

## **DPA's contribution to the ninth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPII).**

1. During the eighth session of the UNPII (2009), DPA's focal point on indigenous issues and desk officers met with leaders of indigenous peoples' associations/federations from Colombia and Bolivia.
  
2. Also in the context of the UNPII's eight session, DPA-Americas Division hosted a brownbag meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples, Mr. James Anaya. Similar meetings were held in previous years with his predecessor, Dr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen. The brownbag was a good opportunity to discuss the situation of indigenous peoples in the Americas, where they are playing an important role in the processes of social and political change that are taking place in countries such as Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.
  
3. Throughout the Americas, indigenous peoples are mobilizing to counter centuries of social and economic exclusion. Indigenous peoples are advocating for governments to implement international commitments, such as the ILO Convention 169, which institutionalizes the duty to consult indigenous populations on matters related to the development and extracting activities carried out in their ancestral lands (e.g., Peru). In other countries, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has been adopted as national legislation (e.g., Bolivia).
  
4. In February 2009, as part of its mandate to provide electoral assistance, DPA representatives met with the leaders of the main indigenous federations in Bolivia to solicit their views on electoral related issues. One of the main issues addressed by DPA's Electoral Mission was the inclusion of representatives of Bolivia's 36 indigenous nations in the new Pluri-National Parliament. In that connection, DPA's Electoral Division provided technical assistance to Bolivia's Electoral Tribunal (CNE) on how the issue of special quotas for indigenous peoples' representatives had been addressed in other countries.
  
5. In Peru, during last year's clashes between the police and indigenous protesters in the Amazonian region<sup>1</sup>, UN statements were issued by OHCHR, the Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples. DPA provided analytical

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<sup>1</sup> On 5 June 2009, in the northern Peruvian Amazon region (city of Bagua), there were clashes between the police and indigenous protesters belonging to AIDSESEP, the largest Amazonian indigenous organization. The Government of Peru (GoP) claimed that 24 policemen and nine civilians were killed and 155 civilians were wounded, while international press and indigenous organizations claim that 50 civilians were killed. For more than six weeks prior to the incidents, AIDSESEP's members demonstrated peacefully, requesting the revocation of two legislative decrees related to the development of the Amazonian region. AIDSESEP claimed that these decrees were harmful to the livelihood of indigenous peoples and that they had not been consulted with them in advance (as established by the ILO Convention 169 to which Peru is a State Party).

support to the Special Rapporteur during his visit to Peru (17-19 June 2009), which helped to defuse tensions in the Amazonian region.

6. In November 2009, DPA's Focal Point on Indigenous Issues participated in a workshop on "Best practices regarding indigenous peoples and peacebuilding", held in Barcelona, Spain. The workshop gathered academics, UN staff and representatives of civil society organizations working on indigenous issues in Bolivia, Guatemala, Kenya, Nepal, Peru and Philippines. Participants analyzed the relevant best practices regarding the involvement of indigenous peoples in conflict-prevention, peace negotiations and peacebuilding activities. The workshop was organized by the Autonomous Government of Catalonia (Spain) in collaboration with the UN Staff College.

7. DPA provides political guidance and administrative support to the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. In this respect it should be noted that the Special Adviser has identified the nexus between indigenous peoples and the prevention of genocide as a key issue in his global monitoring and early warning efforts.



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