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### Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

#### Seventh session

New York, 21 April - 2 May 2008

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

**Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas  
of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals**

### **Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations**

#### **I. United Nations Forum on Forest, Department of Economic and Social Affairs\*\***

#### **II. International Organization for Migration\*\***

#### *Summary*

This paper comprises two reports. The first is from the United Nations Forum of Forest (UNFF), Department of Social and Economic Affairs which provides a brief overview of the work currently undertaken and aspects that are related to indigenous peoples' issues.

The second report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) responds to the recommendations from the Report on the Sixth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). This report also references activities undertaken or being planned by IOM that are of specific relevance to the UNPFII.

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\* E/C.19/2008/1

\*\* The submission of the present document was delayed in order to include the most recent information

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## **I. United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)**

1. In 2006, the Economic and Social Council, through its resolution 2006/49, added three new principal functions to the work of the Forum of Forests (UNFF), one of which is to encourage and assist countries to increase the area of land under sustainable forest management and reduce forest degradation with a view to enhancing the benefits of forests to meet present and future needs, in particular the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities whose livelihoods depend on forests.

2. The General Assembly adopted the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests on 17 December 2007. This landmark decision significantly advances efforts to monitor the state of the world's forests and secure long-term political commitment to sustainable forest management. The Instrument contains the following four Global Objectives on Forests:

- (i) Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management (SFM), including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;
- (ii) Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;
- (iii) Increase significantly the area of protected forests and other sustainably managed forests, and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests; and

(iv) Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly-increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM.

3. In addition, the Instrument contains a number of provisions specifically related to indigenous peoples issues.

4. In reference to National Policies, paragraph 6(f) states that Member States should support the protection and use of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices in sustainable forest management with the approval and the involvement of the holders of such knowledge and promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits out of their utilization, according to national legislation and relevant international agreements;

5. Paragraph 6(h) states that Member States should create enabling environments for the involvement of indigenous and local communities in sustainable forest management through a framework of policies, incentives and regulations.

6. Paragraph 6(s) states that Member States should “promote the development and application of scientific and technological innovations, including those that can be used by forest owners and local and indigenous communities to advance sustainable forest management”.

7. Paragraph 6(v) states that Member States should “support education, training and extension programmes involving local and indigenous communities, forest workers and forest owners, in order to develop resource management approaches that will reduce the pressure on forests, particularly fragile ecosystems”.

8. Paragraph 6(y) states that Member States should “Enhance access by households, small scale forest owners, forest dependent local and indigenous communities, living in and

outside forest areas, to forest resources and relevant markets in order to support livelihoods and income diversification from forest management, consistent with sustainable forest management”.

9. Finally, in reference to International Cooperation, paragraph 7(k) states that Member States should “enhance and facilitate access to, and transfer of, appropriate, environmentally sound and innovative technologies and corresponding know how relevant to sustainable forest management and to efficient value added processing of forest products, in particular to developing countries for the benefit of local and indigenous communities”.

10. Thus, the Instrument reflects substantial recognition and concern for the rights and needs of local and Indigenous communities. A copy of the Instrument is available on the UNFF website.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the Instrument, the UNFF also adopted a multi-year programme of work in 2007 that will guide the deliberations of UNFF until the year 2015. Each biennial session, from now until 2015, will consider implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests as well as the four Global Objectives on Forests in addition to implementation of sustainable forest management and previous UNFF decisions and resolutions and IPF/IFF proposals for action.

11. In the MYPOW of UNFF, Member States also decided to appoint themes for each of the future UNFF sessions. While themes of all sessions include certain aspects of indigenous people issues, the ninth session (in 2011) will focus primarily on social aspects including indigenous and community issues. The next session of the UNFF,

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<sup>1</sup> [www.un.org/esa/forests](http://www.un.org/esa/forests)

which will take place in 2009, will have the theme Forests in a Changing Environment and will address three major issues:

- (a) forests and climate change;
- (b) combating the loss of forest cover, forest degradation and desertification; and
- (c) forests and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas.

The UNFF will also address means of implementation and a possible financial mechanism as well as forest related law enforcement and governance at this session.

