

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
DIVISION FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT
SECRETARIAT OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES
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11 April 2008

Information Note for Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations on the Seventh Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Special Theme: Climate change, bio-cultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges

We welcome you to New York for the seventh session, which starts on 21 April 2008 and ends on 2 May 2008. The attachment to this letter provides an outline of matters pertaining to the session.

This year, a number of satellite meetings are feeding into the Forum's session providing possible recommendations from which the Permanent Forum may draw, in addition to papers from the Permanent Forum members themselves, the agencies and indigenous organizations.

We feel that now that the Forum has triggered considerable activity in the inter-governmental system. The ultimate challenge is to make a real difference in the lives of indigenous peoples. An important step is the monitoring of policies and programmes and for this reason, strategic papers on this issue have been prepared by Permanent Forum members including, Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Mr. Aquluk Lynge, Ms. Ida Nicolaisen and Mr. Wilton Littlechild.

As you see from the programme of work (attached for easy reference), this year the Permanent Forum will hold three specific dialogue sessions during its formal meetings: one with UN agencies (Monday, 21 April PM), one with indigenous peoples (Tuesday 22 April AM) and one with governments (Tuesday, 22 April PM).

We take this opportunity to draw your attention to the preparatory meeting of the Indigenous Caucus on the weekend before the Permanent Forum, 19 – 20 April 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. As in previous years, the meeting will take place on the 2nd floor of the Church Center for the United Nations at 777 UN Plaza (corner of East 44th Street and 1st Avenue), across the street from the main entrance to the United Nations.

Also, the Global Indigenous Women's Caucus meeting is planned for Friday, April 18, 2008, 9am – 5pm in New York, in preparation for the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at 777 UN Plaza / Church Center Building (across from UN Headquarters) on the 8th floor. Translation will be available in English, Spanish, Portugues and Russian. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

One important note – all registrations for new Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and Academics closed on 1st April 2008. Those organizations who have participated in the UNPFII sessions in the past, as well as NGOs with ECOSOC Consultative Status, can continue to pre-register until 14 April. Please be advised you must be pre-registered in order to attend the Forum. You must also bring your confirmation letter and photo ID to the Registration desk. The Registration Desk will be open on Monday 21st of April from 8am to 4pm. During the session, the Registration desk will be open between 9am and 5pm but closed for lunch between 12:30 and 2pm.

Warm regards,

Anna, Beatrice, Bonney, Broddi, Carol, Elsa, Juan, Luz, Melissa, Mirian, Sandrine, Sonia

**General information to assist delegations traveling to
The Seventh Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

1. Dates, times and location of the Session

The Seventh Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held from Monday, 21 April to Friday, 2 May 2008, in Conference Room 2, United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The provisional agenda, a provisional programme of work and other relevant documents are available now in all official UN languages through the web site of the Secretariat at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/>

2. Medical clearance/insurance

Participants are requested to arrange at their own expense for insurance coverage including life, health and other forms deemed appropriate.

3. Travel arrangements to New York.

Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements including return fares to their homes.

4. Transportation into Manhattan from JFK, La Guardia and Newark airports

From John F. Kennedy International Airport (taxi or airport bus):

- **By taxi:** There is a flat (non-metered) fare of \$45 from JFK to anyplace in Manhattan. Added to this fare may be the cost of a toll for the bridge or tunnel into Manhattan, depending on the route taken by the driver (the cost of the toll is \$5.00). The rate is per car, not per person, and does not include tip (customarily 10– 15%).
- **By bus:** There are frequent departures by the New York Airport Service bus from outside each terminal at JFK. It costs \$15 one-way, and takes about 60 minutes to reach Grand Central Terminal, at 42nd Street and Park Avenue. Many hotels are within walking distance, yet those unfamiliar with New York city are advised to take a taxi to their hotel.
- **By train:** The Long Island Railroad goes between Penn Station (34th Street and 7th Avenue) and Jamaica Station, which services JFK. Fares are \$5-7. The E train from Sutphin Boulevard/ Archer Avenue or the A train from Howard Beach train can also be taken to Port Authority on 42nd Street and 8th Avenue which costs \$2. There is an AirTrain which runs between JFK and Jamaica Station, Howard Beach and which costs \$5. Taking the train is the most economical and reliable way to travel between Manhattan and JFK.

From La Guardia Airport (taxi or airport bus):

- **By taxi:** Fares from La Guardia are determined by meter, which the driver should set when the trip begins. The fare to midtown Manhattan will be approximately \$25-30. Added to this fare may be the cost of a toll for the bridge or tunnel into Manhattan, depending on the route taken by the driver (the cost of the toll is \$5.00). The rate is per car, not per person, and does not include tip (customarily 10 - 15%).
- **By bus:** Bus departures are frequent from outside each terminal at La Guardia. It costs \$15 one-way, and takes about 30 minutes to reach Grand Central Terminal, at 42nd Street and Park Avenue. Many hotels are within walking distance, yet those unfamiliar with New York city are advised to take a taxi to their hotel.

