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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

Future work of the Forum

Paper submitted by Mr. Parshuram Tamang**

Methods of work: developing a questionnaire to enhance organizations' reporting

Executive summary

This paper is submitted following a decision of the Forum at its Fifth Session to develop a questionnaire designed to enhance inter-governmental organizations' reporting to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The paper contains a draft questionnaire for consideration by the Forum.

* E/C.19/2007/1.

** The present report was submitted late in order to ensure the inclusion of the most recent information.

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Introduction

1. This paper is submitted in accordance with the decision of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues contained in paragraph 155 of the report at its Fifth Session (E/2006/43). In that decision the Permanent Forum requested decided to continue its work on preparing a compilation of its current practices and methods of work and also decoded to appoint Forum Members Mr Yuri Boychenko and Mr Parshuram Tamang, as special rapporteurs to develop, within existing resources, a questionnaire designed to enhance organizations' reporting to the Permanent Forum and requested the views of organizations in that respect. The special rapporteurs were urged to submit proposals on a questionnaire to be discussed at the sixth session of the Permanent Forum.

2. This paper is a follow up to a submission made last year on methods of work (E/C.19/2006/10). It is also based on a) experiences of the Forum in receiving some twenty-five reports annually from United Nations and other inter-governmental organizations, providing information on various aspects of their work regarding indigenous peoples; b) the realization that some recommendations require multi-year efforts for their implementation; c) that agencies cannot immediately implement some recommendations due to lack of resources and other relevant reasons; d) that the mandate of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues includes the mainstreaming of these issues within the United Nations system.

A. Approach

3. The proposed questionnaire appearing below is meant as a practical tool to facilitate the provision of information by agencies in a way that will improve their dialogue with the Permanent Forum and be useful for the agencies, the Permanent Forum, governments and

indigenous peoples organizations. It is also meant to improve the monitoring efforts of the Permanent Forum as well as its understanding of obstacles in implementation.

4. In preparation of this draft questionnaire, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in its correspondence with the United Nations system in December 2006 to prepare for the Sixth Session of the Permanent Forum, also sought input in this respect. The replies received did not contain any information on this point.

5. This questionnaire is viewed as work-in-progress, the text of which should be examined periodically and revised as developments require. The Special Rapporteurs are looking forward to comments that will further improve this questionnaire.

B. Draft questionnaire to United Nations agencies/funds/programmes/departments and other inter-governmental organizations

6. The following items are proposed for inclusion in a questionnaire to be addressed to the United Nations system and other inter-governmental organizations:

(1). Response to recommendations addressed exclusively to your entity under one or more areas of the Permanent Forum's mandate/agenda

a) --at the Forum's last session.

b)--at the Forum's previous sessions

Please make specific reference to your entity's efforts regarding indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals.

(Please specify the paragraphs of the Permanent Forum's report to which the response is addressed).

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(2) Response to recommendations addressed to two or more agencies or to the United Nations system in general under one or more items of the Permanent Forum's mandate/agenda

a)--at the Forum's last session.

b)--at the Forum's previous sessions

Please make specific reference to your entity's efforts regarding indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals.

(Please specify the paragraphs of the Permanent Forum's report to which the response is addressed)

(3) Given the Permanent Forum's special emphasis on

a) --indigenous children and youth

b)--indigenous women

c)--data collection and disaggregation

d)--free, prior and informed consent

please include information on how your entity is dealing with these important issues.

(4) Obstacles to the implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum, especially those addressed specifically to your entity.

(5) Facilitating factors for the implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum, especially those addressed specifically to your entity.

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(6) Given the Forum's recommendation for the adoption of policies on indigenous peoples' issues, please specify whether your entity has a policy or other similar tool on indigenous peoples' issues?

(6) Other significant information regarding

- a)--recent programmes,
- b)--budgetary allocations or
- c)--projects/activities

regarding indigenous peoples' issues within your entity

*(In order to facilitate the quantification of data by the Forum, please indicate the **number** of programmes and projects/activities devoted to indigenous peoples issues in the past year).*

(7) Does your entity have a focal point on indigenous issues? Please provide name and contact information of the focal point.

(8) Regarding capacity-building on indigenous issues for staff in your entity, does your entity have a regular capacity-building programme, an ad hoc capacity-building programme or a plan for capacity-building activities in this area, at headquarters or in the field?

(9) Please provide any available information regarding your entity's activities regarding the goal, objectives and programme of action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

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(10) Please provide information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the next session of the Permanent Forum.

(11) Please provide a list of conferences and other meetings under your entity regarding indigenous issues in the current year as well as next year.