12. At the ninth session, in 2011, the Forum will focus on the theme Forests for People, Livelihoods and Poverty Alleviation and will address:

- (a) community based forest management;
- (b) social development and forest dependant indigenous and other local communities, including land tenure; and
- (c) social and cultural aspects of forests.

13. The General Assembly has also decided that 2011 will be the International Year of Forests and the UNFF will include celebrations of the year at this session. A mid-term review will also take place in 2011. In 2013, UNFF will discuss Forests and Economic Development, and in 2015, it will undertake a comprehensive review of its work. A full description of the multi-year programme of work for the UNFF is also available on the its website.

14. UNFF sessions include interactive multi-stakeholder dialogues that have proven to be a very effective medium to bring together different interest groups and member States. The indigenous peoples major group has been an active participant to such Dialogues and

we look forward to the active engagement of Indigenous Peoples in all of our forthcoming sessions.

## **II. International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

### **Introduction**

15. At the global level, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will publish a paper on the nexus between indigenous peoples and migration. At the field level, IOM is engaged with indigenous peoples, governments and various partner organizations in developing and implementing projects that respond to indigenous peoples particular needs and are culturally appropriate.

### **A. Response to recommendations addressed exclusively to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) under one or more areas of the Permanent Forum's mandate/agenda.**

16. Recommendation 24 of the Permanent Forum's 6<sup>th</sup> Session Report is addressed to IOM<sup>2</sup>. Since 2006, the Reparations Programmes of IOM has provided expert advice and technical assistance to the Colombian National Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CNRR) in developing procedures and setting up regional offices to fulfill its mandate to assist victims of violence to obtain reparations. While highlighting that indigenous peoples need particular assistance in the areas of reparations and

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<sup>2</sup> E/2007/43 para 24

rehabilitation, IOM recommended in 2007 the establishment of a specific office of the CNRR to guide and coordinate the work of the Commission for indigenous victims. The President of the Commission agreed at the time with this recommendation.

17. IOM continues to stand committed to offer its expertise and technical assistance to governments that request such services, and its Reparations Programme will continue to keep the needs of indigenous populations in all of its contacts, outreach and project development activities.

18. In response to Recommendation 17 of the Permanent Forum's 5<sup>th</sup> Session Report<sup>3</sup>, IOM and its colleagues on the Inter-Agency Support Group decided at the annual meeting of the IASG to establish a migration contact group within the IASG to identify relevant ongoing work within individual agencies and to strategize on how to raise the specific issues of indigenous peoples within the migration debate. The representative of IOM was appointed at the group's convenor.

**B. 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.**

19. In response to the Permanent Forum's recommendations to the IASG and to international organizations, IOM works in cooperation with other members of the IASG to maximize collaboration, avoid duplication and advance joint efforts to strengthen work on data collection and identification of indicators relevant to indigenous peoples. Additionally, IOM supports efforts to integrate indigenous issues into development

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<sup>3</sup> E/2006/43 para 17

frameworks and supports partnerships to ensure the protection of, and respect for, indigenous peoples' rights and the realization of their visions of development with respect for their culture and identity. IOM would also ensure that programmes would be culturally appropriate and include the full and effective participation, and free, prior and informed consent, of indigenous peoples.

20. IOM's response to Recommendation 68 of the Permanent Forum's 5<sup>th</sup> Session Report<sup>4</sup> are discussed in Sections D and E below. As a project-based, decentralized, intergovernmental organization, lack of core funding hampers IOM's implementation of this recommendation.

21. In response to Recommendation 80 of Permanent Forum's 6<sup>th</sup> Session Report,<sup>5</sup> as previously noted, IOM and its colleagues on the Inter-Agency Support Group decided at the annual meeting of the IASG to establish a migration contact group within the IASG.

**C. Response to 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.**

22. The projects highlighted under Section G below encapsulate a number of IOM activities which are relevant to these areas.

**D. Obstacles to implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum, especially those addressed specifically to your agency.**

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<sup>4</sup> E/2006/43 para 68

<sup>5</sup> E/2007/43 para 80

23. IOM is a project-based organization. Lack of core resources to address indigenous peoples and migration can only be overcome by donor support through project funding.

