rights encompass numerous other human rights, including the right to health, the right to life, the right to be free from discrimination, the right to be free from torture and ill treatment, the right to privacy, the right to decide the number and spacing of one's children, and the right to information. Chief Littlechild also underlined that non-discrimination and equality are fundamental to protecting sexual health and reproductive rights of indigenous individuals and that the rights of indigenous women, in particular, should guide discussions on the topic of the expert group meeting.

Half-day discussion on the Asian region

OHCHR has aimed to support regional and national policy dialogues to promote respect for the rights of indigenous peoples in various countries in Asia, including through UNIPP. For instance, in June 2013, UNIPP co-hosted the first ever sub-regional meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, on extractive industries and indigenous peoples' rights to land and natural resources in South East Asia. The seminar attracted more than 60 participants from six countries (Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and the Philippines), including key representatives of indigenous peoples', civil society and human rights organizations, leading academics and senior government officials.

UNIPP has also been running country-specific activities in Indonesia and Nepal. In Indonesia, UNIPP facilitated a national workshop to provide a forum for debate and dialogue on how to better protect the rights of indigenous peoples in the country, and has provided focused support to the development of legislation on indigenous peoples. Through its national initiative in Nepal, UNIPP is promoting wide understanding of ILO Convention 169 (ratified by the country in 2007) and ensuring national compliance with the Convention. OHCHR further encouraged dialogue among relevant stakeholders ranging from constituent Assembly members, civil society and indigenous peoples representatives on the rights affirmed in the UN Declaration on the Rights of indigenous peoples with particular emphasis on the right to participation in decision-making processes and the importance of ensuring free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in matters that affect them in the country.

OHCHR field presences in Asia are also working to realize the human rights of indigenous peoples in the region. For instance, OHCHR Regional Office in Bangkok and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) carried out a joint mission to Tapay Municipality, Capiz Province, in the Philippines in order to look into the human rights impact of a proposed dam project. Recommendations were made to humanitarian actors to undertake critical and adequate interventions, including building the capacity of the National Commission on Indigenous Populations, to provide meaningful and continuous assistance, such as legal advice on land titles and promotion of ancestral rights enshrined in legislation.

In 2014, OHCHR Cambodia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Interior, ILO and other development partners, continued to monitor efforts throughout the country for indigenous peoples to organize and be recognized as legal entities and to apply as a community for collective land titles. OHCHR Cambodia also provided ongoing technical and financial support, including for registration and application for communal titles, to indigenous communities in various provinces of the country. In April 2014, OHCHR Cambodia co-organized a National Reflection Workshop on Indigenous Communal Land Titling. OHCHR Cambodia also targeted civil society organizations, Government, community leaders and business actors to support their increased understanding of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and their application in the Cambodian context, and assisted with the development of a picture book on business and human rights for indigenous communities, focusing on adequate consultation and compensation.

In addition, two stakeholder engagements meeting have been organized at the district level in Nepal in cooperation with the Office of the Resident Coordinator to enhance dialogue between Constituent Assembly members, civil society actors and indigenous peoples' representatives on the importance of promoting the rights of indigenous peoples in the country in particular that of participation in decision-making processes as a way to prevent conflict and promote dialogue.

Comprehensive dialogue with United Nations Agencies and Funds

With reference to the Forum's concern over the World Bank's draft safeguards, OHCHR has participated actively in global consultations on the draft safeguards organised by the World Bank. Also, in December 2014, a number of special procedures mandate holders, in their capacity as independent experts, issued an open letter to the World Bank, that called on the Bank to ensure that its safeguards are premised on a recognition of the central importance of respecting and promoting human rights, including the human rights of indigenous peoples.¹¹

With regard to the Permanent Forum's recommendation that UN agencies should review and revise their policies to ensure that indigenous peoples in both developed and developing countries have access to resources, technical assistance and other support,¹² and that Member states, UN agencies and country teams initiate indigenous human rights training and education programmes,¹³ OHCHR would like to draw attention to the Indigenous Fellowship Programme that the office, through its Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, coordinates on an annual basis. The programme ensures broad geographical coverage in terms of participants and includes indigenous representatives from developing countries.

OHCHR field presences have also run training programmes for indigenous peoples to increase their awareness of their human rights and how to better make use of the UN system to defend and promote those rights. For instance, in April 2014 the OHCHR country office in Colombia organized a workshop on basic concepts of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) with an emphasis on the rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. The workshop was attended by Afro-Colombian communities, organizations working to promote the human rights of women, and indigenous communities. Likewise, in June 2014, the regional office for Central America (Panama) organized a training session for indigenous youth organizations on the use of human rights mechanisms oriented to the submission of reports to Special Procedures and the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

III. Implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

During its thirteenth session, the Permanent Forum addressed two recommendations specifically to OHCHR.

