



December 2012

127th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Meeting on Extractive Industries

Joint UNDP-RIPP - PRO 169 National Workshop on Indigenous Peoples Issues in Indonesia

International Expert Meeting on Indigenous Persons with Disabilities

Annual Meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples

Forum on Business and Human Rights

18th Commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Resolution Adopted on the Organization of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (2014)

Third Committee of the UN General Assembly Adopts Resolution on “Rights of indigenous peoples”

Third Committee of the UN General Assembly Adopts Resolution on “Rights of the child”, Emphasizing the Rights of Indigenous Children

Post-2015 and Indigenous Peoples: E-discussion

The Message Stick¹ highlights the activities undertaken by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) as well as its Secretariat. It is produced by SPFII staff.

127th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



Grand Chief Edward John addressing the 127th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Photo Credits: Denis Drever/Neil Valois Photography

Grand Chief Edward John, Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, participated in the 127th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Quebec City, Canada, from 22 to 26 October 2012.

This event brought together hundreds of parliamentarians from around the world to discuss major political topics. On the topic of political participation and representation of indigenous peoples, Grand Chief Edward John emphasized that “indigenous peoples must have the opportunity for political participation and involvement in decision-

¹ A Message Stick is a traditional Australian Aboriginal method of correspondence whereby runners would deliver messages carved in symbols on a piece of wood to inform other indigenous peoples of upcoming events.



making processes in all branches of government and institutions.” Moreover, he stressed that “Indigenous peoples’ identity, existence, and participation in matters related to governance should be of central concern to States, representative democracies, and elected representatives. Parliamentarians directly or indirectly represent indigenous peoples on matters of law and decision-making.”

Indigenous representation and input should be valued, encouraged and actively form part of the collective decision-making process in parliaments. Indigenous peoples’ own representative institutions should also be consulted and their views incorporated into all decisions taken.

- Grand Chief Edward John, Chairperson of UNPFII

Meeting on Extractive Industries

On 8 November 2012, Ms. Mirna Cunningham, Member of the Permanent Forum, attended a meeting in Panama on extractive industries in Central America. The meeting was organized by the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum.

The themes that were discussed included: expansion of extractive industries in Central America, indigenous peoples and extractive industries, sustainable development and conflict prevention and the international community.

Joint UNDP-RIPP - PRO 169 National Workshop on Indigenous Peoples Issues in Indonesia

Permanent Forum Member, Mr. Devasish Roy, attended a workshop on indigenous peoples’ issues in Indonesia on 19 and 20 November 2012.

The aim of the workshop was to provide input to an ongoing process of drafting a

national law on indigenous peoples (Masyarakat Adat) as well as the post 2015 development agenda. It provided an opportunity for dialogue and knowledge-sharing among relevant stakeholders on existing initiatives, challenges, lessons learned, opportunities, and reform priorities in protecting the rights of indigenous peoples in Indonesia. There was also discussion on the framework of the Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) with particular attention to safeguards for forest-dependent populations.

Mr. Devasish Roy was a moderator and also spoke on issues relating to international legal instruments and mechanisms on indigenous peoples and on regional experiences and knowledge-exchange.

The event was organized by the International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Programme to Promote ILO Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (PRO 169) and UNDP’s Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples’ Rights and Development (RIPP).

International Expert Meeting on Indigenous Persons with Disabilities

On 20 and 21 November 2012, Ms. Mirna Cunningham, Member of the Permanent Forum, participated at an International Expert Meeting on Indigenous Persons with Disabilities to elaborate on a report that Dr. Cunningham and fellow Member Mr. Kanyinke Sena will present to the Permanent Forum at its Twelfth Session in May 2013. The report will pay special attention to the challenges faced by indigenous persons with disabilities in enjoying their human rights and in being included in development processes. The report explores how the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Declaration on the Rights of



Indigenous Peoples provide a framework for the protection of the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities.

