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

Report of the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on ongoing priorities and themes

Summary

This report provides an overview of developments under the mandated areas of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues since the sixth session. This report also highlights the relevant information that has been gleaned from the contributions of the United Nations system and activities of the members of the Forum and its Secretariat.

*E/C.19/2008/1

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I. Introduction

1. Since the end of the Permanent Forum's sixth session a variety of issues and activities have been highlighted in regard to indigenous peoples by the intergovernmental system, Governments, indigenous peoples' organizations and civil society at large, members of the Permanent Forum and its secretariat. In October 2007, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat invited written contributions regarding outstanding or follow-up matters from the sixth session and matters in relation to the preparations for the seventh session of the Permanent Forum.

2. As at 7 February 2008, written submissions had been received from 20 United Nations and other intergovernmental entities, namely the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Organization for Migration, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), Council of Europe, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Council of Europe, Department of Public Information (DPI), Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), and the Office of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) the latter reporting for the first time. The Governments of Spain, Ecuador, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Bolivia

and Russian Federation, and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, also submitted reports.

Obstacles

3. A number of states and agencies, funds and programmes reports identified obstacles in the implementation of norms and policies on indigenous peoples' issues¹. They include: lack of human and financial resources for the implementation of programmes; weak political will; and changes in government institutions. It was also pointed out that the implementation of the Forum's recommendations requires more than one year, thus reports to the Forum cannot reflect all progress at once.

4. ILO pointed out that improving the interactive dialogue, between UN agencies and the members of the Permanent Forum before, during and after the annual Sessions of the Forum, would serve to ensure that the recommendations of the Forum better reflect the substantive contributions of the Agencies, and that such recommendations are technically accurate and within the mandate of agencies, to ensure they are given due respect and effectively acted upon. ILO made a number of suggestions in that regard².

Facilitating factors

5. Facilitating factors identified include: national laws and policies on indigenous issues; key governmental and civil society partners and indigenous networks; and positive

¹ Some obstacles and facilitating factors were identified in previous years as well and were summarized in the secretariat's reports.

² E/C.19/2008/4/Add.5

political conditions in many countries, especially South America, that have provided important opportunities for advancing the agenda.

II. Developments under the mandated areas and special themes of the Permanent Forum, including the Millennium Development Goals

A. Economic and social development

6. In July 2007, the Government of the Russian Federation, the Governor of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Region, the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation and the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East (RAIPON) held an international meeting in the city of Salekhard, titled Perspectives of Relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Industrial Companies. The international meeting was attended by 13 Permanent Forum members as well as 7 indigenous experts from the UNPFII's seven socio-cultural regions as well as representatives of the government of Yamal Nenets, the private sector and NGOs. The Workshop concluded that despite some modest progress made in terms of awareness among states and industrial companies of the complex and serious problems faced by indigenous peoples as a result of their interface with these companies, there is still a long way to go to strengthen primary responsibility and accountability of states as well as to establish corporate social responsibility³.

Development account

7. The Development Account project entitled *Engaging indigenous women: local government capacity-building through new technologies in Latin America* is in its implementation stage. Assessments and preparatory work was completed in January

³ E/C.19/2008/5/Add.6

2008, and the first workshops were scheduled to take place in February 2008. These workshops will bring together indigenous women from across the three participating countries (Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru) in addition to other relevant actors from government and the international organizations. Building on the results of the workshops, the participating indigenous organizations will begin the production of relevant materials for indigenous women in the three countries. It is expected that the production of materials will take place throughout 2008.

Review of Country Reports on the Millennium Development Goals

8. In response to a recommendation of the Permanent Forum at its fifth session,⁴ SPFII undertook its third desk review of country reports on the Millennium Development Goals to analyze how they address indigenous issues. The desk review underscores the importance of the recommendations of the 2005 and 2006 sessions of the UNPFII, which undertook specific examination of MDGs and indigenous peoples and highlighted elements for their greater inclusion.⁵ A total of ten national reports were reviewed in 2007 from a broad range of countries in which there are indigenous peoples.⁶ The country reports were examined in order to identify elements of inclusion of indigenous issues, general trends and progress achieved, as well as to identify opportunities and challenges for further integrating elements for inclusion of indigenous issues into the

⁴ E/2006/43 para 152

⁵ The fourth session of the UNPFII (2005) addressed MDG 1 and MDG 2 within the context of indigenous peoples' issues and its fifth session (2006) was devoted to the special theme The Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: Redefining the Goals. See the UNPFII Report of the Fourth Session (E/C.19/2005/9), Chapter 1, Section B, paras. 4- 57; and the UNPFII Report to the Fifth Session (E/C.19/2006/11), Chapter 1, Section B, paras. 4-43.