**E. Facilitating factors for the implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum.**

24. With more than 300 field offices globally, IOM has a presence in nearly every country. However, each office is supported by donors through project funding. Further identification and support from donors with an interest in indigenous issues, along with a mandate from the national/local government, would further facilitate IOM's implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, along with further activities with indigenous peoples.

**F. Policies on indigenous peoples' issues, please specify whether your agency has a policy or other similar tools on indigenous peoples' issues.**

25. Over the past two years, IOM has increased its engagement on indigenous issues in a number of ways that are highlighted under Section G below. IOM joined the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues in 2006, bringing a migration perspective to the group. Furthermore, a number of IOM missions work with indigenous communities in a participatory fashion to allow their free, prior and informed consent on activities as well as their inputs on design and implementation of projects. IOM-Colombia is developing and implementing a strategy that offers a sensitive intervention framework to the interests and experiences of ethnic groups, including indigenous communities to counteract existing inequalities and to obtain equal political, economic, social and

cultural benefits. Please see the information for IOM-Colombia under Section G for more information.

**G. Information regarding a) recent programmes, b) budgetary allocations or c) projects/activities regarding indigenous peoples' issues within your agency.**

26. In 2008, IOM will launch a publication entitled *Indigenous Routes: A Framework for Understanding Indigenous Migration*, which analyzes the nexus between indigenous peoples and migration. The publication looks at many of the migration routes of indigenous peoples, with a focus on transborder migration, as well as highlight the many challenges faced by indigenous peoples when forced to migrate from their territories and also consider the opportunities that informed migration may bring to indigenous migrants and their communities. This publication will be made available during the Seventh Session of the Permanent Forum in April 2008.

27. The mandate of IOM is to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, be they displaced persons or other uprooted people. IOM is highly decentralized and service-oriented. As part of this field-driven approach, IOM's field missions have developed and implemented various projects relevant to, and in partnership with, indigenous peoples as well as undertake efforts to ensure that all projects are culturally appropriate and sensitive. By way of illustration, the following

paragraphs describe a sampling of IOM projects at the field level which involve indigenous peoples.

## **Chile**

28. During 2007, IOM Chile provided resources administration to CONADI (*Corporación Nacional de Desarrollo Indígena*/National Corporation of Indigenous Development), under the Ministry of Planning. Besides this agreement, IOM Chile has also participated, and still participates, in the Inter-Agency Group on Indigenous Peoples as well as the Inter-Agency Group on Human Rights, both related to the UN agencies in Chile. The second group is working on the implementation of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples, Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, after his visit to Chile in 2003. For the moment the group is preparing a roundtable meeting with the government, civil society and UN agencies to share opinions about the implementation of the Special Rapporteur's recommendations. Because of the importance of these issues, this specific group which comprises of indigenous peoples was created to work directly with these communities. Until now the main function of it was to include indigenous concerns in the agenda of the different agencies.

## **Costa Rica**

29. In May 2007, IOM-Costa Rica's innovative project to improve the health of indigenous coffee pickers in southern Costa Rica, *Finca Sana*, was awarded US\$199,842 at the highly competitive World Bank Development Marketplace Competition. Less than

1% of the 2,900 proposals originally submitted were funded, after a long process which included jury interviews at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, DC. *Finca Sana* aims to improve the health of members of the Ngöbe-Buglé indigenous tribe who migrate into Costa Rica from Panama each year to pick coffee. Project innovations include the inclusion of traditional healers as health promoters, a telehealth component to link them to the local health workers, and an emergency transport system. The model of care is also designed to be mobile, following the migrants as they move with the coffee harvest.

30. *Finca Sana* was developed together with the local health authorities, the Costa Rica Social Security Fund (CCSS), the public health system of the region of Coto Brus, who have been carrying out mobile teams to farms near the border since 2003. IOM and the CCSS jointly developed the proposal, which supports and expands the mobile team efforts, while expanding activities to include local health promoters along the migration route. IOM and its partners began activities in August 2007, with the start of the coffee season along the border. The project will be carried out over the next two years.

31. An important new element of *Finca Sana* is that it will expand the health network to include indigenous people themselves, who are leaders, midwives and healers. IOM-Costa Rica is promoting communication in both directions between the target population and health authorities when previously the interaction was very top-down and non-participatory. Given the complexities of this intercultural interaction, indigenous peoples are being empowered and are substantially involved in projects.

