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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. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

II. United Nations Secretariat Department of Public Information

III. World Food Program

IV. The Council of Europe

V. Asian Development Bank

Summary
This report contains two brief information statements from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), the World Food Programme, the Council of Europe and the Asian Development Bank regarding their activities in relation to indigenous peoples' issues.

OCHA points out there have been, to date, no recommendations from United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues directly related to their organization, while DPI works closely with the Permanent Forum in terms of producing materials and providing

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support for disseminating information on indigenous peoples and their issues. WFP outlines the support it provides to indigenous peoples in regards to the effects of climate change and the Council of Europe outlines its work on data collection and disaggregation. The Asian Development Bank focuses its work on capacity building projects and technical assistance projects in order to provide equitable opportunities for indigenous peoples.

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I. Information from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

1. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has reviewed the recommendations emanating from the previous six sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). OCHA would like to note that none of the recommendations are expressly addressed to their office, though this is not entirely surprising. The mandate of OCHA is essentially that of ensuring effective inter-agency coordination in humanitarian emergencies and OCHA does not, as a rule, implement projects and programmes that would be aimed at specific categories of beneficiaries, including indigenous peoples.

2. That is not to say that OCHA does not undertake activities that may have a bearing on indigenous peoples. In particular, one of OCHA's tasks is to ensure that in a given humanitarian setting the protection and assistance concerns of indigenous peoples (as well as those of other groups such as women, children, older persons etc) are taken into account in needs assessments and, in turn, addressed in the overall humanitarian response (i.e. in the programs and activities of operational agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP etc). This is not a task that would be undertaken by our field offices on a routine basis and as such does not necessarily merit special attention in the context of the UNPFII.

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II. Information from the Department of Public Information

A. Response to recommendations addressed exclusively to the Department of Public Information under one or more areas of the Permanent Forum's mandate/agenda.

3. The report of the Permanent Forum's 6th Session does not include any recommendations directed to the Department of Public Information (DPI). Further, recommendations addressed to DPI from previous Permanent Forum sessions are already reflected in the UNPFII Recommendations Database.[1]

4. Paragraph 100 of the report of the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2004/43) states that:

> "The Forum welcomes the preparation of daily press releases in English, French and Spanish on the discussions of the Forum during its session. The Forum requests the Department of Public Information, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Forum, to: a) Ensure the widest distribution of the press releases; b) Develop an overall strategy to fulfill the mandate of the Forum to disseminate information on indigenous peoples and their issues".

DPI produced a number of new materials for the Permanent Forum in 2007, including a new masthead, poster and press kit covers. DPI also updated the text of the main Permanent Forum brochure and facilitated the translation of the new brochure, which was reprinted in several languages. A press kit was produced for the Permanent Forum's Sixth Session in May 2007, consisting of an advance media advisory, a press release, two

[1] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/recommendations.htm

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background papers on key themes of the session and a list of potential interviewees. The press kit was translated into French and Spanish and the Secretariat of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues also made it available electronically on its website and it was distributed to press and delegates at the Sixth Session. The press kit was also translated into Portuguese for local distribution by the United Nations Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro.

5. Guidance for the promotion of the 6th session of the Permanent Forum was sent to United Nations Information Centres. DPI organized four press conferences and arranged more than 20 interviews with BBC's Asia Today, Sydney Morning Herald, ABC Radio, South African Broadcasting Corporation, Voice of America (radio and television) and the Spanish news agency EFE. Highlights of the media coverage for the session included significant coverage of the opening press conference, most of which were reproduced material from the press kit, including 75 placements of an Associated Press article (in the Guardian, International Herald Tribune and at Aljazeera.net, among others). Further media coverage included approximately 15 articles in English and Spanish on the closing session of the Permanent Forum and approximately 40 Spanish articles throughout the session.

