



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES INDIGENOUS VOICES

MEDIA ADVISORY

UN talks to focus on indigenous rights to lands, territories and natural resources

Other key issues include indigenous peoples in Asia; urban indigenous peoples and migration; and data collection and disaggregation.

WHAT: The Sixth Session of the United Nations Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 - 25 May.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Opening ceremony will take place in Conference Room 2 on **Monday 14 May at 11.00 a.m.** The event will be attended by States and UN officials including President of the Economic and Social Council, **H.E. Ambassador Dalius Čekuolis**, Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs, **Mr. José Antonio Ocampo** and the President of the Human Rights Council, **Mr. Luis Alfonso De Alba**.
- A press conference will be held on **Monday 14 May at 1.15pm pm in Room S- 226**. Speakers will include: Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Igorot, Philippines), Chairperson of the UNPFII, Ms. Ida Nicolaisen (Denmark) and Mr. Hassan Id Balkassm (Amazigh, Morocco), members of the Permanent Forum.
- The **opening of an indigenous cultural exhibit** will take place on **Tuesday 15 May at 6.15pm** in the UN Visitor's Lobby, with performances by indigenous artists from around the world.

WHEN: 14- 25 May, 2007 **WHERE:** United Nations Headquarters, 1st Avenue & 46th Street.

MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS:

Journalists without UN accreditation who wish to attend the events should send a request on company letterhead signed by a supervisor to Mr. Gary Fowlie, Chief, UN Media Accreditation Unit, United Nations at fax +1 212 963-4642 or call +1 212 963 6934. For further information and media accreditation forms, visit www.un.org/media/accreditation

For further information or for interviews with indigenous participants, please contact:

UN Department of Public Information, Renata Sivacolundhu, Tel: +1-212-963-2932, e-mail: mediainfo@un.org

SEE OVER FOR SUMMARY OF KEY EVENTS



United Nations

SUMMARY OF KEY EVENTS (Complete list of events at: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_sixth.html)

Monday 14 May

Opening Ceremony of the Sixth Session of the United Nations Forum on Indigenous Issues

11.15 -1.00 p.m., Conference Room 2

The event will be attended by States and UN officials including the President of the Economic and Social Council, **H.E. Ambassador Dalius Čekuolis**, and Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs, **Mr. José Antonio Ocampo**. The opening ceremony will be address by the spiritual singer **Mr. Tracy L. Shenandoah** (Onondaga Nation).

Press Conference: Indigenous Peoples and Lands. Territories and Natural Resources, 1.15pm, Room S-226

Speakers include **Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz** (Igorot, Philippines), Chairperson of the UNPFII, **Ms. Ida Nicolaisen** (Denmark) and **Mr. Hassan Id Balkassm** (Amazigh, Morocco), members of the Permanent Forum.

Tuesday 15 May

Inauguration of Cultural Exhibit, 6.15 p.m., U.N. Visitor's Lobby

Exhibition opening will be followed by a reception and performances by indigenous artists from around the world such as the award-winning Native American singer/songwriter **Joanne Shenandoah**; **William Luna** from Peru, **Dzul Dance** from Mexico, among others. Sponsored by the UN Dept of Public Information, the NGO Committee on the UN International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples and the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues/DESA.

Wednesday 16 May

Inter-active dialogue on Recent Trends in Lands, Territories and Resources in Asia,

1:15 – 2:45p.m., Conference Room 9

Speakers will include: **Mr. Sukhendu Debbarma**, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPC), **Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz**, Chairperson, UNPFII, **Ms. Joan Carling**, Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) and **Ms. Chandra Roy**, UNDP. Organised by the UNDP-Regional Indigenous Peoples Programme and co-sponsored by Tebtebba Foundation, Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara, AIPC and the CPA.

Thursday 17 May

Plenary Session, 10.00 a.m. -1.00 p.m., Conference Room 2

This session will focus on implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and previous recommendations in the areas of: economic and social development, environment, health, education, culture and human rights. A special report on the impact of palm oil development, commercial tree plantations and mono-cropping on indigenous peoples will be presented.

Indicators of well-being and sustainability, 1:15 – 2:45p.m., Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium

Three regional reports from Africa, Asia and Latin America will be presented, featuring proposals for a comprehensive set of indicators regarding indigenous peoples' well-being. Organized by the Tebtebba Foundation and the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Friday 18 May

Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples, 11.00 a.m. -1.00 p.m. and 3.00 - 6.00 p.m, Conference Room 2

Launching of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People Final Report, 1:15 – 2:45p.m., Conference Room 2

This event will take a critical look at progress made in advancing indigenous peoples' rights during the First Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples (1995-2004). Speakers include: **Rigoberta Menchú Tum**, Rigoberta Menchú Tum Foundation, **José Del Val** and **Carlos Zolla**, Mexico Nación Multicultural Programme – Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico, **Nina Pacari**, UNPFII Member, **Marcos Terena**, Comité Inter-Tribal, Brazil and **Andrea Carmen**, International Indian Treaty Council.

Monday 21 May

Indigenous peoples in Asia, 10.00 a.m. -1:00 p.m., Conference Room 2

A special focus on Indigenous Peoples in Asia will aim to identify the issues, challenges and positive measures of cooperation required to improve the situation of indigenous peoples in that region. Participants include: **Ms. Indira Simbolon**, Asian Development Bank, **Mr. Parshuram Tamang**, UNPFII member and **Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen**, Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples.

Urban indigenous peoples and migration, 3.00 - 6.00 p.m, Conference Room 2

The urbanization of indigenous peoples is garnering the attention of governments and the international community. However, little is known about the migration process and impact of urbanization on indigenous peoples. This session will elaborate and build on previous discussions and provide an opportunity for further input from indigenous peoples, States, the UN system and other interested parties on this important issue.

Presentation of the Trust Fund for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, 1:15 – 2:45p.m., Conference Room 2

The Trust Fund was established to support the objectives of the Second Decade. Organizations working for indigenous peoples can apply for financial grants for projects in the priority areas of culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development. Organized by the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (SPFII) –DESA

Tuesday 22 May (International Biodiversity Day)

Press Conference: Indigenous peoples' vulnerability to climate change, 1:15pm, Room S-226

Organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Wednesday 23 May

Agenda for the accomplishment of indigenous children's rights in Ecuador, 1:15 – 2:45p.m., Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium

Organized by the Confederación de los Pueblos de Nacionalidad Kichwa del Ecuador (ECUARUNARI)/ CONAIE and co-sponsored by UNICEF–Ecuador.

Thursday 24 May

Book Launch: "Indigenous Women and the United Nations System", 1:15 – 2:45p.m., Conference Room 2

Speakers will include: **Ms. Rachel Mayanja**, Chairperson of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Issues (IANGWE) and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, **Ms. Chandra Roy**, UNDP – RIPP, **Ms. Sonia Heckadon**, UNFPA and **Ms. Elsa Stamatopoulou**, UNPFII. Organized by the UN Task Force on Indigenous Women / IANGWE and co-sponsored by OSAGI and Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Friday 25 May

Plenary Session, 10 a.m.-1.00 p.m., Conference Room 2

Adoption of the report of the Forum's Sixth Session.