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Summary

This paper highlights a select number of UNDP initiatives and activities undertaken in 2005 as they relate to the recommendations provided by the Permanent Forum.

Content

- I. Policy framework.....**
- II. National Human Development Reports.....**
- III. Global Programmes.....**
- IV. Regional Programme.....**
- V. Country Programmes.....**
- VI. Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP).....**
- VII. Millennium Development Goals**

I. Policy Framework

1. The UNDP corporate mandate, development cooperation processes and agreements, and the aspirations of indigenous peoples guide UNDP engagement with indigenous peoples and their organizations. In the context of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004), and building on previous initiatives, UNDP issued a policy guidance note in August 2001 entitled: *UNDP and Indigenous Peoples: A policy of engagement*. The objective of the policy note is to provide UNDP staff with a framework to guide their work in building sustainable partnerships with indigenous peoples. Rooted in the goals and targets set by world leaders at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000, it is underpinned by the international human rights framework and a full recognition of indigenous peoples' vital role in, and contribution to, development.

2. In May 2000, UNDP established a Civil Society Organizations Advisory Committee composed of 14 civil society leaders who provide strategic advice to the Administrator and senior management on key policy advocacy initiatives. The committee, which includes the chair of the Permanent Forum has been a vehicle to bring indigenous peoples' concerns to the attention of the UNDP Administrator and senior management. Similar CSO Advisory Committees have been established at the national level as in Botswana and Brazil, where indigenous peoples' issues have also been addressed.

II. National Human Development Reports

3. National Human Development Reports are an important tool for generating debate on issues of concern to indigenous peoples. These policy advocacy documents, supported by UNDP, take stock of human development at the country-level and aim to stimulate public debate and political attention to pressing development priorities.

4. In some countries such as Chile and Mexico, the human development index has been used specifically to generate disaggregated statistical information on indigenous peoples, in Chile on the Mapuche population and in Mexico on indigenous populations in the entire country. In 2003 Chile produced *El Índice de Desarrollo Humano en la Población Mapuche de la Región de Araucanía: Una aproximación a la equidad interétnica e intraétnica* (The Human Development Index for the Mapuche population in the region of Araucanía). In 2005 the Mexico country office partnered with the *Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas* in the development of the human development index for indigenous peoples. In some cases the indicators have been adapted to reflect local realities, such as life expectancy in the case of Chile. The 2006 Guatemala National Human Development Report is focusing on cultural diversity and will contain a wide selection of data on indigenous peoples.

III. Global Programmes

5. HURIST is a joint programme of UNDP and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) aimed at integrating human rights in development by building the capacity of UN country offices, preparing methodologies and toolkits on human rights and documenting and disseminating good practices in the application of these rights in development. HURIST supports implementation of the UNDP policy on human rights as presented in the policy document *Integrating Human Rights with Sustainable Human Development* (1998) by supporting development of national capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights and the application of a human rights-based approach to development programming.

6. In 2002, HURIST incorporated an indigenous peoples' component, aimed at enabling implementation of the UNDP policy of engagement with indigenous peoples

(2001) and to create a mechanism for dialogue at the national level to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in UNDP activities at both the policy and programme levels.

7. In 2004, HURIST launched two pilot projects in Ecuador (March) and Kenya (June). Support is currently being given to phase two of HURIST Ecuador, which focuses on project development. The four goals of phase two of HURIST Ecuador are:

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- To strengthen the Ombudsman's Office on indigenous peoples' issues.
 - To strengthen existing dialogue mechanisms at the national level, and create new ones that focus on the implementation of human rights through the establishment of a National Indigenous Peoples Forum.
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- To disseminate inter-culturalism and human rights in primary education curricula of DINEIB (National Office of Intercultural and Bilingual Education).
 - To promote attention to indigenous peoples' rights in international cooperation.

8. Among the key outputs of the Hurist initiative in Kenya was the facilitation of a frank dialogue between members of Parliament and indigenous representatives and the establishment of an advisory mechanism on indigenous issues known as the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee of Kenya or UNIPACK. Hurist Kenya has received additional funding for 2006 to carry out its initiative. The interim committee has contributed to the terms of reference for the permanent UNIPACK (to be put in place in 2006) and a framework for membership. The committee will:

- Establish a mechanism for dialogue and information sharing amongst indigenous peoples, UNDP/UN system and relevant national actors, such as Government authorities and parliamentarians.
 - Provide strategic guidance on indigenous peoples' concerns, principles and perspectives for UNDP country programming and related policy initiatives supported by UNDP and the UN system.
 - Promote stakeholder dialogues and initiatives with state and non-state actors including representatives from IPOs and CSOs that strengthen networks and raise awareness about influencing policy.
 - Provide spaces for mutual learning and understanding between indigenous peoples and UNDP/UN staff.
9. Based on the successes of the HURIST programme thus far, Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation is providing support to the second phase of the Ecuador project and to two additional projects in Guatemala and Bolivia. Activities will take place during 2006.