6. In August 2007, the DPI organized a press conference with indigenous leaders regarding the status of negotiations on the then draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A media advisory was drafted and circulated to UN correspondents and relevant media contacts.

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7. For the International Day of the World's Indigenous People on 9 August 2007, a media advisory and press release were drafted and disseminated. An information note was sent to all United Nations Information Centres regarding the Day, which included the press materials mentioned above as well as an update on the status of the then draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its upcoming consideration by the General Assembly. DPI provided television and photo coverage of special events at Headquarters on the Day. Interviews were arranged with indigenous representatives for the radio service of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea Radio (Radio UNMEE) and Radio Corrientes (Argentina), as well as for Radio Adelaide and the Australian Financial Review at the request of the Information Centre in Canberra. Press coverage included the publication of the Secretary-General's message for the Day in national newspapers, including the daily El Peruano in Peru. DPI conducted media monitoring of the coverage of the Day, and press clippings were compiled and sent to the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum.

8. The Information Centre in Bogota held a press conference to mark the Day, in which representatives of Awá, Kofanes, Arhuaca and Cauca peoples participated, among others. This event was covered by major national media outlets. Information Centres also carried out activities to promote the Day in Argentina, Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

9. DPI prepared a media advisory and guidance to Information Centres in advance of the consideration of the then draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly in mid-September. On the day of the vote on the then draft Declaration, a media stakeout was arranged outside the General Assembly Hall so that

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delegates and indigenous representatives could speak to the press. The adoption of the Declaration was covered by all major international wire services plus several national wire services. Highlights of the coverage include an Associated Press article quoting the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum and government representatives, which was carried in the International Herald Tribune; a news piece in the New York Times; BBC World Service Radio and BBC World TV pieces using excerpts from indigenous representatives at the stakeout; and many articles in prominent Canadian and Australian media. An analysis of press coverage and a selection of press clippings were compiled and sent to the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum.

10. In October 2007, DPI arranged two interviews with United Nations Radio (English and Spanish) for the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples during his visit to Headquarters to present to the Third Committee. The Special Rapporteur also took part in a live video chat with students and educators on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples via DPI's CyberSchoolBus website.

11. DPI is currently working on producing a print version of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in all official languages of the United Nations, which will be ready for distribution before the Permanent Forum's seventh session in April 2008. Press and information materials will also be disseminated to promote the seventh session.

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

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12. Paragraph 43 of the report of the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2004/43) recommends that the Department of Public Information:

"(a) Encourage the dissemination of information in indigenous languages at the local level, concerning the rights of indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women; (b) Encourage and support the training of indigenous women in human rights and the rule of law; (c) Provide technical assistance to governments to establish the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women".

DPI's Dag Hammarskjöld Library organizes annual training sessions in English and Spanish covering online access to UN information for NGO participants attending the sessions of the Permanent Forum.

C. Contact information for the focal point.

13. An Information Officer in the Palestine, Decolonization and Human Rights Section (Strategic Communications Division) is the focal point for indigenous issues within DPI The focal point maintains a high level of direct collaboration with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum in order to develop effective communications strategies to promote the work of the Permanent Forum and to disseminate information to the press and the public on indigenous issues.

The name for the focal point for is:

Ms. Renata Sivacolundhu

Strategic Communications Division

UN Department of Public Information

Room S-994AA

New York NY 10017

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D. Information regarding your agency's activities regarding the goal, objectives and programme of action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

14. DPI organized its 10th Annual United Nations Student Conference on Human Rights from 5 to 7 December 2007 under the theme Recognizing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in support of the goals of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Student leaders attending the conference, including indigenous students, had the opportunity to study the topic in-depth, as well as to develop their skills in the areas of public speaking, team and consensus building, negotiating, and research and drafting.

E. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the next session of the Permanent Forum.