⁶ The reports reviewed are the latest available for each of the following countries, ranging in date of publication from 2004 to 2007: Guyana (2007), Kenya (2005), Myanmar (2005), Nepal (2005), Russian Federation (2005), South Africa (2005), Suriname (2005), Thailand (2004), Vietnam (2005), and Zimbabwe (2004). The reports are available on the United Nations Development Group website at www.undg.org.

MDG process. Scant reference was made in the reports explicitly about indigenous peoples. The current review has built upon the conclusions of previous reviews.⁷

9. Conclusions and recommendations of the review include the following:

a. Twenty percent of the MDG reports reviewed sufficiently include indigenous peoples by consistently reporting on their situation (Nepal and Vietnam). Another 50% address indigenous issues to varying degrees (Guyana, Myanmar, Russian Federation, Suriname, Thailand), while the remaining 30% do not include any mention of indigenous peoples (Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe). None of the country reports under review indicate that they were prepared in consultation from indigenous peoples' organizations.

b. None of the MDG reports provide disaggregated data for indigenous peoples in a consistent manner, for every goal. **Guided by the recommendations of the Fourth and Fifth Sessions of the UNPFII,⁸ this review reiterates that improved disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples is necessary to effectively monitor progress towards MDG achievement, and that this should be a key priority for Governments and the United Nations System.**

c. The two most positive examples of reporting on indigenous peoples (Nepal and Vietnam) consistently included data on indigenous peoples in the context of the MDGs and recognize that certain groups, including indigenous peoples, are the most disadvantaged and marginalized in the country. At times, they offer mention of specific mechanisms or policies that target these communities. Other reports included examples of

⁷ Two previous desk reviews are available through the UNPFII's website, see <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/mdgs.html>

⁸ See the UNPFII Report of the Fourth Session (E/C.19/2005/9), Chapter 1, Section B, paras. 4- 57 and the UNPFII Report to the Fifth Session (E/C.19/2006/11), Chapter 1, Section B, paras 4-43.

best practices or refer to social challenges faced by indigenous peoples (such as the report of the Russian Federation), but the reporting is not consistent across the MDGs.

d. While most of the reports include at least some mention of disproportionate development, they are more likely to describe the situation by providing data and examples by provincial, regional, or rural/urban disparities. **In these descriptions of disproportionate development, the reports often fail to explicitly acknowledge when the regions or areas that are disproportionately affected, correspond to the areas where indigenous peoples live. This omission is problematic and does not provide a clear picture of the situation of indigenous peoples.**

e. When the reports do mention indigenous peoples, they most often do so in the context of poverty, education, and mortality rates (MDGs 1, 2, 4, and 6). They usually mention that indigenous peoples live in remote areas that lack access to the same services as other groups, and are thus disadvantaged or are considered vulnerable groups. In the reports where the data allows for some analysis of indigenous peoples and mortality rates, (Guyana, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, Thailand, and Vietnam), mortality rates for indigenous peoples are significantly higher than the national averages.

f. The situation of indigenous women (in the context of MDGs 3 and 5) is rarely mentioned. The only report that made any more than a passing reference to indigenous peoples in the context of these Goals was the report by Vietnam, which discussed the social challenges in achieving gender parity for indigenous women.

g. Several of the reports (Guyana, Nepal, and Russian Federation) included at least some mention of indigenous peoples in the context of environmental stability (MDG 7). The report by Nepal, in particular, highlights the positive role of indigenous peoples in

environmental sustainability, it provides an example of their role in land use management, and recommends future action to secure access and benefit sharing to genetic resources. None of the reports mentioned indigenous peoples in the context of establishing a global partnership for development (MDG 8).

h. In future reporting, countries should undertake to include indigenous peoples in the context of meeting each and every Goal. Guided by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, it is recommended that the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous peoples should be sought in all development initiatives that focus upon improving their lives, and countries should comment on this clearly in their MDG reports.

i. Finally, this review reiterates the previous recommendation of similar reviews, as follows: Governments should a) include indigenous peoples in the context of the overall report, including its planning; b) include indigenous peoples in the context of meeting each specific Goal; c) include indigenous peoples' effective participation in the planning process of future interventions, as well as in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects that will directly or indirectly affect them; and d) improve the collection and disaggregation of data regarding indigenous peoples. Other important developments in this area are reported under Section H below.

B. Environment

Environment and traditional knowledge

10. The Permanent Forum's theme for the seventh session is *Climate change, bio-cultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges*.

