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**Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Sixth session**

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation of recommendations on
the six mandated areas and on MDGs**

**Information received from the UN system and other intergovernmental
organizations**

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

- **Division for Advancement of Women (DAW)**
- **Division of Public Administration and Development Management
(DPADM)**
- **Division for Sustainable Development (DSD)**
- **UN Statistics Division**

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Summary

The present document contains information provided respectively by four Divisions within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). The Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues which is housed in the Division for Social Policy and Development provides its report to the Forum in separate document.

Section A gives information on work relating to indigenous peoples carried out by the Division for Advancement of Women (DAW).

Section B provides information on activities and work relevant to indigenous peoples being implemented by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management.

Section C describes how indigenous peoples are engaged as one of the major groups in the implementation of Agenda 21 for sustainable development by the Division for Sustainable Development (CSD).

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A. Information by the Division for Advancement of Women (DAW)

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

which is supported by DAW as substantive Secretariat: CEDAW continues to review and address the situation of indigenous women in reporting States parties. During its thirty-fourth (16 January to 3 February 2006), thirty-fifth (15 May to 2 June 2006) and thirty-sixth (7 to 25 August 2006) sessions, the Committee raised the issue of indigenous women in the constructive dialogue and in the concluding comments of those States parties that had indigenous peoples amongst their population, namely Australia, Venezuela, Guatemala, China, Philippines and Mexico (see the Committee's annual report to the General Assembly, A/61/38).

2. The Secretary-General's in depth study on all forms of violence against women

(A/61/122/Add.1): The Secretary-General's study, which DAW prepared and presented to the General Assembly at its 61st session, discusses violence against indigenous women, in its Chapter IV on forms, consequences and costs of violence against women. The International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI), associated with MADRE, an international human rights organization focusing on women's rights, was an active member of the Task Force set up by DAW as part of the preparation of the study.

3. Launch of report "Mairin Iwanka Raya, Indigenous Women Stand against

Violence" – panel discussion: Ms. Christine Brautigam, Chief of the Women's Rights Section/DAW participated in this panel discussion in October 2006 focusing on violence against indigenous women. The panel discussion was organized by the secretariat of the

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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, MADRE and the International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWF/FIMI). The report "Mairin Iwanka Raya, Indigenous Women Stand against Violence" was issued as a companion piece to the Secretary-General's study on all forms of violence against women.

4. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW): During the fiftieth session of the CSW, the panel discussion to commemorate International Women's Day, on 8 March 2006, included Ms. Noeli Pocaterra, President of the Permanent Commission of Indigenous Peoples National Assembly, Venezuela. Several side events were held during the session which dealt with indigenous women, including a side event on "Violence against Indigenous Women", co-sponsored by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, MADRE and the International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWF/FIMI).

5. Participation of Chairperson of the CSW in fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: The Chairperson of the CSW, H.E. Ambassador Carmen Maria Gallardo, addressed the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its fifth session in May 2006.

6. IAWGE Task Force Indigenous Women and DESA Intra-Departmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues: DAW continues to participate and contribute to these task forces. As part of the Intra-Departmental Task Force, the Division prepared a plan for

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implementation of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, which was included in the DESA Plan of Action for the Decade.

B. Information by the Division of Public Administration and Development

Management (DPADM)

Significant information regarding recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations or activities regarding indigenous issues within the Division is the following:

The international conference on *Engaging Communities* (14-17 August 2005; Brisbane, Australia) and organization of the UN Workshop *Engaging the Marginalized - Partnerships between indigenous people, government and civil society*

7. The conference which was co-sponsored by the DPADM/DESA and the State Government of Queensland, Australia attracted 3,000 participants from 44 countries. DPADM collaborated with the UN Secretariat of the Permanent Forum for Indigenous People in organizing a workshop on *Engaging the Marginalized – Partnership between Indigenous People, Governments and Civil Society*. The highlight of the conference was the *Brisbane Declaration*, which among other provisions, stipulated the following:

“We, the representatives of countries and communities, including indigenous peoples, international institutions, national, states and local governments, academic institutions, and business and civil society organizations from

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across the worlds, participating in the International Conference on Engaging Communities, held at Brisbane, Australia, from 15 to 17 August 2005, ... further recognize that inclusive engagement requires that indigenous peoples and the poor and marginalized, are adequately resourced to participate meaningfully in the broader community and that they have a stake in the outcome and benefit equitably as a result of being involved, ...”