15. In relation to the special theme of the seventh session, "Climate change, bio-cultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges,"[2] DPI will explore integrating related material into its recently-launched "Gateway to the UN System's Work on Climate Change"[3]. This website highlights the wide-ranging work of the United Nations system on climate change and makes it easier for Internet users to retrieve information on the UN's work in this area.

III. Information from the World Food Programme

16. Climate change is linked with increased frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events, more frequent disease outbreaks, and reduced agricultural yields in low latitude

[2] E/2007/43 para 4
[3] http://www.un.org/climatechange/

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countries. Its impacts are likely to undermine hard-won gains against hunger and poverty, including by increasing vulnerabilities or creating new ones.

17. Indigenous peoples are particularly vulnerable because they often live in hazard-prone areas and their livelihoods rely on climate sensitive sectors. Climate change may also disrupt traditional lifestyles and settlement patterns of indigenous peoples. These changes are likely to further affect their nutritional status, which is often among the lowest in a country.

18. Climate change adaptation strategies need to be carefully designed in order to benefit those mostly affected, including poor or indigenous populations. Involving indigenous social institutions and drawing on indigenous knowledge to cope with climate-related shocks will be essential elements of an effective climate change adaptation strategy.

19. The World Food Programme (WFP) is a frontline implementing agency dealing with complex humanitarian crises, including those manifested by droughts, floods, degradation of natural resources and conflict. Increasingly, these crises may be caused or aggravated by climate change. WFP activities help enhancing food security ecosystems at community and village level, protect the livelihoods of food-insecure indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups and contribute to building resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change. Safety-net systems, using food, vouchers and cash for the most vulnerable populations, play a vital role in this regard. In addition, construction of small dams and dykes and the planting of trees are activities that local communities, supported

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by the international community, including WFP, embark upon to build up resilience against natural disasters.

20. Given its wide and deep field presence, WFP is well-placed to ensure that the real leaders in disaster preparedness and responses, namely individuals and communities, are provided with the resources they need to make the decisions that will increase their abilities to adapt to hazards and thus prevent disasters. The integration of traditional community knowledge systems about hazards and potential impacts and science-based systems broaden and deepen the coverage of early warning systems.

IV. The Council of Europe

A. Data Collection and disaggregation

21. The Council of Europe addresses the issues of data collection and disaggregation as well as free, prior and informed consent in various fora, including the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM), the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities (DH-MIN), the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF) and the Group of Experts on Roma, Gypsies and Travellers (MG-S-ROM). However, the Council of Europe deals with these issues through focusing on national/ethnic minorities (see also comments under paragraph 26), rather than from the perspective of indigenous peoples.

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B. Policies on indigenous issues

22. The Council of Europe has no instrument, be it legally binding or not, dealing specifically with the situation of indigenous peoples. However, a number of Council of Europe human rights instruments are relevant to indigenous peoples, whose concerns can often be addressed through the general protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, notably as enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights.

23. Among Council of Europe instruments, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities is of particular relevance to indigenous peoples because this treaty sets out a number of key principles for the preservation and development of the cultures of national minorities as well as the essential elements of identity.

24. Although the Framework Convention protects persons belonging to national minorities, the Advisory Committee has consistently taken the view that the recognition of a group of persons as constituting indigenous peoples does not prevent persons belonging to the group from benefiting from the protection afforded by the Framework Convention. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee has repeatedly stressed that the applicability of the Framework Convention does not necessarily mean that the authorities should use the term national minority in their domestic legislation and practice to describe the group concerned. Against this background, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the protection of the Framework Convention remains available to persons belonging to indigenous peoples if they wish to rely on the protection provided therein. Hence the Advisory Committee encourages the authorities to continue their dialogue with representatives of indigenous peoples with a view to ensuring that the Framework Convention and the treaties designed for indigenous peoples are not construed as

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mutually exclusive regimes, and that the persons belonging to indigenous peoples can continue to rely on a wide range of international norms.

