

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

Room DC2-1772 United Nations, New York, New York 10017

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25 April 2006

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

This is our last substantive communication with you before we welcome you to New York for the fifth session, which starts on 15 May 2006. The attachment to this letter provides an outline of matters pertaining to the session.

This year a record number of six "satellite meetings" are feeding into the Forum's session providing a very rich source of possible recommendations from which the Forum may draw, in addition to papers from the 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. Monitoring is an important step. Strategic papers prepared by Forum members, Mr. Tamang, Ms Tauli-Corpuz and Mr. Littlechild provide very good ideas in that direction.

As you see from the programme of work (attached for easy reference), this year the Forum decided to hold three specific dialogue sessions during its formal meetings: one with indigenous peoples (Tuesday, 16 May am), one with UN agencies (Tuesday, 16 May pm), and one with governments (Wednesday, 17 May am). Further discussion with any of the constituencies will continue on Thursday, 18 May am.

As previous years, Conference Room 2 will be available for Caucus meetings from 16 to 26 May 2006 from 9am to 9:45am, except Thursday 25 May 2006.

We also take this opportunity to draw your attention to the preparatory meeting of the Indigenous Caucus on the weekend before the Permanent Forum, 13 – 14 May 2006, 9:00 a.m. - 4 p.m. As in previous years, the meeting will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Church Center for the United Nations at 777 UN Plaza (corner of East 44<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue), across the street from the main entrance to the United Nations.

One important note – please be advised pre-registrations will close on Monday 1 May 2006. You will need to be pre-registered to attend the Forum.

Warm regards,

Elsa, Sonia, Mirian, Mariana, Hui, Olivia, Ekaterina, Broddi, Aaja, Sushil

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

1. Dates, times and location of the Session

The Fifth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held from Monday, 15 May to Friday, 26 May 2006, in 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/pfii/>

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.

Delegates 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. To this fare may be added 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 \$13 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.

*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. To this fare may be added 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 \$10 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\$. To the fare may be added 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, \$13 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 7<sup>th</sup> avenue and 33<sup>rd</sup> 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, as supplied by the NGO community [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session\\_fifth.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_fifth.html).

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 Fifth Session, you must notify Olivia Jones at the Secretariat of the UNPFII, who will in turn, notify UN Security, at least two weeks before the meeting. Please email Ms. Jones at [jones6@un.org](mailto:jones6@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. Meeting secretariat

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

**The Secretariat for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
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Email: [IndigenousPermanentForum@un.org](mailto:IndigenousPermanentForum@un.org)  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/>**

## *Attachment*

### **Matters for the attention of the Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations in preparation of the Fifth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.**

1. **Major inputs to the fifth session are the following six “satellite meeting:**
  - The report of the annual session of the Inter-Agency Support group on Indigenous Issues, focusing on how to bring indigenous peoples' related policies to the regional and national level (E/C.19/2006/3 and E/C.19/2006/3/Add.1 on indicators).
  - The report of the Panama International Expert Workshop on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge organized following a recommendation of the Forum (E/C.19/2006/2)
  - The report of the International Expert Workshop on Indigenous Peoples, MDGs, Participation and Good Governance, which focuses on full and effective participation (E/C.19/2006/7)
  - The report of the Nuuk International Workshop on Visions of Partnerships with Indigenous Peoples (E/C.19/2006/4/Add.2)
  - The report of the Ottawa Expert Group meeting on Indigenous Peoples and Indicators of Well-being organized following a recommendation of the Forum; this is the first in a series of four regional meetings planned on this issue (it will appear as a conference room paper, in English only)
  - The report of the International Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Migration, organized by IOM in cooperation with our secretariat, following a recommendation of the Forum (this will also appear as a conference room paper in English only).
  
2. In addition, **papers were submitted to the Forum by its Rapporteurs on methods of work and implementation of recommendations** (E/C.19/2006/9 and E/C.19/2006/10), as well as the two NGO papers submitted by seven indigenous organizations (E/C.19/2006/5 and Addendum 1), papers by twenty-one UN system and other inter-governmental entities and four governments. The Note of the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum (E/C.19/2006/8) provides an overview of the year's work and also presents **the results of reviews done of 25 MDG country reports and of the CCAs/UNDAFs of 10 countries.**
  
4. Kindly check our **website** regularly where we post the **documents for the fifth session of the Forum in all official UN languages** as soon as they become available.
  
7. The **opening ceremony** will take place on the 15th of May at 11:15am in the General Assembly Hall and will be devoted to the launch of the Programme of Action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. The following high-level UN Officials are expected to participate in the opening ceremony: The President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Under- Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr Jose Antonio Ocampo, who is also the Coordinator of the Second Decade. At the opening ceremony, the traditional Chief of the Onondaga, Mr. Sid Hill, will address the meeting as well as a representative to be delegated by the Indigenous Caucus. Given the special nature of the opening ceremony this year, arrangements are being made for cultural indigenous presentations from various parts of the world.
  
8. As the programme of work indicates, at the second meeting, in the afternoon of the 15th of May, the Forum will formally **elect its Bureau for the session and adopt its programme of work. A high-level speaker** is expected to speak at the second meeting, namely the President of IFAD, Mr Lennart Bage.
  
9. **Other high-level speakers expected during the session** include the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples and permanent sovereignty over natural resources, the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women and others still to be confirmed.
  
10. We recall that a special three-hour meeting will be devoted to **Africa** during the session. The special speakers confirmed until now are the Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Mr Rezag-Bara, as well as a representative of ILO.

11. Some fifty **side events** are scheduled during the session as of now. They are organized by governments, agencies, indigenous organizations, NGOs, the Secretariat and others. Side events take place mostly at lunch time. The schedule of the side events will be posted on our website shortly.

12. Three **region-specific side-events, on North America, the Arctic and Russia, the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean** will be organized by the SPFI with the purpose of encouraging dialogue at the regional level on the major challenges and visions for action, including as regards the MDGs. Under the chairmanship of Forum Members, a dialogue will be held between agencies and indigenous organizations, as well as Regional Commissions and interested governments.

13. The opening of the annual **indigenous exhibit and a cultural event** and reception will take place on Tuesday, 17 May at 6:15 pm, with an impressive array of indigenous artists from around the world.