Climate change is considered to be a critical global challenge and recent events have demonstrated the world's growing vulnerability to climate change. For indigenous peoples, climate change is already a reality and poses threats and dangers to the survival of their communities. Climate Change is also a major focus for the United Nations including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) Climate change is not just an environmental issue. It also has serious economic and social implications. Climate change is, fundamentally, a sustainable development challenge, that should be linked more firmly to the broader development agenda, including to poverty reduction and other internationally agreed development goals.

11. There are a number of United Nations organizations dealing with the issue of indigenous peoples and climate change. The annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues (IASG) which took place in September 2007 and was hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, focused on the theme "Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples". The members of the IASG prepared a paper on indigenous peoples and climate change which is outlined in a conference room paper prepared for the Permanent Forum's seventh session.⁹

12. At the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference in September 2007, entitled Climate Change: How It Impacts Us All, Ms Vicki Tauli-Corpus and Mr Wilton Littlechild, Permanent Forum members, made statements at a morning roundtable on Indigenous Peoples, Culture Traditional Knowledge. They pointed out that indigenous peoples were

⁹ E/C.19/2008/CRP.2

facing many challenges in respect to climate change such as the impact of monocropping plantations, mass migration, and the effects on water quality, food security, human health and infrastructure. Mr. Littlechild made a plea to the international community to take into account indigenous peoples' role and their traditional knowledge into future capacity building and adaptation programmes. Indigenous peoples from the Pacific, Africa, Russian Federation and Latin America gave powerful presentations.¹⁰

13. At the UNFCCC Conference in Bali held 3 -14 December Permanent Forum member, Ms Vicki Tauli-Corpuz gave statements at various events during the Conference. However, the main one was at the launch of the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. Ms Tauli-Corpuz pointed out that the tropical and sub-tropical forests, the subject of the Facility, is the home to approximately 160 million indigenous peoples who remain in very vulnerable situations because most States still do not recognize indigenous peoples' rights to these forests and resources found, therein. She also stated that while the Facility can be a good thing indigenous peoples were very apprehensive because of the negative experiences with similar initiatives.

14. Environmental damage such as pollution and toxic dumping on indigenous peoples' lands was the theme of international expert workshop titled Indigenous Peoples and Protection of the Environment held in Khabarovsk, Russian Federation, in August 2007¹¹. Permanent Forum member Mr. Pavel Sulyanziga was the Chair of the meeting and Mr. Michael Dodson was the Rapporteur.

15. The International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) continue to be an important area of development for the Permanent Forum. At the 5th meeting of the

¹⁰ 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference Final Report, 2007

¹¹ The report is available www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii.

Convention on Biological Diversity's Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS-WG5) in Montreal, Canada, 8-12 October 2007 further discussions were held on how an International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing can set the rules on how benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge can be fairly and equitably shared between the provider countries and indigenous and local communities which are the holders of the knowledge, as well as the companies and research institutions. Directly relevant to the discussions on issues pertaining to genetic resources and traditional knowledge is Article 31 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which is expected to have a basis in the negotiations on an ABS regime.

16. Three other important reports will remain on the agenda and is worth noting:

(i) Oil palm and other commercial tree plantations, monocropping: impacts on indigenous peoples' land tenure and resource management systems and livelihoods by Special Rapporteurs, Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz and Mr. Parshuram Tamang¹² At the sixth session of the Permanent Forum it was recommended that further analysis be undertaken on this important issue.

(ii) A concept paper on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge by Special Rapporteur, Mr. Michael Dodson.¹³ The Permanent Forum recommended that the paper be widely circulated and that there be a call for written submission on how indigenous traditional knowledge could be protected at the international level by utilizing

¹² E/C.19/2007.CPR.6

¹³ E/C.19/2007/10

customary law. Mr. Dodson, as Special Rapporteur was requested to present a follow-up study on indigenous traditional knowledge.¹⁴

(iii) The theme of the recent meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues (IASG) held in September 2007 was climate change. A number of recommendations are contained in that report. In addition, the IASG prepared a special inter-agency paper on climate change¹⁵.

17. There are two other meetings on climate change that will involve SPFII and Permanent Forum Members.

(i) A conference on indigenous peoples and climate change organized by International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), 21 – 22 February 2008 in Copenhagen.

(ii) A joint United Nations University –Institute for Advanced Studies, SPFII and the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA), International Expert Meeting on Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change will be held in Darwin, Australia from 2-4 April 2008.

18. The attention of the UNPFII is drawn to recommendations of the IASG report on climate change. It is also suggested that the Permanent Forum might wish to adopt the following recommendation:

That regional contingency plans be developed to accommodate environmental refugees in a manner that maintains their national and indigenous identity and cultural integrity.