25. The monitoring of the Framework Convention by the Advisory Committee and the Committee of Ministers provides illustrations of these principles in the states parties with indigenous peoples (that is essentially Sweden, Norway and the Russian Federation). The corresponding country-specific Opinions and Resolutions can be downloaded at the website of the Secretariat of the Framework Convention.[4] These texts contain findings and recommendations in regards the development, implementation and monitoring of domestic policies on indigenous peoples' issues in the states parties concerned.

26. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is another specific Council of Europe instrument which is of relevance for indigenous peoples. Although languages used by indigenous peoples are not addressed as such in the Charter, this instrument is designed to protect and promote all regional or minority languages (including languages of indigenous peoples) as a threatened aspect of Europe's cultural heritage and to enable the speakers of a regional or minority language to use it in private and public life.

27. The Charter sets out the main objectives and principles which states undertake to apply to all regional or minority languages existing within their national territory. It contains a series of measures designed to facilitate and encourage the use of specific regional or minority languages in public life. It is intended to ensure, as far as needed and reasonably possible, that regional or minority languages are used in education and the

[4] www.coe.int/minorities

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media and to permit and encourage their use in legal and administrative contexts, in economic and social life, for cultural activities and in transfrontier exchanges. The Charter is based on an approach which fully respects national sovereignty and territorial integrity. It does not see the relationship between official languages and regional or minority languages in terms of competition or antagonism. Development of the latter must not obstruct knowledge and promotion of the former. A deliberate decision was taken to adopt an intercultural and multilingual approach in the Charter with each category of language taking its rightful place. In each state the cultural and social reality must be taken into account.

28. The Charter establishes a mechanism for systematically monitoring its implementation. A committee of independent experts elected by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe examines the observance of the undertakings of states parties on the basis of reports provided by these states and on-the-spot visits carried out by the committee in the countries concerned. After the committee's reports and the recommendations have been adopted by the Committee of Ministers, they are published, with the agreement of the states concerned, on the website of the Secretariat of the Charter.[5]

C. Focal points on indigenous issues

29. The Council of Europe has no focal point for indigenous issues as such. Bearing in mind the explanation provided in paragraph 26, the Department which deals with most of the substantial issues relevant to indigenous peoples is:

[5] www.coe.int/minlang/

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a) *Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*

b) *Directorate of Monitoring*

c) *Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs (DG-HL)*

Council of Europe, F – 67075 Strasbourg (France)

Tel: + 33 (0) 3 90 21 55 23

Fax: + 33 (0) 3 90 21 49 18

Mailto: Minorities.fcnm@coe.int

www.coe.int/minorities

D. Conferences and meetings regarding indigenous issues

30. The Council of Europe in going to organize an international conference in Strasbourg on 11 March 2008 to mark the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of both the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (see also comments in paragraph 26).

V. Asian Development Bank

Introduction.

31. Since 1998, the Asian Development Bank has adopted a policy that programmes and projects it supports and finances should avoid negatively affecting indigenous peoples, provide adequate and appropriate compensation when negative impact is unavoidable, and to the maximum extent possible, be designed and implemented with the informed participation of affected communities. Moreover, a major priority to implement ADB's medium-term (2005 - 2009) strategy is strengthening social inclusiveness by ensuring

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that development efforts provide equitable opportunities especially to the poor and the marginalized. ADB, through the years, encouraged the participation and involvement of indigenous peoples' organizations and by indigenous peoples themselves in the design and monitoring of various projects and in the review of its policies and strategies.

32. In 2007, ADB was able to provide financing for capacity building programs and technical assistance programs geared toward design and implementation of more socially and culturally sensitive development projects of its developing member countries. ADB also continued to provide capacity development for its own staff at headquarters and resident missions to be able to identify and address indigenous peoples issues in projects.

33. 2008 will continue to be a year for ADB to further consult stakeholders as it enhances the effectiveness of its safeguard policies through a safeguard policy update, and ensure their relevance to changing client needs, recent global developments, and new lending modalities and instruments.

A. Response to the Recommendations at the Sixth Session

34. ADB's Response to recommendation 28 which states:

> *The Permanent Forum calls upon United Nations agencies, the World Bank, **the Asian Development Ban**k, other multilateral financial institutions and bilateral donors to establish clear policy commitments to protect the ancestral lands of indigenous peoples.*[6]

The Asian Development Bank's Indigenous Peoples Policy of 1998[7] was conceived taking into mind "the circumstances of indigenous peoples and identifying measures

[6] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23 (E/2007/43), para. 28.
[7] http://www.adb.org/Documents/Policies/Indigenous_Peoples/default.asp

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toward satisfying their needs and aspirations"[8]. The 1998 Indigenous Peoples' Policy also recognizes that indigenous peoples have "unique ties and attachments to traditional habitats and ancestral territories and natural resources in these habitats and territories".[9] ADB is aware that development programmes can lead to externally determined land use change and therefore has ensured in its policy that indigenous peoples planning, in consultation and informed participation of indigenous peoples themselves, are conducted to determine appropriate mitigation measures and ensure that self -sufficiency of communities continue, and cultural integrity will not be lost in the process of development.

35. Response to recommendation 99 which states:

> *The Permanent Forum calls on the European Commission, United Nations agencies, the World Bank Group, **the Asian Development Bank**, bilateral development agencies, export credit agencies and international and regional financial institutions, such as the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, to review, strengthen and implement their policies with regard to indigenous peoples in general, and indigenous peoples in Asia in particular, and to use the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People as a framework for reference.*[10]

In 2007, ADB continued with its review of three safeguard policies, which are environment, involuntary resettlement and indigenous peoples. The review process is meant to ensure "the sustainability of project outcomes by protecting the environment and people from potential adverse impacts of projects".[11] The policy update will provide greater harmonization with safeguard practices across multilateral financial institutions and tailor safeguard approaches to different clients. The safeguard policy update (SPU) process, particularly in relation to indigenous peoples concerns, had involved and will

[8] paragraph 5 of the Indigenous Peoples' Policy.
[9] paragraph 9 of the Indigenous Peoples' Policy.
[10] Ibid. para. 99.
[11] Consultation Draft of the Safeguard Policy Update, 2007.

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continue to involve broad stakeholders' consultations with indigenous peoples' organizations and project-affected indigenous peoples. The SPU process will also derive information and recommendations from discussions with stakeholders in the course of ADB operational missions. In November 2007, a major indigenous peoples organizations' consultation was conducted in Manila, attended by representatives of various indigenous peoples' organizations from six Asian countries, including Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, chairperson of the UNPFII, to seek their recommendations on the Consultation Draft Safeguard Policy Statement. The recently-approved UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was presented during the consultation and will be used as reference for the series of consultations.

B. Response to the Recommendations of the Forum's previous sessions

36. Response to recommendation 26 of the Second Session which states

> *The Forum recommends that the agencies and bodies of the United Nations, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank,* ***the Asian Development Bank****, the African Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund rethink the concept of development, with the full participation of indigenous peoples in the development process, taking into account the rights of indigenous peoples and the practices of their traditional knowledge.* [12]

One of the five priorities of the ADB's second medium term strategy is strengthening inclusiveness which underlines the importance of expanding opportunities in rural and remote areas, combined with measures to address non-income dimensions of poverty. Through its policy of inclusiveness, ADB encourages greater equity in access to services, resources and opportunities; the active participation of the poor, marginalized groups, and other members of society including indigenous peoples, in social, economic and political

[12] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 23 (E/2003/43), para. 26.

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life; and household level security to cope with chronic or sudden risks, especially among the poor and marginalized.

