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### **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

#### **Sixth session**

New York, 14-25 May 2007

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

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

#### **Report of the annual session of the Inter-Agency Support**

#### **Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG) submitted by IFAD**

#### **Summary**

The 2006 meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG) was organized in Rome, from 15 to 18 September 2006, and hosted by International Fond for Agricultural Development (IAFD). The theme of the meeting was “Development with Identity” with three sub-items: (a) Indigenous lands, Territories and Natural Resources, (b) Indigenous Peoples and Technology Development/Adoption and (c) Indigenous Culture and Development. The IASG shared information and discussed the three items, also in view to contributing to the special theme of the sixth session of the Forum “indigenous lands, territories and natural resources”. The meeting also reviewed the progress and challenges in implementing the recommendations of the

\* E/C.19/2007/1.

Forum and explored ways to strengthen the cooperation among UN agencies at national level in the context of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other development processes. Recommendations were made mostly to agencies on assisting country and regional offices to work on indigenous issues.

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## **A. Introduction**

1. The Annual Session of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG) for 2006 was convened and hosted by IFAD in accordance with the practice established in 2002 of annually rotating the chairpersonship of the IASG amongst its members. The theme of the meeting was **Development with Identity** with the following sub-items:

- (a) Indigenous Lands, Territories and Resources
- (b) Indigenous Peoples and Technology Development/Adoption
- (c) Indigenous Culture and Development

2. Representatives of the following United Nation Agencies, multi-lateral organizations and IFIs participated: EU, FAO, IADB, ILC (International Land Coalition), ILO, IOM, IPGRI (International Plant Genetic Resource Institute), UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNITAR, WIPO and the World Bank.

3. The following Permanent Forum members also participated in the meeting:

- Ms Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chair
- Ms Otilia Lux de Coti, Member
- Ms Ida Nicolaisen, Member
- Mr Michael Dodson, Member

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4. This report highlights the main issues discussed and agreements reached amongst the participants for follow-up. The agreements reached amongst the participating IASG members could be clubbed under the following headings:

I. Suggested Areas for General Focus

II. Suggestions for Country Teams

III. Agreements for Joint Activities

5. The opening session was opened by the President of IFAD, Mr Lennart Bäge. Several members of Senior Management Team of IFAD, Mr Kevin Cleaver, Assistant President Programme Management Department; Mr Phrang Roy, Assistant President, Indigenous Issues; and Mr Matthew Wyatt, Assistant President, External Affairs Department were present at the opening session and actively participated in co-chairing some sessions of the meeting.

6. Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs and Coordinator of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, addressed the meeting through video conference. Participants also had the occasion to visit an exhibit on “An Unknown India – arts and living tradition” displaying art and handicrafts of the tribal people of India (*Adivasis*), especially organised by IFAD in connection with the IASG session.

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7. During the meeting, a panel on information on the ongoing work on indicators and indigenous peoples was also organised. No specific recommendations were made in this regard, but the IASG members agreed to pursue the information sharing and that the Secretariat of the UNPFII would organise a side event on the topic at the sixth session of the Permanent Forum.

8. The IASG members thanked IFAD for the substantive and high quality of the meeting as well as for the efficient and friendly organizational arrangements.

## **B. Recommendations and Suggestions**

### *I. Suggested Areas for General Focus*

9. The IASG institutions should review their policies and other instruments regarding indigenous peoples from the perspective of the framework of the adopted Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the Human Right Council in June 2006, so that all policies, programmes, projects, other instruments and activities, including the application of the human rights-based approach to development, are consistent with the Declaration.

10. While discussing the theme of Development with Identity in the context of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant international instruments all IASG members strongly acknowledged that culture must be the driving force of a development approach that is meaningful to indigenous peoples.

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It was also acknowledged by all IASG members that as we promote the fruitful diversity of cultures, we recognize the fundamental element of languages and the importance of knowledge transmission through inter-generational dialogue. In this respect, the IASG members felt that all multilateral and bilateral agencies should pay attention to local processes and that indigenous elders, youth and children must receive priority attention.