The *Brisbane Declaration* was submitted to the Secretary-General by the Prime Minister of Australia for follow-up at the global level.

Project Proposal for Institutional Capacity-Building of Indigenous Local Governments in Ecuador

8. DPADM has been assisting DSPD in developing a proposal for a technical cooperation project for institutional capacity-building for local governments, managed by the indigenous peoples of Ecuador. The proposal has been formulated by an expert team of DPADM and DSPD, approved by the Government of Ecuador, and submitted for consideration by several donor governments. The proposed project aims at empowering communities in municipalities with indigenous authorities by institutional capacity-building in planning and budgeting. Through ensuring the participation and meaningful involvement of indigenous and non-indigenous communities, planning and budgeting can be conducted in an open and inclusive manner.

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Contribution to the development of monitoring indicators for the socio-economic development of the indigenous people

9. DPADM provided inputs to the preparation of monitoring indicators of socio-economic governance of indigenous people.

10. In cooperation with UNDP Bangladesh, DPADM participated in an expert team mission in November 2006 which conducted a series of systematic consultations with relevant stakeholders in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh. The consultations involved governance issues pertaining to the indigenous or tribal groups, the non-implementation of the ten-year old peace accord and a lack of governmental structures to deal effectively with the unresolved land and territorial disputes in CHT. Based on the consultations, DESA helped develop a confidence-building strategy for the CHT through which the UNDP will work with stakeholders. Strategic interventions are envisioned at the following levels:

(a) **national:** to assist in developing high-level consensus on policy issues with those elements pertaining to sustainable peace in the CHT, the land question, security sector reform and the status of recent settlers and internally displaced people. The revitalization of the Land Commission and a workable *modus operandi* for constituting the Regional and District Councils in the CHT will be examined.

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(b) **regional and district in CHT:** to enhance the capacities of public administration and of the new institutions mandated by the CHT for service delivery, land administration, and the provision of rule of law. The main operational issues are development coordination, the management of conflicts, and creating the skills and disposition for joint, collaborative development planning.

(c) **local i.e. the *upazila*, the union, the *mousa*, and the *para* levels:** to strengthen informal and traditional mechanisms for the management of conflicts and to foster better inter-community relations in order to build bridges across ethnically divided communities.

11. It is hoped that this project, which will start in the first half of 2007, will encourage key national actors to recognize the significance of expediting the implementation of the peace accord and creating conditions for sustainable peace in CHT.

C. Information by the Division for Sustainable Development (CSD/ The Major Groups Programme

12. Broad public participation in implementation is an essential prerequisite of sustainable development. Indigenous people are one of the nine major groups sectors recognised by Agenda 21 as essential partners in the advancement of sustainable development.

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13. Since the creation of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in 1992, major groups have been given important roles to play as partners in sustainable development. The CSD meetings have provided innovative spaces for the participation of non-governmental actors with the overall purpose of informing the Commission's decision-making processes.

14. Following the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, a number of Partnerships for Sustainable Development were launched that are working with and/or for indigenous communities at local, regional and global levels to address issues related to water, agricultural heritage, land, and biotrade development.

15. In preparing for the 15th Session of the CSD (30 April - 11 May 2007) and its Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (26 February – 2 March 2007), which will build on CSD-14 to focus on policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in relation to [*energy for sustainable development*](#), [*industrial development*](#), [*air pollution/atmosphere*](#), and [*climate change*](#), indigenous peoples' organisations have been invited to contribute as follows:

- Submit inputs to the Secretary-General's Reports;
- Provide examples of case studies to be included in the CSD [Matrix](#) and the [Sustainable Development Case Studies database](#);

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- Prepare a *Priorities for Action* paper, through the coordination of a steering group of indigenous organisations led by Tebtebba - Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education, and Indigenous Environmental Network (for more information see http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/mg_op), to represent the main indigenous people's written input to CSD. The *Priorities for Action* paper outlines indigenous people's policy recommendations related to the thematic cluster (available in all UN official languages at:

http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs_csd15.htm).