37. ADB's 1998 Indigenous Peoples' Policy focuses on the participation of indigenous peoples in development and mitigation of undesired effects of development. Paragraph 31 of the Policy objectives states that "The Bank's development efforts should ensure that development initiatives affecting indigenous peoples are effective and sustainable. Initiatives should be compatible in substance and structure with the affected peoples' culture and social and economic institutions, and commensurate with the needs, aspirations and demands of affected peoples. Initiatives should be conceived, planned, and implemented to the maximum extent possible, with the informed consent of affected communities, and include respect for indigenous peoples' dignity, human rights and cultural uniqueness."

38. Response to recommendation 61 of the Third Session which states:

> *The Forum requests international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank,* ***the Asian Development Bank****, the African Development Bank and other regional organizations, to design special programme for indigenous women to provide them with access to capital and microfinance programmes, taking into account the traditional mechanisms of each community.*[13]

The Bank's second medium-term strategy lays fresh emphasis on investing in key social development interventions to promote gender equality by supporting education for girls, better health for girls and women, and microfinance projects that help women.

[13] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 23 (E/2004/43), para. 61.

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39. ADB, to the extent possible, had pushed for the inclusion of components that will provide culturally-tailored microfinance services for indigenous women in the various projects it financed. In 2007, the 2000-approved Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project, for instance, implemented the microfinance component which has targeted and benefited mostly indigenous women from Chakma, Marma and Tripura peoples of Bangladesh. The Bank also continued to implement and design new technical assistance projects in Nepal, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Cambodia and China toward social and economic empowerment of indigenous women (eg., RETA 6247 HIV/AIDS Vulnerability and Risk Reduction Among Ethnic Minority Groups Through Communication Strategies implemented in Greater Mekong Subregion; Grant 9033 Promoting Silk Income for the Rural Poor in Central Highlands implemented in Viet Nam)

40. Response to recommendation 127 of the Fourth Session which states:

> *The Forum invites other international and regional institutions also to engage in cooperation with the Forum, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNAIDS, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Arctic Council,* ***the Asian Development Bank****, the African Union, the Organization of American States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.*[14]

The Asian Development Bank formally relayed to the Permanent Forum its commitment to cooperate and participate in the activities of the Forum beginning on its Fifth Session. In 2007, ADB also invited the Chair of the Permanent Forum to address ADB officers and staff on recent global developments on indigenous peoples' issues and the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

[14] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 23 (E/2003/43), para. 127.

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41. In support of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the UN General Assembly, the ADB spotlighted the Declaration in its Indigenous Peoples website[15].

C. Other significant information on recent policies, programmes, or activities regarding indigenous issues within the Asian Development Bank

Projects and activities

42. The Bank conducts environmental and social due diligence in all projects proposed for Bank financing and continually monitors implementation of all its projects, particularly those that are highly complex and sensitive. In 2007, ADB's six Operations Departments (including resident missions) conducted due diligence missions and initial poverty and social assessments, and encouraged DMCs to implement preparatory activities that would ensure that impacts on indigenous peoples are identified and strategies are determined to address existing and potential indigenous peoples' issues arising and will arise from proposed development projects. Alongside the operating departments efforts, the Bank's Environment and Social Safeguards division conducted due diligence and review missions for 4 complex on-going projects: (1) Tangguh Liquefied Natural Gas project in West Papua, Indonesia; (2) Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development project in Bangladesh; (3) GMS Nam Theun II Hydroelectric project in Lao Peoples Democratic Republic; and (4) Melamchi Water Supply project in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Missions discussed with project implementers on indigenous peoples issues and recommendations to fast track implementation of their respective social or indigenous peoples development plans, including addressing complaints from relevant indigenous peoples groups and resolve other implementation issues.