11. It was therefore agreed to:

**- Sensitise staff of IASG members in applying the principles of cultural diversity as agreed upon in the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001) and the related Conventions,<sup>1</sup> in their work with indigenous peoples.**

**- Explore the possibility of using existing tools, approaches and instruments developed by different agencies (UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and others) to mainstream cultural diversity principles in policy and programming articulating the linkages with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant international instruments. UNESCO and UNFPA were invited to follow up in collaboration with interested members.**

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<sup>1</sup> Notably the [Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions](#) (2005), [Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage](#) (2003) and the [Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage](#) (1972).

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12. While discussing indigenous peoples' knowledge systems and technologies, it was stated that technology is essentially about ways by which social groups provide themselves with material objects of their culture and worldviews. It was therefore agreed that:

- Indigenous peoples' knowledge systems and related local processes are crucial for technology generation. **There should be a better understanding of their governance aspects, of indigenous experts and of the need to raise the consciousness of the indigenous peoples about their own accumulated knowledge and expertise.**

- **We need to identify ways as to how technology could be used to protect and promote the identity of indigenous peoples.**

- Relevant multilateral agencies such as IADB, FAO, IFAD and the WB should engage the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to interact with the Permanent Forum so that in its effort in technology generation, the distinct needs of indigenous peoples are taken into account. In this regard, it was suggested that IFAD:

- **Take the lead in this process and seek the assistance of FAO to place the subject on the agenda of Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and to ensure that the Permanent Forum could be invited to participate in their meetings.**

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- **Facilitate the establishment of a small working group of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to initiate a scoping exercise of CGIAR-led research programmes of relevance to indigenous peoples' knowledge systems and technology to identify possibilities for collaborative work in this regard.**
- **Work closely with the World Bank and interested CGIAR members and in collaboration with the Permanent Forum, organizes a side event on technology and indigenous peoples at the sixth session of the Forum.**

13. The meeting was briefed about some interesting Information and Communication Technology (ICT) initiatives of UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP and others. It was also noted that more efforts should be made to share experiences on ICT related initiatives.

14. IASG recommends that relevant agencies, working in collaboration with indigenous peoples' organizations, use communication technologies in their programmes, especially those concerning education and communication, to promote knowledge transmission and create increased opportunities for indigenous youth in particular.

15. The meeting recommends that IASG members, within their own institutions, identify and share successful practices where governments have promoted enabling

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environments for indigenous issues and report to the Permanent Forum for its advocacy work.

**16. The IASG members were urged to promote young indigenous entrepreneurs at the country level, with the aim of encouraging replication and wider ripple effects.**

17. The meeting noted that development activities, including those carried out by multi-lateral and bi-lateral agencies which can sometimes unwittingly dispossess indigenous peoples from their lands and territories. **Each member should monitor its own activities to prevent such situations. This is an area which the meeting suggested that IASG members take up with their country teams.**

18. It was recognized that there is a need to develop a briefing note for IASG institutions' staff on the relationship between protecting and promoting cultural diversity and protecting and promoting indigenous peoples' rights and dignity. **UNESCO was invited to coordinate this initiative.**

## *II. Suggestions for United Nations Country Teams*

**19. The meeting strongly recommended that mechanisms should be developed at the country level for indigenous peoples to have a greater sense of ownership**

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**of inter-governmental organizations and their activities, and their full participation in activities affecting them.**

20. The IASG took note of the pilot project being implemented in Ecuador, Bolivia, Guatemala and Kenya as part of the joint UNDP/OHCHR Hurist Programme which aims to establish a country-level mechanism for indigenous participation in the planning of UN country programmes. **It was suggested that further efforts need to be made to create similar mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and participation of indigenous peoples in the UN system, International Financial Institutions and other multilateral institutions' decision-making bodies and in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of programmes and projects affecting them.** Such mechanisms would permit indigenous peoples to contribute to the formulation of Common Country Assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF), the implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and Millennium Development Goals initiatives as well as of the Plan of Action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

21. Most intergovernmental institutions' country and regional offices do not generally have indigenous persons among their staff. **There is a need to find ways to apply more flexible recruitment processes to encourage and ensure greater representation of indigenous professionals in the staffing of their country and regional offices.**