32. IOM-Costa Rica is jointly identifying many needs of this group of coffee pickers including those of literacy, education, malnutrition, living conditions, labor rights, and gender-based violence, and with its partners, IOM-Costa Rica is working to identify new

opportunities to jointly apply for funding to increase collaboration and avoid duplication. One proposal is to support a small cultural education project that is led by some health promoters, including indigenous leaders, on indigenous territories within Costa Rica. Currently, a small one-room school, for which IOM is seeking funds to expand, hosts Ngobere language classes as well as classes on traditional crafts, culture and history. IOM-Costa Rica is currently drafting proposals to support and expand these activities. With a longer-term goal to carry out coordination at the local level with health partners on both sides of the border, a future phase of this project may include expanded activities in Panama, particularly in Comarca in 2008.

33. Activities developed by IOM-Costa Rica are most related to MDG 4 (reduction of child mortality) and MDG 5 (improvement of maternal health), with an objective to identify health emergencies of the most vulnerable such as pregnant women and small children. About 1/3 of the indigenous community are children and another 1/3 are women and most are assisted with transport to emergency care. Recognizing that access to health services for the Ngöbe-Buglé is extremely limited and many indigenous workers are mostly undocumented thus using the emergency room only when absolutely necessary, IOM-Costa Rica is working with health promoters to support mobile teams to address the health needs of this community, including better medical follow-up. Since these mobile teams often cannot visit each farm more than once, and parasites and malnutrition are a serious problem, IOM-Costa Rica's network of health promoters are able to follow up cases of child malnutrition. This project will be measured to assess its impacts with a baseline health survey focused on maternal and child health.

34. In regards to activities related to data collection and disaggregation, IOM-Costa Rica is carrying out rigorous monitoring and evaluation activities, including a baseline survey focused on maternal and child health, already developed for use with indigenous populations in Central America. This survey has already undergone testing and is currently being carried out.

## **Ecuador**

35. IOM-Ecuador's activities focus on support to indigenous Awa and Chachi communities as well as Afroecuadorian communities through its Northern Border Development Program. During the first years of the program in 2002, its objective was to strengthen civil society through concrete activities that would contribute its development and allow its members to confront the existing challenges in the region. Other parts of the programme included strengthening organizational and leadership aspects, developing conflict resolution skills, promotion of sustainable development, gender participation and development of small production projects.

36. Past activities of IOM-Ecuador include the support for the strengthening of the social organization of the Cofán indigenous community in the province of Sucumbios through the delimitation and legalization of their territories. This was completed in the framework of an agreement between the Foundation for the Survival of the Cofán People and IOM, during 2001 and 2003. The project consisted of the delimitation of three blocks that belong to the Cofán reserve (the Zábalo-Guepii block, the Sinangoe-Ccuccono block, and the San Miguel-Bermejo block); the equipping of physical infrastructure for control and monitoring; the political incidence for the recognition of the rights of use, management,

and control of these territories, be it through property rights or the establishment of Community Reserves or other types of agreements within the National System for Protected Land Areas (SNAP).

37. Between 2001 and 2004, through a cooperation agreement between IOM and Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio (FEPP), a project was carried out for the legalization of property rights of indigenous communities and peasant colonists families in the Province of Sucumbios. Activities included the bordering of lots, carrying out legal procedures for indigenous communities, inspection visits by INDA (El Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Agrario) and the Ministry of Environment to communities and peasant farms, as well as the creation of a credit fund that could support families in the future. In total, 13 Quichua and 5 Shuar communities obtained property titles.

38. Other projects included the building of productive and social infrastructure projects to support indigenous peoples. Such activities have included the building of 10 pedestrian bridges benefiting 4,400 members of the Awa Community in 2002, provision and training on the use and maintenance of 3 potable water systems in the areas of Balzayacu, Regional Sindy and Atahualpa in 2005, benefiting 1,250 Quichua; potable water systems of Guadalito and Esmeraldas for 120 members of the Awa indigenous community. In 2007, IOM and the World Food Programme (WFP) signed a long-term cooperation agreement, until the year 2010, to carry out projects along Ecuador's northern border region, with a focus on the Federation of Awa Indigenous Communities of Ecuador (FECAE). The first of these projects include rehabilitation of three schools in San Lorenzo, Esmeraldas Province; health education materials for the health centre in Lita,

Imbabura Province; and the rehabilitation of three health posts and the construction of 10 additional posts in the Family and Community Health System.

