



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, INDIGENOUS VOICES

MEDIA ADVISORY

Events to celebrate the historic United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples next week

Declaration to be considered for adoption by the General Assembly

WHAT: Special indigenous events at the UN to mark the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

HIGHLIGHT: The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a landmark achievement resulting from more than twenty years of efforts, was adopted by the Human Rights Council on 29 June 2006. On 16 and 17 October the Third Committee of the General Assembly will discuss indigenous issues. Coinciding with the occasion, the Secretariat of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues/DSPD/DESA, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), NGOs and Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations will organize several events to highlight the significance of the Declaration.

WHEN: 16 and 17 October 2006

WHERE: United Nations Headquarters, 1st Avenue & 46th Street

MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS: Journalists without UN accreditation wishing to attend the events should fax a request on company letterhead signed by a supervisor to Mr. Gary Fowlie, Chief, UN Media Accreditation Unit at +1(212) 963-4642. Media accreditation forms and general information can be found at www.un.org/media/accreditation or call +1 (212) 963-6934

For more information on the Declaration, please visit:

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

For interviews with UN officials and indigenous leaders, please contact:

Oisika Chakrabarti, Department of Public Information, tel: 212.963.6816, e-mail: mediainfo@un.org

For Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, please contact:

Mirian Masaquiza, Secretariat of the UNPFII, tel: 917.367.6006, e-mail:

IndigenousPermanentForum@un.org

TURN OVER FOR SUMMARY OF KEY EVENTS





Friday, 13 October, 11:00 a.m.
Room S-226

Press conference: *History, significance and current status of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Speakers will include H. E. Mr. Enrique Berruga, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations; Mr. Craig Mokhiber, Deputy Director, New York, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; Ms. Tonya Gonnella Frichner Esq., President, American Indian Law Alliance; and Mr. Mattias Åhrén, Head of the Human Rights Unit, the Saami Council, moderated by Ms. Elsa Stamatopoulou, Chief, Secretariat of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues/DSPD/DESA.

Monday, 16 October, 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 1

Dialogue and panel discussion: “*Towards implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*”, on the occasion of indigenous issues being discussed in the Third Committee of the General Assembly. The event is co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN, the Permanent Mission of Peru to the UN, OHCHR and the Secretariat of UNPFII/DSPD/DESA. Opening remarks will be made by Ms. Tonya Gonnella Frichner Esq., President, American Indian Law Alliance. Speakers include Ms. Xóchitl Gálvez Ruiz, Director-General, National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples, Mexico; Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson, UNPFII; and Mr. Mattias Åhrén, Head of the Human Rights Unit, the Saami Council.

Tuesday, 17 October, 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 8

Panel discussion and book launch: “*Mairin Iwanka Raya, Indigenous Women Stand against Violence*”. The event is organized by the International Indigenous Women’s Forum (FIMI) and MADRE in collaboration with the Secretariat of UNPFII/DSPD/DESA. Moderated by Ms. Elsa Stamatopoulou, Chief of the Secretariat, speakers will include Ms. Charlotte Bunch, member of the Advisory Committee on the Secretary-General’s study on violence against women; Ms. Monica Aleman, Coordinator of the International Indigenous Forum on Indigenous Issues; Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson, UNPFII; and Ms. Christine A. Brautigam, Chief, Women’s Rights Section, UN Division for the Advancement of Women. This report is a companion piece to the Secretary-General’s Study on Violence against Women which was presented to the Third Committee of the GA on 9 October.

Please note events on 16 and 17 October are open to delegates of Member States, representatives of indigenous organizations, NGOs, media and UN staff.

For updates on the events please visit the website of the Secretariat of UNPFII/DSPD/DESA:
www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii

