



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES INDIGENOUS VOICES

Potential Interviewees

Seventh Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 21 April to 2 May 2008

Media may wish to speak to the following experts on indigenous issues. If you are interested in conducting interviews, contact: Nanc y Groves, Department of Public Information on Tel: +1 917-367-7083, e-mail: grovesn@un.org.

Mr. Michael Dodson, Member, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **Australia (ENGLISH)**: is a member of the Yawuru peoples, the traditional Aboriginal owners of land and waters in the Broome area of the southern Kimberley region of Western Australia. He served for 5 years up as a member of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Indigenous Voluntary Fund. Mick has for long participated in the crafting of the text of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nation Working Group on Indigenous Populations and in its more recent consideration by the Working Group of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.


Mr. Eduardo Aguiar de Almeida, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **Brazil (SPANISH, PORTUGUESE, ENGLISH)**: is an expert on environment. He has been a Consultant with the Brazilian Ministry on environmental issues and has also worked as a journalist.

Mr. Wilton Littechild, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **Canada (ENGLISH)**: is the founding member of the Indigenous Initiative for Peace with Nobel Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu-Tum and is a Member of Parliament. He has served on the Indigenous Parliament of the Americas as Vice-President.

Ms. Qin Xiaomei, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **China (CHINESE, ENGLISH)**: is an expert on human rights issues. She graduated from Beijing University in 1964 and started working for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs until 1990. In 1997, she was in the office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China. Later, she worked for Chinese Embassy in the United States of America. Since 2001, she is with the UN Association of China.

Ms. Liliane Muzangui Mbela (UNPFII Member), **Democratic Republic of Congo (FRENCH)**: is in charge of the Division for Drafting and Press in the Parliament. She is also a member of the Permanent Authority on Autochtones Questions.





Ms. Ida Nicolaisen, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **Denmark (ENGLISH)**: was nominated by Denmark to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. She is an expert on indigenous groups in Southeast Asia with whom she has worked for over 30 years. **She has also worked in Africa.**

Ms. Nina Pacari, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **Ecuador (SPANISH)**: has been a legal advisor to the indigenous communities of the Chimborazo province. She has been a active leader and Coordinator in the political work of the indigenous peoples in Ecuador.

Ms. Merike Kokajev, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **Estonia (ENGLISH)**: is the Director, Division of International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She participated in Commission of Human Rights (1999-2004) and UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion of Human Rights (1999-2002). She worked on a draft UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and on the establishment of a UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (1999-2002).

Mr. Aqqaq Lyngø, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **Greenland (ENGLISH)**: is the President of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and Vice Chair ICC International since 2002. He graduated from Copenhagen Social Hoekskole, (School of Social Work) in 1976. He became the Social Counselor of Aasiaat, Greenland soon after and has also been a journalist for radio Greenland (KNR) for several years.

Ms. Otilia Luz de Coti, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **Guatemala (SPANISH)**: is a member of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues and Political Association of Maya Women. She is also a permanent representative of Guatemala to UNESCO Executive Council.

Mr. Hassan Id Balkassm, Amazigh (UNPFII Member), **Morocco (AMAZIGH, ARABIC, FRENCH, ENGLISH)**: is a attorney accredited by the Higher Court in Rabat since 1982. He is the President of Tamaynut Association and of the IPACC (Indigenous Peoples African Coordinating Committee); Member expert in the IRCAM (Royal Institute for the Amazigh culture).


Mr. Parshuram Tamang, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **Nepal (ENGLISH, NEPALESE)**: is from Nepal and has been an indigenous activist for over 25 years. He has founded several indigenous peoples organizations both in Nepal and in other parts of Asia.

Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **Philippines (ENGLISH)** : Victoria has been the Convener of the Asian Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN) since 1993. AIWN is a network of 80 indigenous women's organizations in Asia. She is the founder and Executive Director, Tebtebba Foundation (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education).

Mr. Yuri Boychenko, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **Russian Federation (RUSSIAN, ENGLISH)** : is the head of a Division, Department on Compatriot Affairs and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. He graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relation. He is an expert on human rights. He has participated in the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and is a member of the Russian Federation delegation at various UN Working Groups on the elaboration of major human rights documents.

Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **Russian Federation (RUSSIAN)**: is the Vice-President of RAIPON since 1997. He graduated from Khabarovsk State Pedagogical Institute in 1984 and





became a mathematics teacher in the settlement of Krasny Yar, Primorsky Kray. In 1994, he was appointed the Councillor to the Governor of the Primorsky Kray on Indigenous Issues.

Mr. William Ralph Joey Langeveldt, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, **South Africa (ENGLISH)**: is the National Commissioner for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities. He is a member of the Commission for Sustainable Development of South Africa.