- Participate in the activities of CSD-15 and the IPM, including:
 - Two dedicated major groups' multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions;
 - A Ministerial dialogue session with major groups;
 - Participation in thematic and regional discussions, the SIDS day, the Partnerships Fair, and the Learning Centre; and
 - Closing remarks at the end of each meeting.

16. The Chair's Summary of CSD-14¹ includes seven references to indigenous people (paragraphs 27, 224, 225, 230, 231, 236, and 238).

17. The Division for Sustainable Development avails limited funding to indigenous people and other major groups participants to enable their participation in CSD meetings. Two representatives nominated by the Indigenous People's sector were funded to

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participate in CSD-14 in 2006, and three more are being funded to participate in CSD-15 and the IPM in 2007.

18. In addition, the Division for Sustainable Development recently launched new web pages dedicated to each major group. The webpage for indigenous people can be found at: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/about_mgroups/amg_indigenous_main.htm

19. **CSD Partnerships working with and/or for Indigenous Communities.** The following is a summary of all CSD registered partnerships that have specifically indicated a relationship or activities with/for indigenous communities. For each partnership a brief summary of the objectives is provided, along with the specific references to work with indigenous communities. Websites are also provided for further reference.

Recovery of the Circuit of Four Lakes

20. Surging from a pressing environmental need, this partnership was implemented by the indigenous NGO Yachay Wasi (based in New York City, USA and in Cuzco, Peru) to assess and stop the growing chemical contamination of four Andean mountain lakes, one of them affecting the village of Acopia in Peru, birthplace of Luis Delgado Hurtado, Yachay Wasi co-founder and president, who now resides in Cuzco, Peru.

- The inhabitants of these respective indigenous villages and many other smaller indigenous communities rely on these waters. The contamination of these lakes has been a growing problem over the past few years.

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- This project is being implemented in a rural area of the Peruvian Andes by Yachay Wasi, a small indigenous NGO based locally and also in the USA, who is in consultative status with UN/ECOSOC, enabling contact on an international level.
- This NGO had the bounty to interest a major partner: Rotary International in Australia. The Project Leader, also the NGO President, resides in Cuzco and speaks Quechua, as he is of Inca heritage. He is a native of one of the affected villages, where he keeps a family home. Over the past ten years, he has demonstrated his concern for his people by carrying out the NGO smaller projects in this village and representing his people at UN meetings.

He has been able, after consultations, to obtain prior and informed consent from project beneficiaries who are also indigenous and include local authorities. This project will be accomplished mostly by local indigenous workers. This scenario may be duplicated in other areas of the world where indigenous peoples reside.

<http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/1305.html>

<http://www.yachaywasi-ngo.org/lakesproject.htm>

Globally Important Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

21. The overall goal of the project is to identify and safeguard Globally Important Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems through catalyzing and establishing a long-term programme to support such systems and enhance global, national and local benefits

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derived through their dynamic conservation, sustainable management and enhanced viability.

- The attention to local knowledge systems is opportune in view of increasing recognition that is being paid to indigenous peoples and to the effective involvement of local and indigenous communities in decision-making processes, in accordance with Article 8j of the CBD and other human rights fora.
- Natural heritage and cultural heritage have separately been the subject of much attention over the recent decades through UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its designation of, and support to, Biosphere Reserves and the designation of outstanding sites and protected areas under the World Heritage Convention. However, this initiative aims to increase recognition of the combined cultural and natural agricultural heritage that is maintained in outstanding agricultural systems, including the landscape, *in situ* conservation of species, knowledge and management systems and the often unique and renowned produce of such systems.

<http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/1153.html>

<http://www.fao.org/ag/agl/agll/giahs>

Land Alliances for National Development (LAND)

23. Land Alliances for National Development, or LAND Partnerships, constitute a global initiative to alleviate rural poverty by strengthening country-level collaboration among

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state, civil society, bilateral and international stakeholders. This collaboration is needed to: a) achieve participatory dialogue; b) improve policy formulation; c) establish joint action to secure resource tenure for households with user rights; and d) increase access to land by the landless and near-landless.