## **Colombia**

39. The general objective of the IOM Mission in Colombia towards ethnic groups including indigenous communities is to collaborate with state entities, humanitarian, human rights and development organizations committed to promoting and guaranteeing the exercise of the rights of indigenous peoples as well as Afro-Colombians in response to the needs of these populations. IOM-Colombia seeks to continue strengthening the strategy with the aim of providing a framework for the effective incorporation of an ethnic groups' approach in IOM's actions, programs, projects and other initiatives carried out with governmental, departmental and municipal entities. IOM-Colombia's strategy is to include the participation of beneficiaries, counterparts from the private and public sector and civil society in order for the process to be inclusive and thereby inculcate a culture of transparency and good governance. Areas prioritized by IOM include education, healthcare, strengthening of institutions and communities, housing and infrastructure and income generation.

40. IOM-Colombia has a full-time Ethnic Minorities Specialist whose role includes working with indigenous peoples. During 2007, a differential approach in initiatives involving indigenous and Afro-Colombian groups was developed and formalized, which recognizes the principles of specificity, identity, equity, equality, participation, representation, impartiality, inter-ethnic relations and ethnic minorities' leadership. This approach is geared towards strengthening the cultural identity and the institutions of

ethnic groups, promoting their effective participation and ensuring that ethnic groups benefit from the gains of well-being achieved by the society as a whole.

41. IOM-Colombia recognizes a need to include specific cultural characteristics of these communities in education, housing, health and productive services. Access to land, education, employment, and basic services go hand-in-hand with their social and cultural needs. These needs include respect for cultural identity (such as indigenous health practices and adaptation of the school curricula to cultural specificities), the possibility to actively participate in local and national decision-making, and concerns about discrimination as an obstacle in the access and fulfilment of their basic needs. IOM-Colombia has a detailed guideline for the inclusion of a differential approach for projects and is included as an annex for use by project implementers. Specific indicators for ethnic minorities including indigenous groups will be created using this document. IOM-Colombia has also participated in the definition of criteria to be used to reward companies implementing social responsibility policies with ethnic minorities, organized by the Vice Minister for Labor, Ministry of Social Protection.

42. More specifically, IOM's policy in programming considers the following aspects as key to success: (i) people are recognized as key actors in their own development, rather than passive recipients of commodities and services, (ii) participation is both a means and a goal, (iii) strategies are empowering, not disempowering, (iv) both outcomes and processes are monitored and evaluated, (v) analysis includes all stakeholders, (vi) the development process is locally owned, (vii) programs aim to reduce disparity, (viii) both top-down and bottom up approaches are used in synergy, (ix) situation analysis is used to identify immediate, underlying and basic causes of development problems, (x)

measurable goals and targets are important in programming, (xi) strategic partnerships are developed and sustained, and (xii) programs support accountability to stakeholders.

43. Regarding the attainment of the MDGs by indigenous peoples, IOM-Colombia recognizes that poverty parameters do not adequately reflect the realities of many indigenous peoples. In response, IOM-Colombia is continuously providing support in strengthening effective participation and promoting indigenous individual and collective rights, reflected in the Mission's principles for the application of the differential approach. More specifically, IOM-Colombia's strategy aims to (i) mainstream ethnic minorities' rights into all strategies through applying a differential approach to overcome discrimination; (ii) ensure participation of ethnic minorities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects; (iii) data desegregation; (iv) creation of specific performance indicators; and (v) provision of appropriate guidelines and training on the rights of ethnic minorities for IOM staff.