Ms. Victoria Neuta, Colombia (SPANISH): is the Coordinator of the Continental Network's Commission on non-violence, a space for indigenous women to exchange experiences and seek alternatives. Established in 1993 through an initiative of indigenous women from Canada, when they decided to get together to exchange experiences and explore the possibilities of creating a common project for indigenous women from North,

Mr. Marcos Terena, Comité Inter-Tribal Memoria y Ciencia Indígena, **Brazil (SPANISH, PORTUGUESE)**: Marcos founded the first indigenous political movement in Brazil in 1977, the Union of Indigenous Nations. Marcos has been active in gaining a space for indigenous peoples in the United Nations system. He was one of the indigenous spokespeople at the UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples to move forward the creation of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. He was also one of the indigenous leaders that worked to move forward the process of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Ms. Lucy Mulenkei, Indigenous Information Network, **Kenya (ENGLISH)**: Lucy Mulenkei is a Maasai from Kenya who started her career as a broadcast journalist working on issues of environment and development. Lucy presently runs the Indigenous Information Network in Kenya, which publishes the popular grassroots publication, *Nomadic News*, focusing on environmental issues and successes affecting pastoralists and hunter-gatherers in Africa. For the past several years Lucy has also been working as a Chair and Coordinator of the African Indigenous Women's Organization in the East African Region.


Ms. Mirna Cunningham, Nicaragua **(SPANISH, ENGLISH)**: is the President of the Centre for Indigenous People's Autonomy and Development on the North Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. She is an experience indigenous leader and medical doctor on the North Atlantic Coast.

Mr. Subash Nembang, Speaker of the Parliament of Nepal, **Nepal (ENGLISH)**: A lawyer by training, Mr. Nembang, an indigenous (Limbu) politician, is currently the Speaker of Nepal's parliament. He may be interviewed regarding indigenous peoples in Asia and political participation of indigenous peoples.

Ms. Tarcila Rivera (Chirapaq), Peru **(SPANISH)** : is a Quechuan activist who has devoted over 20 years of her life to defend and seek recognition and acknowledgement of Peruvian indigenous peoples and cultures. Her specific contributions to the empowerment of indigenous children and women have resulted in the creation of the Permanent Workshop of Andean and Amazon Indigenous Women of Peru, the International Forum of Indigenous Women of the Americas and the Continental Link of Indigenous Women of the Americas.

Ms. Tonya Gonella Frishner, American Indian Law Alliance, **USA (ENGLISH)**: Tonya Frishner, American Indian Law Alliance, USA: Is the Founder of the American Indian Law Alliance, Tonya is an attorney, activist, and recipient of numerous awards for community service. She is an adjunct professor of Native America law.





Ms. Noeli Pocatterra, 2nd Vice-President, National Assembly, **Venezuela (SPANISH)**: is from the Wayuu Nation in Venezuela. She is an appointed chair of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and Vice-President of the National Assembly and has become a key player in policy changes for indigenous people in Venezuela. Noeli is also a strong advocate for indigenous children's right and has been instrumental in bringing about positive changes for children at the national and community level by affecting both policy and programming

Mr. Aden Ridgeway, New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, **Australia (ENGLISH)**: Aden joined the Australian Democrats in 1990 and was elected as a Democrat Senator for NSW in October 1998. He entered the Senate as Australia's only Indigenous Federal politician in July 1999. He was a member of both Indigenous Native Title negotiating teams following the Mabo and Wik decisions and was a member of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation for its last two years. **(TBC)**

Ms. Hilda Line, Turaga Nation and Tuvauatu Komiuniti, Vanuatu, **Australia (ENGLISH)**: is a chief of the Turaga nation of Pentecost Island in Vanuatu in the South Pacific, and has been an activist for progressive political causes since she was a teenager. Her name is synonymous with the nuclear-free and independent Pacific movement, with women's rights, with indigenous rights, and with environmental issues. In 1987, she became the first woman elected to Parliament in Vanuatu.


Ms Naomi Kipuri, Maasi, **Kenya (ENGLISH)** . Naomi is the Executive Director of Arid Lands Institute in Kenya. She is also an expert member of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.


Ms Octaviana Trujillo, Yaqui, USA **(ENGLISH, SPANISH)**. Octaviana is the Chairperson of the applied indigenous studies program at Northern Arizona University. She has worked over the past three decades in the area of educational program development for Native Americans. She has written extensively on the issue of Urban indigenous peoples and Migration, an issue close to heart because of the border issues of the Yaqui people in Mexico and Arizona. In 1994, Octaviana became the first woman to become chairman of the PascuaYaqui Tribe of Arizona

Tom B. K. Goldtooth Dine' and Mdewakanton Dakota, USA, **(ENGLISH)** is the national director of the Indigenous Environmental Network at Bemidji, Minnesota. He has been a leader in Native social, economic, and environmental justice issues for over 30 years.

Ms Jannie Lasimbang Malaysia **(ENGLISH)**. Jannie is a founding member of Call of the Earth Llamado de la Tierra and is a Kadazan, one of 39 indigenous groups in Sabah, Malaysia. She is currently the Secretary General of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) Foundation based in Thailand. Jannie was a community organizer and trainer with the Partners of Community Organizations (PACOS TRUST) in Sabah, which works on land issues, capacity building and community organizations.