24. The International Land Coalition (Italy) serves as the coordination mechanism of the partnership, and works to:

- Strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations to be effective partners inside a LAND Partnership;
- Support the logistic requirements for community participation in dialogue and in land policy formulation;
- Ensure that LAND Partnerships benefit from and take into consideration the lessons learnt and the implications of changes for traditional organizations, pastoralists/herders, women and special populations, including indigenous peoples;
- Support government land institutions in partnership with target communities;
- Increase secure access to land by the landless and near-landless, including women, indigenous peoples and marginalized groups

25. The number of members of the Coalition has grown to include a much wider set of civil society partners, including organizations of farmers, women, landless peoples, indigenous peoples, NGOs and other community-based organizations in over 35 countries.

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26. One example of program activity directly involving an indigenous community: Promoting Natural Resources Management by Indigenous Communities in the Ngovayang Forest (Cameroon).

<http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/36.html>

Great Apes Survival Project

27. The main objective of this Partnership is to lift the threat of imminent or medium-term extinction faced by the four main kinds of great apes (bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans). It identifies and supports income-generating initiatives for the benefit of communities living in and around great ape habitats and protected areas, with due consideration for indigenous communities and to ensure, where it becomes imperative to resettle indigenous people in conformity with United Nations guidelines, that compensation is paid with international support.

<http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/43.html>

<http://www.unep.org/grasp/>

Andean BIOTRADE Programme of CAN, CAF and UNCTAD

28. The general objectives of the Andean BIOTRADE Programme are to:

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- Promote trade and investment in biological resources in the Andean region with the aim of supporting the objectives of the Andean Biodiversity Strategy and contribute to sustainable development in the region.
- Support the development of biotrade in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela through regional actions that complement the national BIOTADE programmes.

29. Implementation of the Andean Biodiversity Strategy will have been supported, and sustainable use of biodiversity will become a development priority for the Andean governments, private sector, local and indigenous communities, and other relevant stakeholders.

30. This partnership contributes to poverty alleviation, fosters local and national development, and ensures mechanisms of benefit sharing by generating tangible economic, social and environmental benefits to people living in biodiversity-rich areas. It also strengthens the role of local actors such as NGOs, local and indigenous communities, academia, and the private sector.

<http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/251.html>

<http://www.biotrade.org>

<http://www.caf.com>

<http://www.comunidadandina.org>

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New Ventures Biodiversity Investor Forum- for the Andean and Amazonian Region

31. CAF, WRI, and the BIOTRADE Initiative of UNCTAD have entered into a partnership to support existing and start-up small and medium sized bio-businesses from the Andean and Amazonian regions, to access credit and venture capital to overcome their difficulties in obtaining long-term finance. It aims to increase priority for bio-business development in agendas of Government, private sector, local and indigenous communities, donors and other relevant stakeholders.

<http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/83.html>

<http://www.biotrade.org>

<http://www.new-ventures.org>

<http://www.caf.com>

D. Information from Statistics Division (UNDS)

a. Data Collection

32. The UNDS collects data on national and/or ethnic group, language and religion through a regular demographic and social statistics collection system. The major sources of such data are the national population census results. As countries conduct population censuses throughout the 2010 census decade (2005-2014), the UNDS will eventually collect more data on national and/or ethnic group, language and religion.

b. Data Dissemination

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33. UNSD maintains a website dedicated to ethno-cultural characteristics. The website provides a link to the Secretariat of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues website, as well as reports and data relevant to indigenous people.

(See <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/default.htm>)

34. Country data on national and/or ethnic group, language and religion are disseminated through this website and will be updated regularly to incorporate new data received from countries.

(See <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/popchar2.htm>)

c. Revision of Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses to incorporate topic on Indigenous Peoples

35. Guidelines regarding data collection on indigenous peoples have been drafted as part of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Rev. 2. The draft census recommendations will be presented to the United Nations Statistical Commission for approval at its 38th session (27 February – 1 March 2007). The final adopted Principles and Recommendations will be disseminated worldwide, and a draft of the revised version can be viewed on:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/default.aspx>.

d. Technical Report

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36. A technical report on national and/or ethnic group, language and religion analyzing trends in data collection and dissemination as well as country practices covering the years 1946 through 2004, with a focus on the 2000 census round (1995-2004) was prepared and is posted on the UNSD website. The report includes a special section on enumeration of indigenous. (See

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/Ethnicitypaper.pdf>)