44. IOM-Colombia's *Assistance Programme for Displaced People and Vulnerable Groups (Assistance Programme)*, in partnership with USAID, includes the project *Protection of Land and Patrimonial Assets of Displaced Populations in Colombia*, which has prioritized the differential approach for gender and ethnic minorities, including indigenous communities. More specifically, community and institutional capacity strengthening for the protection of territorial rights of ethnic groups affected by displacement in the Colombian Pacific Coast occurred in the following areas:

- a. Department of Chocó, Tadó municipality, the Alto San Juan area where the indigenous reservations of Bochoroma, Mondo, Tarena and Peñas del Olvido are

located and which groups eight indigenous communities belonging to the Regional Indigenous Organization – Embera-Wounan-OREWA.

b. Department of Nariño, Olaya Herrera, Francisco Pizarro (Salahonda) and Charco municipalities where the indigenous reservations of Eperara Siapidara de Rio Satinga, La Floresta-Santa Rosa, Sanquianguita, Integrado del Charco, San Juan Pampón and San Agustín are located and which groups 12 indigenous communities.

c. Department of Cauca, Timbiqui municipality where the Eperara Siapidara de la calle de Santa Rosa indigenous reservation is located and which groups two indigenous communities.

The community and institutional capacity strengthening in these regions includes basic training in ethnic legislation and design of a booklet for indigenous communities which will examine the legal framework that supports their organizations.

45. There are several other projects that are a part of the *Assistance Programme*, some of which are highlighted below:

a. The project *Strengthening of the contingency strategy against forced displacement of the Indigenous Council of the Kwet Wala Reserve* was established within the Framework Agreement with the *Valle del Cauca* Governor's Office. This project aims to strengthen the Kwet Wala Indigenous reservation through support and consolidation of their contingency plan against forced displacement. Activities include the construction and equipping of a community center which can be used as temporary shelter and a protection area, and in the future will continue to be used for permanent assemblies, community encounters and education activities for both children and adults.

- b. The project *Humanitarian Emergency Assistance to the Awa Indigenous population, through the implementation of infant assistance* is meant to improve the conditions of the displaced population in emergency situations of the Awa community with the implementation of the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) and IDS programmes.
- c. The project *Construction of houses in individually owned land – Raymundo Chapuel – Males Indigenous Reserve* will facilitate the construction of 42 houses in accordance to the traditions of the Pastos indigenous community. The initiative will assist in the prevention of forced displacement in the reservation.
- d. The project *Establishment of family gardens using organophonic technology for families belonging to displaced and vulnerable populations*, was established within the Framework Agreement with the Mayor’s Office of Mocoa, Putumayo. The project aims to implement urban and peri-urban agricultural productive initiatives aimed at improving food security for 300 families belonging to displaced and vulnerable populations including indigenous families of the Yunguillo reserve. Included in the project are training courses in Urban or Peri-Urban Agriculture with thematic complements in: leadership, community strengthening, nutritional education and consumption habits and ways of preparation.
- e. Regarding indigenous women, the projects *Support to rural housing projects for displaced population* and *Support to co-financing for formulation of rural housing projects presented in the request for proposals for rural social housing subsidies for IDPs*, both assist heads of households that are indigenous women. The two projects contribute towards the improvement of the standard of living and also reduce

overcrowding and the deficit of quantitative and qualitative housing for internally displaced families.

46. As part of the *Post-Emergency Attention to Internally Displaced Populations in Colombia (Post-Emergency Programme)*, in partnership with Acción Social, displaced indigenous families are among those that are included in the Single Displaced Persons Registration System (RUPD), and are eligible for economic stabilization services offered by the National System for Integral Assistance to Displaced Populations (SNAIPD).

47. Many projects in the *Support Programme for Ex-Combatant Children*, in partnership with USAID, target indigenous youth with the aim of preventing their recruitment into illegal armed groups (IAGs), and supporting the return processes of indigenous and Afro-Colombian children and youths disengaged from IAGs. The Programme identifies and supports development opportunities and fosters coordination with authorities to preserve culture identity. Some projects in this programme include:

a. Strengthening the traditional knowledge and practice of the Pastos Indigenous group around the *Shangra* as an ancestral space to strengthen the sense of belonging and pride of indigenous roots among children and adolescents and discourage them from engaging in illicit activities. The initiative provides support in the creation and structuring of an integral education-participation model, where the *Shagra* is the centre of understanding the traditions, beliefs and customs of indigenous communities;

b. In cooperation with the Colombia Institute of Family Welfare, another project focuses on creating opportunities for social inclusion and mitigation of threats to recruitment into illegal armed groups for Sikuanis indigenous children and youth in