Mr Peter Dinsdale, Anishnawbe and member of the Curve Lake First Nation in Ontario, Canada **(ENGLISH)** Peter has worked with Aboriginal people and organizations in the urban environment at the local, regional and national level to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people. He is currently Executive Director of the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC). The NAFC is a network of 117 Aboriginal Friendship Centres and 7 Provincial/Territorial Associations across Canada delivering a variety of cultural and social programs to urban Aboriginal communities.





Ms Beverley Jacobs, Mohawk, Canada (**ENGLISH**). Beverley is the President of the Native Women's Association of Canada. She works tirelessly on issues affecting Aboriginal women in Canada. She has successfully negotiated funding for the Sisters in Spirit Initiative, and Matrimonial Real Property. She has raised awareness about the missing and murdered Aboriginal women, the issues of violence against women and girls, Matrimonial Real Property Rights and Bill C-31. Currently, she is the Chair of NACOSAR (dealing with Species at Risk). In addition, Beverley has participated in numerous international fora in order ensure that an Aboriginal Women's voice is heard at these meetings.

Ms Mililani Trask is a Native Hawai'ian attorney with an extensive experience in land and resource issues, Hawai'i (**English**). She is the Convener for a Native Hawaiian NGO entitled Na Koa Ikaika o Ka Lahui that has worked in the international arena on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for more than 15 years. Mililani served as United Nations Permanent Forum member from 2002 - 2004 as the Pacific representative to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Mr. Mattias Ahren Saami from the Swedish side of Sapmi (Saamiland) (**SWEDISH, ENGLISH**). Mattias is the head of the Saami Council's Human Rights Unit on recent developments in international intellectual property law. He is an expert on intellectual property issues and the affect on indigenous peoples' rights to their traditional knowledge and cultural heritage. Ahren has also written numerous articles and reports on human rights and indigenous peoples.

Ms Andrea Carmen Yaqui, USA (**ENGLISH, SPANISH**), Andrea has been a staff member of the International Indian Treaty Council since 1983 and has been its Executive Director since 1992. Andrea has many years of experience working with Indigenous communities from North, Central, South America and the Pacific. She was a founding member of the Indigenous Initiative for Peace with Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchu and has participated as a human rights observer and mediator in crises situations in the US, Chiapas, Mexico and Ecuador. Andrea has extensive experience working at United Nations bodies addressing human rights and Indigenous Peoples, and is IITC's team leaders for work on the UN Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.


Ms Debra Harry, Kooyooe Dukaddo, USA (**ENGLISH**) Debra is the Executive Director of Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism is a non-profit organization with headquarters in Nixon, Nevada. The organization assists indigenous peoples in the protection of their genetic resources, indigenous knowledge, and cultural and human rights from the negative effects of biotechnology.

Ms. Le`a Malia Kanehe, Kanaka Maoli, Hawai`i. (**ENGLISH**). Le`a is a Circle Member of Call Of the Earth/Llamado de la Tierra for the Pacific Region. She serves as legal analyst for the IPCB and is a fellow at the Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at the University of Hawai`i School of Law.

Ms Dalee Sambo, Inuit- Alaska (**ENGLISH**). Dalee has been active in the advancement of indigenous human rights at the United Nations and other international fora since 1982. She currently serves as the Alaska Member of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference Advisory Committee on United Nations Issues. She received the 1988 Reebok Human Rights Award.

Mr. Estebancio Castro Dias, Kuna Yala in Panama (**ENGLISH, SPANISH**). He has participated in the UNPFII's International Workshop on Traditional Knowledge for his expertise in food sovereignty and traditional knowledge. He has coordinated International Indian Treaty Council's work in the CBD, FAO,





WIPO and other fora, and was responsible for coordinating the 2nd Consultation on the Right to Food, Food Security and Food Sovereignty for Indigenous Peoples.

Winona La Duke is an Ojibwe community organizer, economist and author who lives and works on the White Earth reservation in northern Minnesota USA (**ENGLISH**). She has worked extensively on indigenous rights and environmental issues, most recently on the issues surrounding the patenting and genetic threats to wild rice, or manoomin. Winona has served as a boardmember of the Indigenous Women's Network for the past 10 years. She also served on the board of Greenpeace USA (1991-96) and is founding director of both the White Earth Land Recovery Program and Honor the Earth, a national Native American foundation.

Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Mexico (**SPANISH, ENGLISH**) is the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples. He is also emeritus professor of sociology at El Colegio de México and vice-president of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights.

Mary Simat (**ENGLISH, KISWAHILI**) is Maasai from the Narok District in Kenya. She is the Chairwoman of Maasai Women for Education and Economic Development (MAWEED), which works for the rights of Maasai women and girls. She is also the Chairperson of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC), a cooperative network of indigenous peoples from the entire continent. Mary can speak on issues affecting African indigenous peoples as well as progress on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