¹⁴ EC/2007/43

¹⁵ E/C.19/2008/CRP.2

C. Education

19. Overall, access to education still remains a major issue for indigenous people throughout the world. There are some good examples of indigenous children's access to education which were reported by agencies in their reports to the Permanent Forum, including UNICEF. Agencies such as UNFPA, in partnership with IFAD continues to promote the education of indigenous girls, negotiating with teachers and the local school system the right not only to attend school, but also to be able to wear their own traditional dresses.

20. At its sixth session, the Permanent Forum recommended that a comparative case study be undertaken on the role of boarding schools for indigenous children, which has attracted considerable international attention. The Permanent Forum acknowledged that in some countries, boarding schools have had a very negative, even tragic, impact on the families, cultures and identities of indigenous peoples but in other regions of the world, boarding schools are considered an important step for the successful social integration and education of indigenous children. Hence, the situation is complex.¹⁶ The Secretariat of the UNPFII is preparing a background paper to be made available for the Permanent Forum's seventh session.

D. Health

21. Like access to education, indigenous peoples' access to health services remains a critical issue in both the developing and developed world. The World Health Organization is mandated to devote special attention to the issue of indigenous peoples' health. SPFII worked together with the World Health Organization to produce a fact

¹⁶ EC/2007/43

sheet on indigenous peoples' health. The fact sheet is now available in English, French and Spanish on both the WHO and UNPFII websites. There is a further possibility that a closer relationship will develop between the Permanent Forum and WHO as well as other United Nations agencies in order to implement WHO's work plans addressing the critical area of indigenous peoples' health. In their reports, agencies provided information regarding their work in indigenous communities on reproductive health, sexual violence prevention and steps towards recognizing the importance of indigenous healers.¹⁷

E. Culture

22. The year 2008 has been proclaimed by the General Assembly as the International Year of Languages. Responding to the need for concrete public policies for the protection and promotion of indigenous languages, at its sixth session, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, recommended that the Economic and Social Council authorize an international expert group meeting on indigenous languages.¹⁸ Following the Council's decision, the expert meeting took place 8-10 January 2008 and was attended by Permanent Forum members, Ms Victoria Tauli-Corpus, Mr Hassan Id Balkassm, Mr Carlos Mamani Condori, Ms Paimaneh Hasteh and Ms Tonya Gonella Frichner as well as seven indigenous experts, United Nations agencies, States, NGOs and indigenous peoples' organizations. The meeting adopted significant recommendations addressed to the Forum.¹⁹

¹⁷ E/C.19/2008/Add.1 and E/C.19/2008/Add.6

¹⁸ E/C.19/2007/43

¹⁹ E/C.19/2008/3

F. Human rights

23. The most important development in the field of indigenous peoples' rights since the sixth session of the UNPFII was the historic adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN-DECRIPS), on 13 September 2007²⁰. Various members of the Permanent Forum engaged actively in advocacy for the adoption of the Declaration, following the Permanent Forum's recommendations in that respect. Statements on the adoption of the Declaration by the Chairperson of the Forum, the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General on Economic and Social Affairs, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other high officials in the United Nations system may be accessed at the website of the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum (SPFII) website.²¹

24. Article 42 of the Declaration specifically mentions the UNPFII:

"The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States, shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration."

At its sixth session, the UNPFII mandated a study to be conducted by Ms Ida Nicolaisen and Mr Wilton Littlechild on the structures, procedures and mechanisms that presently exist and that might be established to effectively address the human rights situation of indigenous peoples and to arrange for indigenous representation and inclusion in such

²⁰ General Assembly resolution 61/295, adopted by 144 votes in favour, 4 against and 11 abstentions.

²¹ www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi.

structures, procedures and mechanisms.²² The above-mentioned study appears as document E/C.19/ 2008/2. The study, inter alia, makes recommendations on how the Permanent Forum may approach its new role under the Declaration. The Permanent Forum is expected to discuss this issue at its seventh session.

25. Three members of the Permanent Forum, Mr Hassan Id Bakassm, Mr. Wilton Littlechild and Ms Ida Nicolaisen participated at the informal consultation on the new mechanism on indigenous peoples' rights at the Human Rights Council held in Geneva in December 2007. The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples replaces the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and its mandate is to assist the Human Rights Council in the implementation of its mandate, as well as provide the Council with thematic expertise on the rights of indigenous peoples in the manner and form requested by the Council.²³

26. The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues (IASG) in the Latin American and Caribbean Region held a meeting with the Indigenous Consultative Group for the region, in Quito on 5 and 6 November 2007, to discuss, among other things, the dissemination of the UN-DECRIPS in the region. The meeting was convened by UNICEF in cooperation with SPFII and OHCHR and the report is posted on the SPFII website.²⁴

27. The principle of free, prior and informed consent was addressed in the reports of Colombia, Venezuela and ILO, providing information on laws adopted and activities carried out that follow this important principle. It is also a major principle in regards to policies and programs regarding adaptation and mitigation efforts in regards to climate change including the new program aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD).

