



**Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality  
Task Force on Indigenous Women Report  
New York, February 2006**

**A. Background Information**

1. The Task Force on Indigenous Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANGWE) was established in 2004 and adopted a three-year programme of work. During the first year, 2004-2005, the Task Force conducted a general survey of work of the United Nations (UN) system with indigenous women. During the second year, 2005-2006, the Task Force devoted its efforts to collecting good practices and lessons-learned from the work of the UN system with indigenous women. Members of the Task Force are the CBD Secretariat, Commonwealth Secretariat, DAW/DESA, ESCAP, ECA, ILO, FAO, IFAD, INSTRAW, OHCHR, OSAGI, UNICEF, UNDP and UNIFEM. It is chaired by the Secretariat of the UNPFII.

**B. Main achievements regarding gender and indigenous women in the UN system**

2. **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW):** For the first time, it was possible for indigenous women to participate at official and other events held in March 2005 within the context of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Some sixty indigenous women were present. Indigenous women participated in a total of seven official and side events, held two press conferences, attended a one-week training seminar, and adopted a declaration and proposed a resolution<sup>1</sup> that was finally adopted at the CSW.
3. **UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Fourth Session:** During the fourth session special attention was given to indigenous women and MDGs. There is a very good collection of recommendation on indigenous women<sup>2</sup>.
4. **VI International Meeting on Gender Statistics “from Beijing to the Millennium Development Goals” 27 - 29 September, Aguascalientes, Mexico:** UNIFEM, the Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática de Mexico (National Institute of Statistic, Geography and Informatics) and the Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres de Mexico (National Women’s Institute) organized the event that included indigenous women on gender statistics. During this meeting it was possible to address recommendations adopted by the Forum at its third and fourth sessions linking indigenous women and data collection and disaggregation.
5. **Second Decade of the World’s Indigenous People:** The Programme of Action<sup>3</sup> for the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People reaffirmed the commitment of the United Nations system for the solution of problems faced by indigenous peoples including indigenous women, implementing action-oriented programmes and specific projects, increased technical assistance and relevant standard-setting activities.

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<sup>1</sup> The Resolution “Indigenous women beyond the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action” appears in document E/CN.6/2005/11, Resolution 49/7

<sup>2</sup> The report of the Fourth Session appears in document E/C.19/2005/23, Paras. 106-121

<sup>3</sup> The Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People appears in A/60/270, Section II and was adapted by General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/142

6. **Preparation of the collection of case studies “UN's work with indigenous women”:**  
The collection prepared by the Task Force on Indigenous Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality contains cases submitted by CBD, FAO, IFAD, ILO, UNFPA and UNIFEM about their work with indigenous women in Africa, Asia and Latin America. (UNDP is expected to send a case study shortly.) It is the intention of the Task Force to publish this collection once it is finalized and disseminate it widely so that it may serve as a practical tool for future work of the UN system and other organizations engaging with indigenous peoples. The compilation appears as *Annex I*.
7. **Gender and Indigenous Peoples Briefing Notes:** As a result of cooperation between the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI) and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a series of briefing notes on *Gender and Indigenous Issues* is under revision and it will be produced and jointly published and disseminated during the Fifth Session of the UNPFII.
8. **Production of a brochure:** SPFII produced a brochure on Indigenous Women with the purpose of raising awareness and disseminating the main recommendations. The material is available in English and Spanish.

### C. Future work of the Task Force on Indigenous Women

The Task Force hopes to pursue the following:

- Presentation of the work of the Task Force on Indigenous Women during the Fifth Session of the UNPFII in May 2006.
- Distribution of the report of the Task Force on Indigenous Women to the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) on Indigenous Issues.
- Presentation of the collection of case studies *United Nations and Indigenous Women* during the Fifth Session of the UNPFII.
- Publication and distribution of the collection of case studies *United Nations and Indigenous Women*
- Presentation of the briefing notes on *Gender and Indigenous Peoples* during the Fifth Session of the UNPFII in May 2006.
- Inclusion by DPI of the briefing notes in the information kit that is usually prepared for the annual session of the UNPFII.
- Implementation of the remaining work plan of the Task Force for 2006-2007:  
Produce practical tools:
  - practical tools, such as a checklist of items to be considered in UN programming that makes sure that indigenous women's issues are mainstreamed,
  - a review of existing gender-training tools on the UN system, examining to what extent indigenous women's issues are covered, and suggesting ways of covering gaps,
  - an awareness-raising/training video and other useful tools.
- Follow-up on specific recommendations of the UNPFII, special attention should be on convening a workshop with IOM on Migration and indigenous peoples, including migration of indigenous women.