IV. Regional programme

10. UNDP is currently implementing a 2 million US dollar Regional Initiative on *Strengthening Policy Dialogue on Indigenous, Highland and Tribal Peoples' Rights and Development* (RIPP). The project aims to enhance inter-country sharing of experiences on priority issues, particularly with regard to reducing the incidence of poverty among indigenous peoples. It aims to build capacity among all stakeholders, strengthen information networks and knowledge management systems particularly among indigenous peoples, to support their full and effective participation in policy dialogue at all levels. The project is led from Thailand and the core participating countries include Cambodia,

Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Some of the intended outputs include needs assessments, capacity-building initiatives such as trainings and materials for indigenous peoples and government at the national level, indigenous advisory mechanisms, pilot projects, and learning networks at the national and regional level. The regional initiative also pays particular attention to the concerns and needs of indigenous women, especially in the area of indigenous knowledge and sustainable resource management.

11. The initiative has partnered or led activities in strengthening indigenous peoples' organizations and movements in Asia-Pacific in a range of key thematic areas over 2005, working with governments, with indigenous organizations and with UNDP country offices.

12. Work undertaken in the programme is broadly divided into five key thematic areas: natural resource management and land; law and policy frameworks; capacity development and training; and gender. In 2005 some 40 plus projects and programmes were led by, or partnered in, by RIPP, covering all these areas. Key initiatives include studies into access to formal and informal justice systems, studies into local governance systems and their relevance to and inclusion of indigenous peoples, capacity building of women, of youth leaders and of communities impacted by development policies and projects. RIPP also provided advice to both the Indonesian and Cambodian governments in analysis and reform of existing policies on indigenous peoples, and with the Vietnamese government in initiating a review of existing land tenure arrangements impacting on indigenous peoples.

13. A data disaggregation project, implemented by Tebtebba Foundation, which seeks to address the lack of accurate information gathering vis-a-vis

indigenous peoples. Working with the National Statistics Office of the Philippines to determine ways in which disaggregation of data can be institutionalized, and preliminary surveying is taking place in three provinces.

V. Country programmes

14. In 2004 the Guatemala civil society participation programme (PASOC) took on board the organization *Tob'nel Tinamit - Defensa Legal Indígena*. One objective of their project was to provide a follow-up report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur. In late October 2005, the "First Alternative Mayan Observation Report" was presented as a response to the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur. A total of 72 organizations have participated in the Mayan observation initiative, and the report has been validated by 15 governmental and non-governmental organizations.
15. In Suriname a project scheduled to start in 2006 aims at empowering indigenous and tribal authorities to fully participate in a national land rights' dialogue. It is the first project of its kind.
16. In Panama a local management center (CEGEL) has been established and is fully operating in collaboration with traditional indigenous authorities and local governments in El Darién. Income-generating activities and capacity development for local sustainable economies, developed with the indigenous and afro-descendent communities, are being implemented. The CEGEL will be able to mobilize resources both at the national and international level for various projects and implement income-generating and capacity development activities using the learning-by-doing methodology.

VI. Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP)

17. Since 1992, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) has promoted grassroots action to address global environmental concerns. GEF SGP allocates grants of up to \$50,000 – with an average grant size of between US\$20,000 – directly to non-governmental, community-based organizations (CBOs) and indigenous peoples’ organizations to support their efforts to protect the environment while generating sustainable livelihoods. The programme is a corporate initiative of the GEF, and is implemented by UNDP on behalf of the three implementing agencies of the GEF, which include UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank. The programme currently operates through a decentralized management system in 95 developing countries in Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, CIS, Latin America and the Caribbean.
18. Country level activities are guided by National Steering Committees (NSCs) made up of a non-governmental majority of representatives from national NGOs, academia, co-funding donors, UN agencies, the private sector, as well as indigenous peoples’ representatives.