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**22. Similarly, there is a need to sensitise intergovernmental institutions' country and regional teams on the priorities, concerns and cultures of indigenous peoples and provide them with training on existing international and regional standards, policies and recommendations of the Permanent Forum. Human Rights Advisors should be encouraged to mainstream indigenous peoples' issues in their work.**

**23. The IASG institutions and the Permanent Forum should respond to indigenous peoples' call to intergovernmental organizations for dialogue on key issues concerning them. United Nations Country Teams are encouraged to support these efforts.**

**24. Culturally sensitive approaches to human rights training should be promoted especially by analysing how materials, modules and processes used to train staff in the human rights-based approach adequately take into account the cultural diversity approach.**

**25. Information on indigenous cultures and languages should be included in the briefing modules for new staff of intergovernmental organizations.**

**26. Drawing on the experience of the Indigenous Fellowship Programmes implemented by OHCHR, ILO, UNESCO, WIPO, UNITAR and other United**

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Nations agencies, **the IASG members were urged to further develop and expand the training of indigenous peoples to help them to become familiar with relevant international and regional standards, policies and programmes.** The purpose of the training is to give indigenous peoples the skills and knowledge to be able to participate more effectively in the work of intergovernmental organizations and to provide to their staff direct experiences and indigenous perspectives.

**27. The IASG recommends that the Permanent Forum engage the World Food Programme in a dialogue on the socio-cultural aspects of food production, distribution and consumption as well as the impact of food aid on food security of indigenous communities and their development with identity.**

**28. The IASG recommends that the Permanent Forum engage the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) of the UN to explore how peacekeeping missions and operations can play a role in promoting and protecting the rights and cultural identity of indigenous peoples.**

### *III. Agreements for Joint Activities for IASG*

**29. The IASG agrees to hold, exceptionally, a meeting to consider appropriate ways of promoting, disseminating and implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, once it is adopted by the General Assembly. It**

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was suggested that OHCHR and ILO organize the meeting prior to the Sixth Session of the Permanent Forum, should such a meeting be held.

30. The IASG urges its member institutions to compile the different policies, conventions, declarations and other instruments of the relevant organizations concerning lands, resources and territories, in order to identify the common elements and possible gaps. This should include information on how the different organizations have pursued the relevant provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples even when they have not adopted a formal policy. A synthesis document will be prepared by the IASG and submitted to the UNPFII at the May 2007 session. ILO will coordinate this activity.

31. The IASG member institutions were invited to map out their own programmes and projects related to lands, territories and resources in order to identify commonalities of issues so that synergies could be established for joint policy dialogue.

32. UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum were invited to work together to establish a small working group of interested IASG members to prepare a paper on the notion of development with identity for indigenous peoples based on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the Programme of

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**Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.**

**33. IADB, UNESCO, UNDP and IFAD were invited to explore the idea of assessing IASG supported cultural mapping to share lessons learned, identify gaps and avoid duplication of efforts in the generation of methodologies. This will include a continued assessment, taking a critical look at the risks and opportunities from the perspective of indigenous communities.**

**34. IASG institutions were invited to continue supporting the development of training kits to sensitize staff of UN system, multilateral organizations and IFIs, in particular at the country level.**

**35. The IASG member institutions were invited to be more pro-active in pooling and seeking funds for indigenous peoples' programmes. For example, IFAD could explore how IASG members could effectively promote the concept of indigenous peoples innovation through its Innovation Mainstreaming Initiative (IMI).**

**36. The IASG member institutions should explore ways on how to promote exchange visits of indigenous peoples to successful initiatives. Ideas for exchanges should be encouraged and IFAD will coordinate this work.**

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37. IASG welcomed the decision of the UNDG at its July 2006 Session inviting the IASG to provide support and guidance for the mainstreaming and integration of indigenous peoples' issues in UN operational activities and agreed to carry out this work in consultation with the UNDG Programme Group. The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum will facilitate the process. **ILO was invited to provide draft revised terms of reference of IASG; the revised terms of reference will also comprise proposals for including selected civil society organizations in participating in relevant meetings of the IASG. Criteria for selecting these organizations will be developed.**

38. The IASG recommended to SCBD that its 2007 meeting be held in Montreal at SCBD headquarters.

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## **Annex: Programme of the meeting**