²² E/2007/43 para 150

²³ Draft Report of the Council: Human Rights Council, 6th Session 10-28 September and 10-14 December 2007 Adendum (A/HRC/6/L.11/Add.1)

²⁴ www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii.

28. In response to a recommendation of the UNPFII at its fifth session, the IASG will hold a special meeting on the Declaration in February 2008 in Geneva, to discuss ways of inter-agency follow up and support for the implementation of the Declaration.

29. Despite positive institutional developments in the human rights area, allegations of violations of human rights of indigenous peoples and individuals continued to be received by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum. As a novel approach in the efforts to mainstream indigenous issues, it is welcome that, for the first time, no fewer than eleven resolutions and two decisions of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly included references to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples or to indigenous peoples or both.

G. Awareness-raising, information and production of material and events

30. SPFII organized or co-organized more than 15 events including multi-stakeholder events in 2007. In addition, during the Sixth Session of UNPFII, SPFII coordinated more than 60 side events, organized by Indigenous Peoples Organizations, NGOs and UN agencies.

31. At the commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People at UN Headquarters on 9 August 2007, a panel discussion was organized entitled "Honoring Indigenous Youth and Languages", as well as a cultural event. Messages for the Day were issued by the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Coordinator of the Second International Decade, and the Chairperson of UNPFII, among others.

32. As part of the promotion of the presence and visibility of indigenous peoples during the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the General Assembly, SPFII in cooperation with the UN Department of Public information organized the following:

(i) a press conference on The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Where do we stand?, to discuss on the latest developments regarding the UN Declaration, including the Facilitator's report to the President of the General Assembly;

(ii) a media strategy that included press interviews with indigenous leaders and members of the UNPFII; media advisories were sent to UNICs and outside media;

(iii) appearance of indigenous leaders and representatives of member States at the media stakeout on the hall of the General Assembly after the adoption of the UN Declaration on 13 September 2007.

33. Major international wire services including several national wire services covered the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples such as Reuters, the Associated Press (AP), Agence France-Presse (AFP), Kyodo, Australian Associate Press (AAP), Canadian Press, BBC News, New York Times, the Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian, as well as the national broadcaster, ABC, among others. Several interviews were conducted by Spanish media such as CNN en Español and EFE, also Saami Radio.

34. Government officials were quoted in articles including the Bolivian Foreign Minister, David Choquehuanca, who spoke at the media stakeout; the New Zealand Ambassador, and officials from the UN Permanent Missions of the USA, Japan and Benin.

Materials produced

35. SPFII produces four internal newsletters annually which are addressed to UNPFII members and four public newsletters in English. Translation of the newsletter into other languages is necessary in order to reach diverse audiences, but resource constraints have

not yet made this possible. The newsletter highlights the activities of UNPFII, its Secretariat and some news from field offices. The public newsletter is available online.²⁵

36. SPFII released various information and specialist materials and publications which can also be found on its website.²⁶ Some of the recent publications include:

(a) *Brochure on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People*: This brochure contains information on the goal and objectives of the Second Decade as well as information on the Trust Fund of the Second Decade. The brochure is produced in English and Spanish and will be available in other United Nations languages at the end of 2008.

(b) *New brochure about the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues*: This brochure contains general information about the Permanent Forum's mandate, history of indigenous peoples at the United Nations, among other important information and is available in English, Spanish, French and Russian.

(c) *Handbook for participants who attend the UNFPII*: This is a useful guide, especially for participants who wish to attend the UNPFII sessions. It contains practical information about the Permanent Forum and activities during the session such as the process for accreditation, the various indigenous peoples' caucuses, the speakers list, writing statements, logistical information, among others. This handbook is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian.

(d) *Good Practices on Indigenous Peoples' Development*: This compilation of good practices is the result of detailed case studies commissioned by the Secretariat of the

²⁵ <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/newsletter.html>

²⁶ <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/publications.html>

United Nations Permanent Forum in cooperation with Tebtebba Foundation, an indigenous peoples' non-government organization in the Philippines. These are case studies of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) field work in Latin America and Asia, where indigenous peoples were project beneficiaries as well as project reviewers and evaluators.