Guatemala

19. Since its beginning in 1997, the GEF SGP National Steering Committee (NSC) which approves all grants in Guatemala has sought to work in the south-western region of the country as priority geographic area owing to high levels of human threats to globally significant biodiversity and international watersheds. The NSC noted that “traditional” funding sources and donors had not allowed participation of indigenous Mayan peoples in the south-west in development projects, largely due to education barriers and high levels of ethnic and linguistic diversity (*k’iché, mam, cakchiquel, sipakapense* and *tzutuhil* Mayan groups). The GEF SGP country programme also observed that

local intermediaries often followed their own agendas on project development whilst working with indigenous peoples. As a result, there were few opportunities for indigenous people to express their own needs and environmental interests. As a result, the national strategic framework for the GEF SGP was reviewed and priorities placed on the following aspects:

Priority funding to be targeted at communities in extreme poverty and exclusion (indigenous peoples and women's groups)

Specific procedures and proposal formats should be developed to facilitate access for these groups

20. According to this strategic framework, a survey was conducted to identify communities that were among the poorest of the poor as a “priority population” based on UNDP National Human Development Reports. The disaggregated survey results identified 18 municipal provinces, out of which six were selected according to NSC criteria. Once the “priority municipal provinces” were selected, CBOs were proactively contacted by GEF SGP, and special project formats and training materials in the form of “flip-charts” were designed and developed.
21. A training workshop was subsequently held and 32 indigenous leaders (31 women and 1 man) were trained to be GEF SGP's “voluntary promoters” on participatory diagnostics of environmental community problems; gender/work issues; project co-financing; project planning and design; budget development; as well as monitoring and evaluation. Once trained, the indigenous *promotores* returned to their respective communities to develop a project proposal based on participatory means and a planning grant to facilitate community consultations. Community field visits were also made by the GEF SGP national coordinator, NSC and UNV members to accompany the project development process.

Lessons learned from indigenous “community promoters”:

Most indigenous *promotores* were efficient and effective in project proposal development, using their own language and respecting local traditions;

Indigenous *promotores* facilitated the expression of communities’ interests and priority environmental problems;

Translation to local Mayan languages was provided during training sessions to assure full understanding of SGP procedures;

Childcare during workshops ensured the full participation of women;

Project co-financing and community participation was achieved due mainly to the innovative design of the innovative “flip-chart” project formats;

Following the success of approach, the GEF SGP National Steering Committee included three new members from local indigenous populations to participate in the approval of grants to other indigenous beneficiaries.

22. In addition, the GEF SGP in partnership with the CSO Division has been working to facilitate indigenous peoples’ access to grants through innovative methods such as participatory video-making. Two consultative workshops were held in 2004 and 2005. In 2006 a “how-to” handbook on participatory video commissioned by GEF SGP, CSO Division and Hurist will be launched.

VII. Millennium Development Goals

23. Over the last four years UNDP has engaged in raising awareness of the MDGs among indigenous peoples and their organizations at various international fora.

24. UNDP seeks to collaborate with indigenous peoples and their organizations in achieving the MDGs and recognizes greater efforts are needed to include the

participation of indigenous peoples' organizations in the development of the MDG Country Reports that monitor the progress of the goals. Greater coordination between indigenous peoples' organizations and the Millennium Campaign is also needed; nevertheless the first steps have been taken.

25. UNDP builds the capacity of communities to "localize the MDGs" by providing small grants to community oriented sustainable development projects as well as through community to community learning exchange facilities that encourage the sharing of knowledge and best practices among community-based organizations. In addition, community dialogue spaces profile communities during global conferences and highlight the contribution of communities and especially indigenous peoples in achieving the MDGs. These dialogue spaces bring together representatives of communities and indigenous peoples with international government and CSO leaders for a frank exchange on how to develop an enabling environment for community participation in regional development.

26. UNDP welcomes the opportunity to work with the Forum in ensuring greater engagement of indigenous peoples in the MDG process so as to build on the opportunities and better address the challenges.

27. Co-organized with Equator Initiative. CSO Division and other partners, the Community Commons, a CSO forum, held from 16-18 June 2005 in New York brought together 150 representatives from community based organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations to prepare a community position to the issues raised in the Secretary General's *Larger Freedom* report and ensure a CSO/CBO collective agenda could be presented at the June General Assembly hearings with civil society.

28. The regional programme in Southeast Asia, RIPP, has commissioned a report into obstacles and barriers to greater indigenous peoples' inclusion in the MDGs and will continue to closely monitor the national policy frameworks for achieving the goals to review inclusion or marginalization of indigenous peoples.

MDG related publications

29. CSO Perspectives on the MDGs (2005): A compilation that features the viewpoints of some of the CSO Advisory Committee members and focuses on issues of gender, environment trade and indigenous peoples.

30. MDGs and Ethnicity: In response to the Secretary General's visit to the Andean region in Latin America (2003) and his alarm that the MDGs will not be achieved if indigenous peoples are not targeted, UNDP in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, and ECLAC, commissioned a study entitled, *MDGs and Ethnicity* (2005) aimed at highlighting key issues of concern within goals one to three on poverty, gender and education.