the Wacoyo reserve. This is being carried out through the implementation of a pedagogic–productive project where traditional knowledge is being used together with appropriate technologies in order to achieve sustainable productive systems and also strengthen the social fabric;

c. Indigenous youth belonging to the Guambianos, Paeces and Yanocunas communities in the Silvia, Toes and Sotar municipalities, Department of Cauca are also the focus of a project which supports fostering community economic initiatives oriented at their self sufficiency in order to avoid recruitment into illegal armed groups. The indigenous youth are highly involved in the initiative which also has a strong gender perspective. Another project aimed at indigenous youth in the Department of Cauca aims at strengthening ten agricultural and livestock colleges and ethno-education by improving the quality of agricultural and livestock technical education and its pertinence to rural development;

d. For the Arhaucos Indigenous Community in Pueblo Bello Municipality, Department of Cesar, opportunities for economic development and food security will help reduce the vulnerability of youth who are at risk of being recruited into illegal armed groups. A soap and essential oils productive project is currently being implemented using native aromatic plants species and involving indigenous youth as an economic strategy against recruitment into illegal armed groups. The initiative also provides social insertion opportunities to ex-combatant youth;

e. In San Antonio de los Palmitos Municipality, Montes de Maria, Department of Sucre, a project endeavors at strengthening youth participation and organization, recuperation of cultural identity and implementation of productive projects,

including through implementing a caña flecha (type of straw) productive project using traditional methods and involving youth and families belonging to the Zenú Indigenous group; and

f. Zenú indigenous and Afrocolombian youth also participate in the Youth Leadership School in Montes de Maria, engaging in training and strengthening youth organization and participation.

48. The *Emergency Assistance Programme for Colombians in Search of International Protection in Ecuadorian, Panamanian and Venezuelan Border Areas with Colombia*, in partnership with USAID, provides indigenous communities with effective short-term direct emergency assistance and capacity building of local civil society organizations to address basic human needs, including; water, sanitation, hygiene, food security, nutrition, shelter, health services, education and income generation activities. Parts of the program also concentrate on capacity building initiatives for local organizations to provide better and more agile emergency responses. Some ongoing and completed activities include:

- a. Providing emergency humanitarian assistance to the AWA indigenous group seeking international protection in Chica;
- b. Improvement of the Carlos Azuero Añasco School as an alternative shelter for water and sanitation and improvement of the potable water system at Santa Rosa de Cascales for the Quichua indigenous community;
- c. Support to the Quichua and Siona Indigenous groups through the provision of emergency educational kits to the border schools; and
- d. Assistance and support for documentation and registration to the Refugee Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

49. The *Social Marketing Unit* of IOM-Colombia works to improve the stability of vulnerable communities in Colombia by assessing sustainable income generation projects implemented by producers belonging to vulnerable groups, who were victims of human trafficking, anti-personnel mines, internal displacement and illegal armed groups. Marketing projects included the Anei organic coffee produced by the Arhuaco Indigenous group of Sierra Nevada and the essential oils and handmade soaps produced using native plant species of Sierra Nevada, Santa Marta by the Seymukekun Association (a group comprised of young indigenous peoples belonging to the Arhuaco Indigenous community of Sierra Nevada).

50. Personnel-related activities of IOM-Colombia with respect to indigenous peoples include an equal opportunity policy for ethnic groups for personnel recruitment as well as in the election of project implementing entities and coordinating the internship program for students from ethnic minorities to be implemented in seven of its regional offices. A Terms of Reference has also been created for ethnic minorities' focal points in programmes. The Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of IOM-Colombia is providing support in the identification of best practices and lessons learned in projects implemented with ethnic minorities which include indigenous and Afrocolombian communities; the creation of specific indicators to evaluate the differential approach towards ethnic minorities during the full project cycle in programmes and projects implemented by the Mission; and the collection of desegregated data on ethnic groups from the various programmes implemented by IOM Colombia. By March 2008, IOM Colombia's website<sup>6</sup> section on ethnic minorities will have updated information on all on-going and

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<sup>6</sup> [www.oim.org.co](http://www.oim.org.co)

finalized projects with beneficiaries from ethnic minorities including indigenous communities.