(e) *Desk Reviews of select MDG Reports as per Indigenous Issues: No. 1, 2006, No. 2, 2007, and No. 3, 2008*: These desk reviews provide an analysis of the extent that indigenous peoples' issues are included and addressed within the context of the Millennium Development Goals Reports (MDGRs) produced by states that have indigenous populations.

(f) *Integration of Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives in Country Development Processes*: These annual desk reviews titled *Review of selected Common Country Assessment (CCAs) and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) in various countries (Nos.1,2 and 3-2006, 2007 and 2008)*, are part of the effort to promote the implementation of the Permanent Forum's recommendations, with a view to identifying challenges faced by indigenous peoples at country level. It is also aimed at strengthening the United Nations system through better consideration of indigenous issues in United Nations analytical and programmatic instruments, particularly at country level.

(g) *Desk Review of Select Resident Coordinator Reports: 2001-2003*: This analysis explores the link between Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) and Resident Coordinator reports and to what extent indigenous issues are covered. This review is part of SPFII efforts to inform the Permanent Forum, indigenous peoples, states and the UN system, including the UN

Development Group, on progress made towards the integration of indigenous peoples' issues in the United Nations development work at the field level.

(h) *A Resource Kit on Indigenous Peoples' Issues* addressed mainly to UN country teams will be available within the first half of 2008.

37. The SPFII website is maintained in English, French, Spanish and Russian. It continues to be an important information and communication tool about UNPFII and other United Nations related activities. The website continues to grow every year although the translation and updating of contents in official languages remains a challenge. One of the highlights of the website is the Permanent Forum's recommendations database, which is open to the public and allows the user to easily follow the implementation progress of all UNPFII recommendations. In addition, the website contains important pages on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the new Members of the UNPFII period 2008-2010, UNPFII Special Rapporteurs, the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples and information regarding sources of funding for indigenous peoples, among others.

38. SPFII has responded to a recommendation made by the Permanent Forum at its first session for the production of a publication on the state of the world's indigenous people. Seven indigenous experts, one from each of the seven socio-cultural regions, are contributing chapters to the publication. The chapters are based on the areas which the Permanent Forum is mandated to discuss. The publication is intended to be an awareness raising tool that provides a general overview of some of the issues that are most relevant to indigenous peoples. *The State of the World's Indigenous Peoples* is due to be published late in 2008.

H. Promotion of integration and coordination of indigenous issues

39. Considerable and increased inter-agency work on indigenous peoples is conducted through the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues (IASG), the UNDG and the Inter-Agency Network on Gender and Women's Equality. In addition, DESA's Intra-Departmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues has continued to bring together relevant DESA Divisions to discuss common actions in regards to indigenous issues. The Division of Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) of DESA, in cooperation with SPFII is promoting an interdivisional project, on issues related to institutional capacity of local governments led by indigenous authorities.

40. According to agencies, collection and disaggregation continues to be a challenge in terms of addressing the situation of indigenous peoples, whose realities are often hidden behind national averages. Some positive developments have, however, been reported by United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) in this area, including work undertaken in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in preparation of the 2010 censuses. Similarly, the Statistics Division of the DESA outlines its efforts in preparation of the next censuses that could give rise to some optimism that indigenous peoples and their realities may be better reflected in the outcomes of 2010.

Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues

41. The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues continued supporting the Permanent Forum since the sixth session. The IASG has prepared a paper on indigenous peoples and climate change as an input for the seventh session and has played

a key role in disseminating the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples throughout the UN System. The Group continues to grow and now includes 31 intergovernmental entities, including several UN agencies and international financial institutions.

42. The annual meeting of the IASG for 2007 was convened and hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Montreal from 17 to 19 September 2007. The meeting was attended by representatives from 15 UN agencies, multilateral organizations and international financial institutions, as well as 3 members of the UNPFII (Mr. Id Bakassm, Mr Littlechild and Ms Tauli-Corpuz), and had “Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples” as its main theme. In addition to the theme, the IASG discussed the following items: adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly, follow-up of the 2006 IASG meeting, the UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples’ Issues, coordination of work on indicators of development and wellbeing, reflection on the sixth session of the Permanent Forum, working methods, and a revision of the IASG’s terms of reference.

43. The IASG meeting provided an excellent opportunity for agencies to share experiences on their work on indigenous issues and plan joint work for the coming year, particularly in light of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The IASG decided to prepare a common paper on climate change for the seventh session of the UNPFII²⁷.

United Nations Development Group

²⁷ For the report of the IASG to the UNPFII, see E/C.19/2008/??.

