

**BACKGROUND NOTE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
SYSTEM WIDE ACTION PLAN TO ENSURE A COHERENT
APPROACH TO ACHIEVING THE ENDS OF THE UNITED
NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES**

Background Note 6

**Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of
indigenous Peoples: Obstacles identified and recommendations made by
the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

Prepared by the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples
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Introduction

According to its mandate, the Permanent Forum provides expert advice and recommendations on indigenous peoples' issues to ECOSOC, as well as to United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The Permanent Forum recommendations focus on a number of areas, in particular the mandated areas of economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.

The following analysis of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum between 2006 and 2015 is to identify recommendations that focus on the UN system on obstacles encountered in the implementation of the UN Declaration. The analysis also identifies specific obstacles that relate to the UN system coherence. Recommendations made by the Permanent Forum for overcoming obstacles in implementing the UN Declaration are also included.

I. Obstacles encountered in the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples and obstacles related to the UN system and specifically obstacles that relate to UN system coherence

In 2006, two Permanent Forum members submitted a report on current practices and methods of work. There were two particular recommendations that focused on the UN system. The Permanent Forum in order to overcome the contradictions within the United Nations system recommends:¹

1. The establishment of a permanent project to monitor inconsistencies and lack of compliance within the United Nations system regarding the implementation of existing provisions on the rights of indigenous peoples. This permanent monitoring project on the respect and implementation of indigenous peoples' rights within the United Nations system could be the foundation for addressing existing and emerging contradictions and establishing policy to enforce cross-cutting compliance throughout the system.
2. A permanent monitoring project on the respect and implementation of indigenous peoples' rights within the United Nations system could be the foundation for addressing existing and emerging contradictions and establishing policy to enforce cross-cutting compliance throughout the system.

In 2008, the Permanent Forum reiterates its concern that reports developed and presented by many States on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction strategy papers still do not adequately include and address indigenous peoples, nor do they include their participation, and called on States to rectify this situation and for United Nations agencies to support State efforts. Furthermore, the Forum encouraged the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to integrate indigenous peoples' issues into the global, regional, national and local human development reports, and in particular to include indigenous experts in preparing those reports and to guarantee that indigenous peoples' issues are mainstreamed in them.²

¹ E/C.19/2006/10, paras. 41, 42

² E/2008/43, para 64

Also, in 2008, the Permanent Forum urged the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to strengthen its institutional capacity on indigenous peoples' issues by establishing a task force to serve as a liaison mechanism between headquarters and focal points on indigenous issues at the country level. Furthermore, the Forum recommends that these focal points be specialists on indigenous peoples' issues.³

Throughout their reports, Permanent Forum requested a number of UN Agencies to align their policies and programmes with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.⁴

In terms of developing indicators on indigenous peoples' issues, the Permanent Forum recommended the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division use the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts in the development of a coherent and integrated set of indicators for monitoring the situation and well-being of indigenous peoples and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.⁵

II. Proposals for overcoming obstacles

Most of the recommendations by the Permanent Forum for overcoming obstacles included improving the capacity of United Nations staff to work effectively with indigenous peoples and their organizations and establishing a mechanism for partnership.⁶ Further, the Permanent Forum recommended that the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and, in particular, ILO, OHCHR and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum to continue their work to develop a common framework for monitoring the situation and well-being of indigenous peoples and the implementation of the Declaration, including the identification of indigenous-appropriate indicators, possible data sources and linkages to relevant mechanisms. The process should be taken forward in a collaborative manner with other interested institutions, ensuring full consultation and participation of indigenous peoples.⁷

³ Ibid. para 67

⁴ E/2015/43 para 9

⁵ E/2013/43, p 110

⁶ E/2011/43, para 6

⁷ Ibid, para 8