From Newark International Airport (taxi, airport bus or train):

- **By taxi:** Fares from Newark to Manhattan are non-metered and determined by the airport taxi dispatcher before the trip begins based on the specific destination. The fare to midtown Manhattan will be approximately 40-45\$. Added to the fare may be the cost of a toll for the bridge or tunnel into Manhattan, depending on the route taken by the driver (the cost of the toll is \$6.00). The rate is per car, not per person, and does not include tip (customarily 10– 15%). Only use taxis at authorized taxi stands.
- **By bus:** Olympia Airport Express bus goes to the Port Authority Bus Terminal at 42nd Street and Eighth Avenue, or to the vicinity of Grand Central Terminal, at 41st Street and Lexington Avenue. The fare for Olympia Airport express (Newark-Manhattan) is \$22 round trip, \$15 one way. Many hotels are within walking distance, yet those unfamiliar with New York city are advised to take a taxi to their hotel.
- **By train:** The Newark AirTrain runs frequently from the airport terminals to Newark International Airport Station from which connections on New Jersey Transit trains to New York Penn Station are available. A one-way ticket from the airport to New York is approximately 11\$ and the trip takes about 45 minutes in total. Due to problems of traffic congestion, particularly during peak hours, this is often the most reliable connection to New York city. From New York Penn Station, which is located at 7th avenue and 33rd street, it is advised to take a taxi to the hotel.

5. Accommodation

Delegates are requested to make their own arrangements for accommodation in New York. Please consult our web site for information on accommodation available in New York.

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/logistics.doc>

Further information regarding budget travel in New York City is available from: <http://gonyc.about.com/od/budgettravel/>

6. Passport and Visa

Each participant must have a valid passport to enter the United States. Please contact the nearest United States Embassy or Consulate to determine whether a visa is required for you to enter the United States. Should justification for the trip to New York be required, you may use the letter confirming the participation of your organization at the meeting. This letter, issued by Mr. Yao Ngoran, Chief of the DESA NGO Unit (in response to your pre-registration application) and signed by the Chief of the Secretariat (Ms. Elsa Stamatopoulou) can be used as a supplementary document in this process.

7. Registering to make an oral intervention

For all delegations wishing to speak, you are able to register on the speakers lists under each agenda item and sub-item. You must include your name and organization and the item that you would like to speak under. Each organization can only speak once under each agenda item/sub-item. Priority will given to Caucus and Group statements and a time limit is set by the Forum at the beginning of the Session.

8. Children

Please note that if you wish to bring children or young people under the age of 18 years of age, into the United Nations Headquarters building to attend the Seventh Session, you must notify Ms Luz Aragon at the Secretariat of the UNPFII by 17 April 2008, who will in turn, notify UN Security. Please email Ms. Aragon at aragonm@un.org with the full names and ages of the children or young people and include the name of their chaperone. All young people under the age of 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult during their time in the building.

9. Use of visual recording equipment

NGO delegates including indigenous representatives that are accredited and bring photographic and video equipment should be aware that visual recording is only permitted during a meeting with the approval of the meeting or conference organizers. In order to ensure that the presence of visual recording equipment by NGO delegate does not disrupt the meeting or interfere with interventions by participants of indigenous peoples organizations, NGOs or State representatives the following have been put in place:

- Photography (still and/or video) using tripods will only be allowed from the back and sides of the meeting room;

- Photography (still and/or video) by a delegate is allowed from their seat as long as it does not interfere with the sightlines of other delegates or disrupt the proceedings of the meeting.

The conference officer responsible for the meeting will inform Security of any problems that arise with the presence of visual recording devices used by delegates and if necessary Security will contact the Media Liaison and Accreditation Unit (212 963 6934) to request their assistance in resolving the matter.

10. Meeting secretariat

For further information or questions concerning the Seventh Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, please contact:

**The Secretariat for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA
United Nations Headquarters
Room DC2-1772
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel. + 1 917 367-5100
Fax. + 1 917 367 5102**

**Email: IndigenousPermanentForum@un.org
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii>**

1. Major inputs to the Seventh Session

Given that 2008 has been proclaimed by the United Nations as the International Year of Languages, the Forum and ECOSOC decided that an international expert meeting should take place (this indeed happened in January 2008) and the Forum should hold a half-day plenary discussion on this issue. A plenary panel will be held on Thursday, 24 April in the afternoon, with UNICEF, a Minister from Ecuador, and indigenous experts sparking off the debate.

The Forum is expected to adopt recommendations on this subject.

Human rights:

The special highlight this year will be that the Forum will hold an in-depth discussion on how it will respond to its new mandate under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Two Forum members prepared a paper on this subject and the Forum is expected to follow proposals in that expert study.

The Forum has again invited the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and other human rights rapporteurs to have a dialogue with the Forum. The outgoing Rapporteur, Mr Rodolfo Stavenhagen (Mexico) will be there as well as the incoming Rapporteur, Mr James Anaya (USA).

Recommendations of the Forum are expected under this item.