44. Since November 2006, the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues has been functioning as a task team of the United Nations Development Group under a specific mandate. Over the course of 2007, the UNDG Task Team on Indigenous Issues drafted the UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues through a concerted team effort. The Guidelines are designed to assist United Nations country teams to integrate and mainstream indigenous peoples' issues in United Nations operational activities at country level. The Guidelines entered into force in February 2008 and constitute a significant development. The Task Team is in the process of producing a plan of action to rollout the guidelines over the next 5 years.

I. Indigenous children and youth

45. Agencies such as UNFPA and UNICEF provided information in their reports to the Permanent Forum on their work with indigenous youth and children. UNFPA is especially active in promoting education in sexual and reproductive health among indigenous youth and children. UNICEF carries out its work under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and promotes early childhood development programmes. Further information can be found in their reports to the Permanent Forum.²⁸ The reports however, did not provide enough information of their work in some of the UNPFII socio-cultural regions such as the Pacific, North America, the Arctic and Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia.

46. The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues continues to collaborate with the United Nations Youth Programme. During 2007, UNPFII contributed a chapter on the UNPFII for a publication that the UN Youth Programme is preparing in

²⁸ E/C.19/2008/Add.1 and E/C.19/2008/Add.6

order to strengthen youth participation at UN meetings. SPFII also assisted the UN Programme of Youth in the design of their webpage on indigenous youth.

47. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) World Youth Report, released in December 2007 provides important information on youth in Latin America, Asia and Africa and Small Island States. While the report gives an overall perspective of youth issues, these also provide an indication of what the situation might be for indigenous youth. For example, East Asia and the Pacific regions contribute the largest group of students studying abroad. In regard to employment and income levels in Latin America, youth are worse off today than they were 15 years ago. Also, in developing countries, young peoples aged 15-19 are the second highest proportion of those living in poverty, after children under 14 years (the poorest segment of society). Finally, youth unemployment continues to be high in most Small Island developing States, with one in every youth is unemployed in the Caribbean.²⁹ This brief information provides a rather disturbing view of the situation of youth and children and there is much work to be undertaken to obtain further information on the situation of indigenous youth and children.

J. Indigenous women

48. In 2007, a publication entitled Indigenous Women and the United Nations System was completed and includes a compilation of 18 cases studies which were submitted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Fund for Population Activities

²⁹ http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/wyr07_fact_sheet_english.pdf

(UNFPA), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) about their work with indigenous women in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The publication was launched during the Permanent Forum's Sixth Session in May Forum in 2007. The collection will be disseminated widely so that it can serve as a practical tool for future work within the United Nations system and other organizations engaging with indigenous peoples. Language versions of the publication will be available for the Permanent Forum's seventh session; the English and Spanish versions are available on the SPFII website.³⁰

49. A series of Briefing Notes on Indigenous Peoples was launched during the Permanent Forum's Sixth Session in 2007, on Gender and Indigenous Peoples; Gender and Indigenous Peoples' Economic and Social Development; Gender and Indigenous Peoples' Education; Gender and Indigenous Peoples' Culture; Gender and Indigenous Peoples' Environment; and Gender and Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights. The material was prepared by the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and SPFII. The briefing notes (in English) are available on the SPFII website.³¹

X Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

50. On 8 August 2007, a side event Citizenship and Rights of Indigenous Women and Afro descendants was jointly organized by UNDP, UNIFEM, INSTRAW and SPFII. Speakers included: Otilia Luz de Coti, Member of the UNPFII; Margarita Antonio, a Miskitu from Nicaragua, Maria Ines Barbosa, an Afro descendant from Brazil. The side

³⁰ <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/publications/Indigenous/indwomen07.htm>

³¹ <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/publications.html>

event was moderated by SPFII. The Regional Conference on Women focused on the contribution of women to the economy and social protection, particularly through unpaid work, and on political participation and gender parity which was held 6 to 9 August 2007 in Quito, Ecuador.

51. During the side event, participants called for implementation of the recommendations of the UNPFII and Resolution E/CN.6/2005/L.10 of the Commission on the Status of Women related to indigenous women, which was included in the Declaration of Indigenous Women to build a pluri-national State. References to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the recommendations of the UNPFII appeared in the Consensus of Quito, which is the Governments' final document at the X Session of the Regional Conference on Women.³²

Gender and statistics

52. The staff of SPFII attended the 8th International Meeting on Gender Statistics 5 to 7 September 2007, in Aguascalientes, Mexico. The meeting was organized by UNIFEM, ECLAC, the National Institute of Women of Mexico (Inmujeres), the National Institute of Statistics, and Geography and Computer Sciences of Mexico (INEGI). SPFII participated at the panel Gender Statistics for indigenous population. The panel presented the international framework on indigenous peoples' rights to promote indigenous peoples', especially women's full participation in the upcoming 2010 round of censuses, as it is stated in a Permanent Forum recommendation³³