## **H. Focal point on indigenous issues.**

51. Ms. Amy Emel Muedin, IOM Office of the Permanent Observer to the UN, 122 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 1610, New York, NY 10168-1610.

## **I. Capacity-building on indigenous issues for staff in IOM.**

52. IOM has a number of headquarters and field personnel who are actively engaged in indigenous issues and/or projects. A formal capacity-building programme is highlighted under Section G of this report on IOM-Colombia.

## **J. Information regarding agency's activities on the goals, objectives and programme of action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.**

53. The projects highlighted under section G above encapsulate a number of IOM activities which are relevant to the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in the areas of culture, education, health, human rights, environment, and social and economic development.

## **K. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Permanent Forum.**

54. While there are a number of factors that displace indigenous peoples from their lands and territories, climate change brings about its own specific challenges that demand the attention of the international community to respond to what has been called environmental migration. The environmental migration of indigenous peoples may be caused by gradual environmental degradation of their lands, resources and territories or may be caused by a sudden and extreme climatic event such as landslides or flooding. In either case, the marginalization of indigenous peoples is a key social determinant in worsening the impact of these phenomena.

55. As it has been researched, indigenous peoples' lands face more vulnerability due to their remoteness in some cases, and because a number of indigenous communities rely heavily on their territories for their livelihood. Thus, the initial and harshest impacts of climate change are faced by indigenous peoples and prompt their migration or displacement. Also, extractive industries or major development works may generate adverse affects on indigenous peoples' environment. When indigenous peoples' survival is dependent on seasonal crops, fishing seasons, and other resources from their bio-diverse territories, the impacts of climate change including the destruction of ecology and livelihood has forced indigenous communities to migrate. Many, because of their intrinsic cultural ties to their lands, may opt for temporary or circular migration for work to generate supplementary income through remittances. However, as environmental degradation continues, many may be faced with permanent migration due to the loss of their territories.

56. In their host destination, indigenous peoples may face double discrimination as both migrants and as indigenous peoples. Because of discrimination or isolation already felt

by indigenous peoples, their need to migrate due to environmental factors may be hampered by limited legal migration options. With limited opportunities to make an informed choice to migrate, or because of sudden displacement by a climatic event, indigenous peoples may be more vulnerable to irregular migration such as trafficking and smuggling.

57. Indigenous communities can play an important role in preserving the sustainability of their environment and eco-system, prevent their economic dislocation and physical displacement. For this, they must become co-authors of any plans to counteract the adverse effects of climate change on their environment. Furthermore, indigenous peoples have proven through their traditional knowledge, the sustainability of their lifestyles and their territories for centuries and it is because of this reason that indigenous peoples must be involved in all plans regarding the preservation of their lands and of local wildlife, including plans to prevent deforestation, drought, or extinction of certain plants and animals.

58. More specifically, in Colombia, IOM recognizes the role that the indigenous people and other ethnic minorities have played and continue to play in the conservation of the environment. Indigenous and Afrocolombian populations in rural areas of Colombia depend highly on the existing resources in their territories and at the same time, their traditional knowledge plays an important role in the conservation of these resources. IOM promotes the use of traditional knowledge in projects involving these populations including institutional support for the recognition and respect of environmental and territorial rights in national and international legal legislation and consequently, their effect on environmental protection, support to the recognition and effective application of

rights on their natural resources, including genetic resources, and their knowledge, technologies, traditional practices and innovations, and support to the full and effective participation of ethnic minorities representatives in international meetings discussing matters on land, territories and environment. Ultimately, actions that create the adverse affects of climate change need to be reversed in order to not force the environmental migration of indigenous peoples.

## **L. List of conferences and other meetings under IOM regarding indigenous issues in 2007-2008.**

59. In January 2008, IOM participated in the Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Languages which was organized by the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).

60. The focal point for ethnic groups and indigenous issues for IOM-Colombia is also participating in meetings and events in Colombia. These include the Committee for the Promotion of participation of ethnic minorities in national Labour Policies within the Ministry of Social Protection; USAID's Inter-Institutional Committee on Afrocolombian issues; and Working Table for Afrocolombia Issues under UNHCHR.