**Friday, 15 September 2006**

### **Opening Session**

**Chair: Mr Phrang Roy, IFAD**

- Welcome Address by **Mr Lennart Båge**, President of IFAD
- Introductory remarks by **Ms Vicky Tauli-Corpuz**,  
Chairperson, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Introductory remarks by **Ms Elissavet Stamatopoulou**,  
Chief, Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on  
Indigenous Issues
- 

### **Session 1: Indigenous Culture and Development**

**Co-Chairs: Ms. Susanne Schnuttgen, UNESCO and Ms Anna Lucia D’Emilio,  
UNICEF**

#### **Agencies’ Presentations:**

- *Cultura y Pueblos Indígena*, by **Mr Roberto Haudry de-Souci**,  
Country Program Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean  
Division, **IFAD**
- *Development with Identity - Indigenous Culture: UNESCO's  
Experience and Good Practices*, by **Ms Susanne Schnuttgen**,

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Programme Specialist, Pluralism and Intercultural Dialogue  
Section, **UNESCO**

- *Towards a Holistic Approach to Culturally Sensitive Development*,  
by **Ms Anna Lucia D’Emilio**, Programme Specialist, Pluralism  
and Intercultural Dialogue Section, **UNICEF** Venezuela
- *Cultural Approaches to Reproductive Rights of Indigenous  
Peoples*, by **Ms Luz Angela Melo**, Human Rights Adviser,  
**UNFPA**

- Discussion

- Wrap-up and identification of areas for further in-depth discussion by **Mr Roberto Haudry de-Souci**, Country Program Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean Division, **IFAD** and **Mr Lee Swepston**, Senior Advisor on Human Rights, Standard and Fundamental Principles and Rights Sector, **ILO**

## **Session 2: Indigenous Lands, Territories and Resources**

**Co-Chairs:** **Mr Matthew Wyatt**, Assistant President, External Affairs

Department, **IFAD** and **Ms Anne Deruyttere**, Chief of the Indigenous Peoples and Community Development Unit, **IADB**

- Agencies’ Presentations

- *Indigenous Territories: Challenges for Consolidation and Sustainable Development with Identity*, by **Ms Anne Deruyttere**,  
**IADB**

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- *Working at the Boundaries: ILC's Engagement with the Land Rights of Indigenous Peoples and their Neighbours*, by **Mr Bruce Moore**, Director, **ILC** (International Land Coalition)
  - *Land Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples – Recent Development in ILO Supervision*, by **Mr Lee Swepston**, **ILO**,
  - *Indigenous Lands, Territories and Resources: The UNITAR Training Programme on Conflict Prevention and Peace-building*, by **Ms Trisha Riedy**, Senior Coordinator, Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy, **UNITAR**
  - *Indigenous Lands, Territories and Resources: the Role of the Declaration*, by **Mr Julian Burger**, Coordinator, Indigenous and Minorities Unit, **OHCHR**
  - *Lands, Territories and Resources: UNDP Experiences from the Asia-Pacific* by **Ms Chandra Roy**, Regional Coordinator, **UNDP**
- Discussion
  - Wrap-up and identification of areas for further in-depth discussion by **Mr Mohamed Manssouri**, Country Programme Manager, Western and Central Africa Division, IFAD and **Mr Julian Burger**, **OHCHR**
  - Address by **Mr José Antonio Ocampo**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, **United Nations**, (via videoconference)

## **Session 3: Indigenous Peoples and Technology Development/Adoption**

**Co-Chairs:** **Mr Kevin Cleaver**, Assistant President, Programme Management Department, **IFAD** and **Mr Lee Swepston**, **ILO**

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- Agencies' Presentations
  - *Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS): Extent, Significance, and Implications for Development*, by **Mr Thomas Price**, Senior Programme Officer and Focal Point for Indigenous Peoples, and **Ms Mary Jane Dela Cruz**, Consultant, GIAHS Programme, **FAO**
  - *What's so Smart about Technology?*, by **Mr Rudolph Cleveringa**, Technical Advisor, Technical Advisory Division, **IFAD**
  - *Developing and Enhancing Bio-intensive Technology by Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Communities*, by Mr Pablo Eyzaguirre, Senior Scientist, Diversity for Livelihoods Programme, **IPGRI**
- Discussion
- Wrap-up and identification of areas for further in-depth discussion by **Mr Alessandro Meschinelli**, Research Analyst, Technical Advisory Division, **IFAD** and **Mr Thomas Price**, **IPGRI**
- Conclusions of the first day by **Ms Isabel Lavadenz**, Director, Latin American and the Caribbean Division, **IFAD**

