

STATEMENT BY MR SHA ZUKANG, UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL ON
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND COORDINATOR FOR THE SECOND
INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE ADOPTION
BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

*(to be issued as a press release by DPI on 13 September, after the
adoption of the Declaration by the General Assembly)*

Today, 13 September 2007, after more than two decades of preparation and heeding the call of the 2005 World Summit, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This historic document constitutes tangible proof of the increasing cooperation of States, Indigenous Peoples and the international community as a whole for the promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples.

Our Organization has fulfilled its role as the world's parliament and has responded to the trust that Indigenous Peoples around the world placed in it, that it will stand for dignity and justice, development and peace for all, without discrimination.

I invite States, Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations system, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and civil society at large to strengthen their partnerships for the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.