Focus on implementation

This year, the Permanent Forum will focus the implementation of its recommendations of previous sessions, including those it adopted regarding indigenous peoples and the MDGs, in 2005 and 2006. The Permanent Forum members have emphasized that monitoring the implementation of recommendations is a crucial matter. Hence, strategic desk reviews have been prepared by the Secretariat of the Forum of 10 MDG country reports and of 10 Common Country Assessment papers and UN Development Assistance Framework papers (CCAs/UNDAFs)-so the Forum will be assisted in its monitoring work.

A database is kept updated by the SPFII on the implementation of recommendations of previous sessions are posted on the SPFII website, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/recommendations.htm>

2. Other major inputs to the seventh session:

Other major inputs are the reports of six “satellite” meetings including those mentioned above on climate change as well as a global synthesis report on Indigenous Peoples and Indicators of Well-being, Poverty and Sustainability, prepared following recommendations of the Forum. The indicators, once discussed by the UNPFII, will be presented to the UN system.

Industrial corporations and indigenous peoples is another subject before the session-given that the Forum held a special meeting on this in Siberia, the Russian Federation last July and the report of that meeting is feeding into the session.

3. Kindly check our **website** regularly where we post the **documents for the Seventh Session of the Forum in all official UN languages** as soon as they become available.

4. **High-level speakers expected during the session** include the President of ECOSOC, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and others. There will be two half-day discussions devoted to the **Pacific Region and Indigenous Languages**.

6. There will be approximately sixty **Special Events** scheduled during the session. They will be organized by governments, agencies, indigenous organizations, NGOs, the secretariat and others. Special events mainly take place during the lunch period. The schedule of the special events are posted on our website http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_seventh.html

7. The opening of the annual **indigenous exhibit and a cultural event** and reception will take place on Tuesday, 22 April at 6:15 pm, with an impressive array of indigenous artists from around the world.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Seventh Session

New York, 21 April -2 May 2008

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Proposed organization of work**

Note by the Secretariat

The proposed organization of work for the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was prepared by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum in consultation with members of the Permanent Forum.

Date/time

Agenda item/programme

FIRST WEEK

Monday, 21 April

Opening of the session

Morning

(11.00 a.m.- 1.00 p.m.)

Item 1: Election of officers

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Item 3: Special theme: “Climate change, bio-cultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges”

- Annual Report of the Inter-Agency Support Group.
- Paper on “Impact of climate change mitigation measures on the territories and lands of indigenous peoples”.

Afternoon

Item 3 Continued

(3 p.m.-6 p.m.)

Dialogue with agencies

Tuesday, 22 April

Morning

Item 3 Continued

(10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Dialogue with indigenous peoples

Afternoon

Item 3 Continued

(3 p.m.-6 p.m.)

Dialogue with governments

Wednesday, 23 April

Morning

Closed meeting

10 a.m. – 1p.m.

Afternoon

Item 6 Half-day discussion on the Pacific

(3-6 p.m.)

Thursday, 24 April

Morning

Item 4 Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas and on Millennium Development Goals

(10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

a. economic and social development

- Follow up paper on “Oil palm and other commercial tree plantations, monocropping: impacts on indigenous peoples’ land tenure and resource management systems and livelihoods”.
- Papers on “Indigenous peoples and relevant thematic issues relating to sustainable development”.

b. environment

- Paper on the “Relevant principles contained in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, taking into account the provisions of ILO Convention

No. 169 that relate to indigenous land tenure and management arrangements, to assist indigenous peoples, States and United Nations agencies in negotiating indigenous land tenure and management arrangements”.

c. health

d. education

e. culture,

f. human rights

Afternoon (3-6 p.m.)

Item 7 Half-day discussion on indigenous languages

- Report of the “International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Languages”.

Friday, 25 April

No meetings as per UN rules, due to Orthodox Easter

SECOND WEEK

Monday, 28 April

Morning

Item 5 Human Rights: special emphasis on an interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur of the Human

(10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Rights Council on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and other special rapporteurs

Afternoon

Item 5 Continued

(3-6 p.m.)

- Study on the “Structures, procedures and mechanisms that presently exist and that might be established to effectively address the human rights situation of indigenous peoples, to arrange for indigenous representation and inclusion in such structures, procedures and mechanisms”.

Tuesday, 29 April

Morning

Item 5 Continued

(10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Afternoon (3-6 p.m.)

Closed meeting

Wednesday, 30 April

Morning

Item 8 Ongoing priorities and themes

(10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

(a) Indigenous children and youth;

**(b) Second International Decade of the World's
Indigenous People;**

(c) Urban indigenous peoples and migration

Item 9 Future work of the Forum

Afternoon (3-6 p.m.)

- Paper on “Customary laws pertaining to indigenous traditional knowledge and indigenous customary laws”.

Thursday, 1 May

Morning
(10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Item 9 Continued

Afternoon
(3-6 p.m.)

Item 10 Draft agenda for the eighth session of the Forum

Friday, 2 May

Morning
(10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Item 11 Adoption of the report of the Forum on its seventh session

Plenary

Afternoon

Item 11 Continued

(3-6 p.m.)

Closing of the session