## Saturday, 16 September 2006

**Session 1: In-depth Discussion on Theme 1: Indigenous Lands, Territories and Resources and suggestions for Agencies' follow-up**

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**Co-Chairs:** **Ms Ida Agnes Nicolaisen**, Member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and **Mr Navin Rai**, Lead Social Development Specialist and Indigenous Peoples Coordinator, **the World Bank**

- Summary of the Recommendations of the UNPFII on Theme 1: Indigenous Lands, Territories and Resources, **Ms Elissavet Stamatopoulou**
- Presentation on *Indigenous Peoples' Lands, Territories and Resources: The Challenge of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* by **Ms Victoria Tauli-Corpuz**
- Feedback from Members of the UNPFII on the first day presentations on theme 1: Indigenous Lands, Territories and Resources
- Discussion
- Wrap-Up on Session 1 by the Co-Chairs

**Session 2: In-depth Discussion on Theme 2: Indigenous Peoples and Technology Development/Adoption and suggestions for Agencies' follow-up**

**Co-Chairs:** **Mr Michael Dodson**, Member of the UNPFII (Australia) and **Mr Simon Legrand**, **WIPO**

- Presentation on *Indigenous Peoples and Technology Development in Asia and the Pacific* by **Mr Ganesh Thapa**, Regional Economist, Asia and the Pacific Division, **IFAD**
- Summary of the Recommendations of the UNPFII on Theme 2: Indigenous Peoples and Technology Development/Adoption by **Ms Elissavet Stamatopoulou**

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- Feedback from the Members of the UNPFII on the first day presentations on Theme 2: Indigenous Peoples and Technology Development/Adoption
- Discussion
- Wrap-up Session by the Co-Chairs

## **Sunday, 17 September 2006**

### **Session 1 In-depth Discussion on theme 3: Indigenous Culture and Development and suggestions for Agencies' follow-up**

**Co-Chairs: Ms Otilia Lux de Coti**, Member of the UNPFII (Guatemala) and **Ms Susanne Schnuttgen UNESCO**

- Summary of the Recommendations of the UNPFII on theme 3: Indigenous Culture, **Ms Elissavet Stamatopoulou**
- Feedback from the Members of the UNPFII on the first day presentations on Theme 3: Indigenous Culture
- Discussion
- Wrap-up Session by the Co-Chairs
  
- Wrap-up of in-depth discussions on the three themes, **Mr Phrang Roy**

### **Session 2: Follow-up activities on the three themes and partnership Building for implementation**

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**Co-Chairs: Ms Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Ms Anna Lucia D’Emilio**

- Discussion on follow-up activities on the three themes and partnership building for implementation

**Session 3 Panel Discussion on Sharing Information on the work being carried out on Indigenous Peoples’ Specific Indicators**

**Co-Chairs: Ms Caroline Heider**, Deputy Director, Office of Evaluation, **IFAD**,  
**Ms Eve Crowley**, Senior Officer, **FAO**

- Presentation on *Cultural Indicators of Indigenous Peoples' Food and Agro-Ecological Systems*, by **Ms Eve Crowley**, Senior Officer, **FAO**

- Discussion and Wrap-up

## **Monday, 18 September 2006**

**Session 1: Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, house keeping matters**

**Co-Chairs: Phrang Roy, Mr Julian Burger**

- Open discussion

**Suggested topics for discussion:**

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- Keeping in mind the comparative advantage of each Agency, how could we support each others in implementing the Action Plan for the Second Decade?
- Is there a scope for an IASG extended to selected civil society organizations?
- Should the IASG become the Working Group that will carry out the tasks identified by the UNDG to mainstream indigenous issues at regional and country level? If so, what would the modalities of operation be?
- Information sharing and follow-up on the Recommendations of 2005 IASG Meeting (paragraphs. 13, 21, 30, 34 and 41 of the report E/C.19/2006/3).