³² <http://www.eclac.cl/publicaciones/xml/5/29555/dsc1i.pdf>

³³ E/2007/43, para 127(d)

III. Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues

53. General Assembly resolutions 57/191 and 59/174 refer to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues. This Trust Fund supports the UNPFII and projects and programmes during the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

54. In 2007, for the funding of general activities related to the UNPFII, the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues received contributions from Algeria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Estonia, Japan, Norway, Mexico, and UNICEF. The total amount received was \$158,281. Also during 2007 the Fund supported 18 travel costs of the Permanent Forum Members to meetings that are of relevance to the Permanent Forum's mandate. These missions provided the opportunity for Members to raise awareness and promote integration and coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues.

55. The Fund also supported the provision of translation services during the Sixth Session of the UNPFII for in-session documents and for the provision of technical services related to special events held in conjunction with the session. In addition, the Fund supported travel of Rebang Dewan, the child who won the International Competition on the Permanent Forum's Visual Identifier, and was recognized at the opening of the session. The Fund also supported cultural events in connection with the commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 9 August.

56. In 2006, IFAD provided a grant for the Permanent Forum's programme on Indigenous Peoples and Indicators of Poverty and Well-Being. Three regional consultations with indigenous experts were held in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The purpose of these consultations was to capture indicators of indigenous peoples' poverty and well-being and to present a synthesis of the results to the Permanent Forum's Sixth Session. Following these consultations, a synthesis paper was prepared and will be submitted to the Permanent Forum's seventh session³⁴.

³⁴ E/C.19/2008/8

57. SPFII's fellowship programme, requested by UNPFII, has not yet materialized due to insufficient funds. Finland has agreed that the funds previously earmarked for fellowships be devoted to capacity-building activities at field level.

58. With a view to assisting the UNCTs in the implementation of the Guidelines, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, in cooperation with ILO, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNDP, in particular UNDP Regional Indigenous Peoples' Programme in Asia, UNICEF, and members of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues prepared a Resource-Kit on Partnership with Indigenous Peoples: Supporting Indigenous Issues at Country Level. In 2007, UNICEF provided funds to the Trust Fund to cover the editing costs of the Resource-Kit.

59. In connection with the Second Decade, in 2007, the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues received contributions from Algeria, Cyprus, Chile, Ecuador, Estonia, Japan, Peru, Luxembourg and Mexico for funding programmes and projects under the Second Decade. The total amount received was \$103,922. The Bureau of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, acting as the Advisory Group, held a meeting in May 2007 to review all the project proposals received. At that meeting, 20 projects were approved by the Advisory Group and endorsed by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, acting as the Coordinator of the Second International Decade.

IV. Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

60. The adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was an unfulfilled target of the first Decade, is now a major achievement to be hailed under the Second Decade.

61. A significant development has also taken place recently to bring United Nations norms and policies related to indigenous peoples closer to the field level. Within the framework of the Second Decade, and following the initiative of the Coordinator of the Second Decade in 2006, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) adopted on 1 February 2008, the Guidelines for Indigenous Peoples' Issues for UN Country Teams³⁵. The Guidelines will be widely disseminated to United Nations country teams and practical measures will follow on the part of the United Nations system. More information on this work and how the UNDG will follow up on this effort appears in Section A of this report.

62. In their reports to the Permanent Forum, most agencies and states pointed out in general that, although they did not undertake specific activities under the Decade's framework; their overall work follows the spirit of the goal, objectives and the Programme of Action of the Decade. Specific analysis is provided by ILO of each of the Decade's five objectives and how ILO's current work and future plans fit under those. ILO also reported on a workshop on the Decade in the African region organized with OHCHR in Congo Brazzaville in November 2007. IFAD reported that it supported a meeting in Asia on the evaluation of the first Decade.

³⁵ See www.undg.org and www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii

63. An analysis of the responses received also indicates that the challenges that various actors faced in terms of implementation were the limited human and financial resources. This may be understandable, as the governmental and intergovernmental sectors, indigenous organizations and other parts of civil society are invited to address the policy recommendations emanating from a) the Permanent Forum, b) the General Assembly as far as the Decade is concerned, c) the Special Rapporteurs, d) human rights treaty bodies and e) the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It is important to consider, however, that many of these recommendations and the objectives of the Decade are complementary and are not necessarily about providing more resources, but about changing the way of delivering programmes, especially in terms of promoting non-discrimination and inclusion, the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, development programmes that are culturally appropriate, as well as establishing strong monitoring mechanisms³⁶.

³⁶ Objectives a, b, c and e of the Decade