¹¹ For the open letter in full, refer to <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/EPoverty/WorldBank.pdf>

¹² E/2014/43-E/C.19/2014/11, paragraph 37

¹³ E/2014/43-E/C.19/2014/11, paragraph 65

Acknowledging the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (April 2014) on a communications procedure, the Permanent Forum recommended that Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund, other United Nations agencies and States support the dissemination of the guide to this Optional Protocol, including its translation into different languages and the building of capacity among indigenous organizations and institutions to make effective use of the Optional Protocol promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous children and youth.¹⁴ The OHCHR, through its Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, is currently engaging with field presences for follow up at the country level of this recommendation.

The Permanent Forum also called for United Nations system to collaborate with indigenous peoples in designing and implementing early warning systems to better ensure peace, security and good governance in their lands. That could include greater coordination between the Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and indigenous peoples through their representative institutions.¹⁵

CERD continues to collaborate with indigenous peoples and representatives of organizations promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples in carrying out its functions, including through the Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedure (EWUAP). As outlined in its 2007 revised guidelines on the EWUAP¹⁶ indicators for situations falling under the remit of EWUAP which are relevant to the rights of indigenous peoples include: (1) encroachment on the traditional lands of indigenous peoples or forced removal of these peoples from their lands, in particular for the purpose of exploitation of natural resources; (2) polluting or hazardous activities that reflect a pattern of racial discrimination with substantial harm to specific groups; and (3) adoption of new discriminatory legislation. While no decision or letter was adopted under the EWUAP concerning the situation of indigenous peoples at its 85th session in August 2014, CERD continues its practice in addressing violations of the rights of indigenous peoples guaranteed under ICERD through the reporting procedure and when and where appropriate through the EWUAP.

¹⁴ E/2014/43-E/C.19/2014/11, paragraph 42

¹⁵ E/2014/43-E/C.19/2014/11, paragraph 67

¹⁶ EWUAP A/62/18, Chapter III

IV. OHCHR policies on indigenous peoples' issues

Promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples continue to be a priority for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Indigenous peoples' issues figure prominently in the OHCHR Management Plan for 2014-2017, including in connection with the key thematic priorities of enhancing equality and combating discrimination.¹⁷

The OHCHR also draws on, and promotes within the UN system, tools such as the United Nations Development Group's Guidelines on Indigenous Issues (2008)¹⁸ and the Secretary General's Guidance Note on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (2013)¹⁹. The Guidance note specifically recognizes the many challenges that indigenous peoples continue to face, including the denial of their rights to self-determination, land and resources, education, employment, health, birth registration and housing. To ensure effective implementation of the Guidance Note, OHCHR coordinated the work of the United Nations Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to develop an Action Plan that, in keeping with the Guidance Note, highlights the importance of strengthened United Nations engagement with indigenous peoples' issues. The Action Plan is now in its first year of implementation.

Guidance on indigenous peoples' issues is also offered on specific themes, for example through the "Guidance on Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact."

V. Recent OHCHR programmes, projects and activities on indigenous peoples' issues

In addition to its field and headquarter staff who address indigenous peoples' issues as part of their work, OHCHR has a specific section devoted to indigenous peoples and minorities (Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section) that works to promote the full application of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In 2014 the OHCHR, through its Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, carried out a number of training and briefing

¹⁷ OHCHR Management Plan 2014-2017, available at http://www2.ohchr.org/english/ohchrreport2014_2017/omp_web_version/index.html#/home

¹⁸ United Nations Development Group Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues (2008) available at [http://www.undg.org/content/programming_reference_guide_\(undaf\)/thematic_policies_and_guidelines/indigenous_peoples](http://www.undg.org/content/programming_reference_guide_(undaf)/thematic_policies_and_guidelines/indigenous_peoples)

¹⁹ Guidance Note of the Secretary General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 2013, available at <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Minorities/GuidanceNoteRacialDiscriminationMinorities.pdf>

sessions to key stakeholders including United Nations Country Teams, OHCHR staff, members of human rights treaty bodies, indigenous organizations, government officials, parliamentarians as well as staff of national human rights institutions as part of its efforts to promote the full application of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In particular, OHCHR has provided legal advice on legislative reforms, capacity building and sensitization seminars on indigenous peoples.