[15] http://www.adb.org/indigenouspeoples

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Available publications and handbooks

43. In 2007, ADB released reprints of a publication series on Indigenous Peoples/Ethnic Minorities and Poverty Reduction. The publication series comprise of four country reports on Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam, a regional report covering these four countries, and a regional report covering Pacific member countries. Copies of the reports can be requested from the focal point for indigenous peoples (see below) or can be accessed from the ADB indigenous peoples website.[16]

45. ADB also continued to update a draft Indigenous Peoples Policy Handbook. The Handbook complements ADB's indigenous peoples policy and describes required processes and guidelines to ensure integration of indigenous peoples concerns in project cycle. Good practice examples are included in the handbook which staff could apply and adapt to ensure that ADB-financed projects are consistent with the needs and aspirations of indigenous peoples, compatible in substance and structure with their culture, and to ensure that projects are planned and implemented with the informed participation of affected indigenous peoples. The development of the Handbook is being done in collaboration with both the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank as part of the effort to produce a Global Indigenous Peoples Policy Handbook. The handbook will be further updated following the outcome of the Safeguard Policy Update.

D. Focal Point for indigenous issues

46. The focal point for indigenous peoples issues is the Director General of the Regional and Sustainable Development Department with the support of the Environment and

[16] http://www.adb.org/indigenouspeoples/

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Social Safeguards Division. Concerns and communications on indigenous peoples issues may be directed to:

Mr. Nessim Ahmad, Director, Environment and Social Safeguard Division, Regional and Sustainable Development Department, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines, Facsimile (632) 6362381

or

Ms. Indira J. Simbolon, Senior Social Development (Safeguard) Specialist, Environment and Social Safeguard Division, Regional and Sustainable Development Department, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines, Facsimile (632) 6362381

More information may also be accessed from the ADB indigenous peoples website.[17]

E. Capacity-building programmes

47. As part of its regular learning and development programmes for staff, the ADB annually conducts at least two batches of 3-day Orientation programme on environment and social safeguards. The orientation devotes one day session on indigenous peoples issues to make staff understand the principles of the Policy and for them to manage indigenous peoples issues in the various stages of a project. The orientation also aims to instill consciousness toward mainstreaming indigenous peoples safeguards in the application of Bank lending and thematic policies. In 2007, the Bank conducted two batches of the orientation which was participated in by 50 professional staff and national officers from both headquarters and resident missions.

F. List of conferences and other meetings, 2007 - 2008

48. In 2007, ADB conducted the following Indigenous Peoples' related conferences, seminars, and meetings:

a) Presentation on Global Indigenous Peoples Issues and Free, Prior and Informed Consent by Ms. Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, chairperson of UNPFII

[17] http://www.adb.org/indigenouspeoples

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20 July 2007, ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines

b) Stakeholders Consultation on the Safeguard Policy Update

17 May 2007	Informal Consultation with UNPFII Asia Caucus, New York, USA
14-15 November 2007	Central Asia Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
19 - 20 November 2007	Informal Consultation with multilateral finance institutions, Rome, Italy
26 - 27 November 2007	Consultation with Indigenous Peoples Organizations, ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines
28 - 29 November 2007	Southeast Asia (Philippines) Multi-Stakeholder Consultation ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines

49. In 2008, the following stakeholder consultations and meetings are scheduled:

a) Stakeholders Consultation and Meetings on the Safeguard Policy Update

16 - 17 January 2008	South Asia Multi-Stakeholder Consultation New Delhi, India
18 January 2008	Consultation with Civil Society Organizations New Delhi, India
30 - 31 January 2008	Pacific Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Sydney, Australia
12 - 13 February 2008	Indonesia Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Jakarta, Indonesia
February 2008	Consultation with Civil Society Organizations ADB Headquarters, Manila
27 - 28 February 2008	East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Beijing, PR China
March 2008	Mekong Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Hanoi, Viet Nam

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To be announced	Afghanistan/Pakistan Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Europe Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Japan Multi-Stakeholder Consultation North America Multi-Stakeholder Consultation
3rd Quarter of 2008	Management review meeting on the Draft Policy Paper (W-paper)
4th Quarter of 2008	Board Approval on the Final Policy Paper (R-paper)