

United Nations



Nations Unies

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
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8 July 2009

Dear Representatives of Indigenous Peoples,

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs has the honour to draw your attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/22 of 28 July 2000 entitled "Establishment of a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues".

According to paragraph 1 of that resolution, the Economic and Social Council:

"Decides to establish as a subsidiary organ of the Council a permanent forum on indigenous issues consisting of sixteen members, eight to be nominated by Governments and elected by the Council, and eight members to be appointed by the President of the Council following formal consultations with the bureau and regional groups through the coordinators, on a basis of broad consultations with indigenous organizations taking into account the diversity and geographic distribution of indigenous peoples of the world, as well as principles of transparency, representativity, and equal opportunity for all indigenous people, including internal processes, when appropriate, and local indigenous consultation processes. The members of the Forum will serve in their personal capacity as independent experts on indigenous issues for a period of three years with the possibility of re-election or re-appointment for one further period."

The Permanent Forum serves as an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues relating to economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights. The Permanent Forum holds annual sessions of ten working days each May.

The current membership of the Permanent Forum is due to expire at the end of 2010. Nominations are now requested for the three-year period from January 2011 until December 2013. Current members who have served the maximum of two terms (6 years) as Permanent Forum members cannot be nominated for a further term.

It has been the understanding of the indigenous caucus that the eight (8) indigenous nominated members should be from the seven socio-cultural regions determined to give broad representation to the world's indigenous peoples. The regions are: Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; the Arctic; Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific.

It was also the understanding that the 8th member would be nominated from one of the three largest indigenous populated regions (Latin America, Asia and Africa) which would be rotated every three years. Latin America will have an extra member for the next term (2011 – 2013).

I am encouraging consultations amongst indigenous organizations to commence as soon as possible to ensure that the President of the Economic and Social Council has suitable candidates for consideration and appointment.

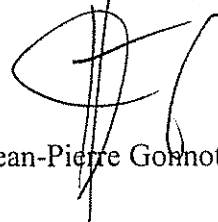
In considering possible candidates you are encouraged to take into account the principles of geographic distribution, and gender balance. Furthermore and in order for nominations to be complete, it is important to provide recent curriculum vitae of the nominees for consideration by the President of the Economic and Social Council. Information about the nominating organization(s) should also be submitted.

All correspondence should be sent to the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Room DC2-1454, New York, NY 10017, United States of America OR email to: **indigenous_un@un.org**

The deadline for submission of nominations is 1 February 2010

I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JP Gonnor', written over a horizontal line.

Jean-Pierre Gonnor