OHCHR has also continued to strengthen its engagement in joint activities to promote the rights of indigenous peoples at the country level, in particular through the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (UNIPP), a joint initiative between OHCHR, the International Labour Office (ILO), UNICEF, The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

OHCHR continued to run the indigenous fellowship programme. This extensive human rights training builds the capacity and expertise of indigenous women and men to enable them to use international human rights instruments and mechanisms more effectively to promote and protect their human rights. The program, which is available in English, Spanish, French and Russian, is implemented in cooperation with University partners located in Spain and in the Russian Federation and also involves several other UN Agencies, including ILO, UNESCO, WIPO and UNICEF. A total of 31 indigenous individuals (13 men and 18 women) participated in the training programme in 2014. In 2014, OHCHR in Geneva also hosted a senior indigenous fellow for a four month on-the-job training in its Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section. In addition, four fellows, through national fellowships, joined OHCHR field presences in the Russian Federation, Mexico, Guatemala and Cameroon. Their first-hand knowledge of indigenous issues is an important asset in supporting the office's programmes on indigenous peoples' issues on the country and regional levels.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights also supports the mandates of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Indigenous Peoples, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

VII: Capacity building programmes on indigenous peoples' issues for OHCHR staff

In 2014, OHCHR organized a number of training programs and briefing sessions on

indigenous peoples' issues for staff at OHCHR country and regional offices in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The Human Rights Treaties Division (HRTD) organised a training in July 2013 in cooperation with the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to build the capacity of HRTD staff members on the rights of indigenous peoples and to raise awareness on the UNDRIP. THE HRTD also facilitated a meeting between the Chair of the Permanent Forum with the Committee on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights (November 2014). A second training will be organised in July 2015 in collaboration with the Permanent Forum Secretariat. In addition, as a follow up to paragraph 29 of the outcome document on the World Conference Indigenous Peoples, HRTD will prepare a guidance note for HRTD staff members on how to incorporate relevant provisions of the UNDRIP into the work of the Committees in the course of 2015.

VIII: Focal points on indigenous peoples' issues within the OHCHR

In addition to the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section which is located within the Rule of Law, Equality and Non –Discrimination Branch of the OHCHR and the support staff of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples in the Special Procedures Branch, indigenous issues are also addressed in other parts of the Office, for example those dealing with Post-2015 Development Agenda, indicators as well as land issues, climate change, housing, water and sanitation and business. At OHCHR's field presences, a number of staff act as focal points on indigenous issues.

VIII: Conferences and other meetings organized or supported by OHCHR in 2014

OHCHR works in close cooperation with national human rights institutions (NHRIs). Through wide-ranging consultations, OHCHR and the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions completed *The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: A Manual for National Human Rights Institutions* in 2013.²⁰ Intended to strengthen NHRI engagement in and initiatives focusing on the human rights of indigenous peoples, the manual gives the background and context of the Declaration and addresses measures that NHRIs can take at the national and international levels to protect and promote

²⁰ Available at <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/IPeoples/UNDRIPManualForNHRIs.pdf>

indigenous peoples' rights. The publication, translated in Russian, French and Spanish, was launched at an event organized in June 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa. Another meeting was organized in Krasnoyarsk in the Russian Federation in October 2014 to discuss the role of the NHRIs in the follow-up to the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

OHCHR organized the 7th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (July 2014) as well as the Half-Day Discussion on Indigenous Peoples at the 27th session of the Human Rights Council (September 2014), which addressed the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in the context of disaster risk reduction initiatives. OHCHR also organized an expert seminar on restorative justice, indigenous juridical systems and access to justice for indigenous women, children and youth and persons with disabilities, in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Auckland (February 2014). The main objective of the seminar was to obtain additional substantive input to the Expert Mechanism's follow-up study on access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples.

As the current chair of the IASG, OHCHR hosted the Inter-Agency's annual meeting in Geneva on December 1-2, 2014. The annual meeting of the IASG provided a platform for agreement on concrete IASG actions to follow-up the Outcome Document, including its call for the development of a System Wide Action Plan, the utilization of holistic indicators of indigenous peoples' well-being, and the call for States to adopt national action plans or strategies to ensure implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In the course of the year 2014, meetings were also organised between Committees' members of the CESCR and the CCPR and the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issue to raise awareness on the UNDRIP amongst Committee Members. In December 2014, a meeting was organised with the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Head of the Capacity Building & Harmonization, the Secretary of the Meeting of Human Rights Treaty Bodies Chairpersons, the Chairperson and the Secretary of the CERD to discuss collaboration between the PFII and HRTD in light of paragraph 29 of the outcome document on the World Conference Indigenous Peoples.