The 2013 High-level Meeting on Disability and Development and the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples provide a unique opportunity to ensure an increased attention to the rights of IPWD in the post-MDGs process, and for that reason it is imperative that indigenous persons with disabilities and their organizations actively participate in these meetings”

- Ms. Mirna Cunningham, Member of UNPFII

The meeting, which was attended by a number of indigenous peoples with disabilities as well as UN staff and disability experts, also discussed how to increase visibility of indigenous peoples with disabilities at the international level as a way of supporting work at the national level. The meeting was organized by the International Disability Alliance and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Annual Meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples

The Chair of the Permanent Forum, Chief Edward John, attended the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues (28 – 30 November 2012). The meeting was hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In his opening speech, the Chair congratulated the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization at the tenth meeting of the

Conference of the Parties on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

The Chairperson also stated that the Permanent Forum Members consider the work of the IASG as an important avenue for implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as facilitating the need to bring indigenous peoples and UN agencies together in a working partnership. He also thanked the members of the IASG for their ongoing engagement in the Sessions of the Permanent Forum, including participation in the in-depth dialogues with the Permanent Forum during its Session.

Forum on Business and Human Rights



From 3 to 5 December 2012, Ms. Megan Davis, Member of the Permanent Forum, attended a Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland.

Designed to promote the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the meeting served as a key venue for stakeholders from all regions to engage in a dialogue on business and human rights, and to strengthen engagement towards its effective and comprehensive implementation.

The Forum on Business and Human Rights was established by Human Rights Council



resolution 17/4. It is under the guidance of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, and was established to discuss trends and challenges in the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework (A/HRC/17/31) and to promote dialogue and cooperation on issues linked to business and human rights.

More information is available at www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/ForumonBusinessandHR2012.aspx.

18th Commemoration of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples



Photo Credits: Xaisongkham Indouangchanthy

The celebration of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples 2012 included an event at UN Headquarters in New York. The gathering shed light on indigenous media including television, radio, film and social media and their role in helping to preserve indigenous cultures, challenge stereotypes and influence the social and political agenda.

The 18th commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was

held on 9 August 2012 and organized by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the UN Department of Public Information and the NGO Committee on the Decade of the World’s Indigenous Peoples.

“From community radio and television to feature films and documentaries, from video art and newspapers to the Internet and social media, indigenous peoples are using these powerful tools to challenge mainstream narratives, bring human rights violations to international attention and forge global solidarity,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his message for the Day. He went on to say indigenous peoples “...are also developing their own media to reflect indigenous values and fight against myths and misconceptions.”

More information, including links to the webcast and statements delivered, is available at <http://social.un.org/index/IndigenousPeoples/InternationalDay/2012.aspx>.

Resolution Adopted on the Organization of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (2014)

The 66th Session of the UN General Assembly adopted Draft Resolution [A/RES/66/296](http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/12/1212107.html) on the Organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the 69th Session of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

In the Resolution the General Assembly decided that the World Conference would be held on 22 and 23 September 2014 in New York at UN Headquarters. The Resolution deals with organizational matters, such as round-tables and panel discussions in addition to the participation of indigenous peoples and their representatives. The



Resolution also states that the World Conference should result in a concise, action-oriented outcome document.

The full text of the Resolution is available at www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/66/296.

Third Committee of the UN General Assembly Adopts Resolution on “Rights of indigenous peoples”

At its 67th Session under agenda item 66(a), the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted by consensus Resolution A/C.3/67/L.24/Rev.1 on the “Rights of indigenous peoples” (26 November 2012). In the Resolution, the UN General Assembly reaffirms its previous commitments concerning the rights of indigenous peoples and the forthcoming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (2014), including the participation of indigenous peoples representatives:

“*Decides* to continue, at its sixty-ninth session, its consideration of the ways and means of promoting the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples at meetings of relevant United Nations bodies and other relevant United Nations meetings and processes on issues affecting indigenous peoples, on the basis of the rules of procedure of such bodies and existing United Nations procedural rules and regulations, taking into account the report of the Secretary-General, (...) [A/HRC/21/24] existing practices for the accreditation of representatives of indigenous peoples at the United Nations and the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”.

The full text of the Resolution is available at www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.3/67/L.24/Rev.1.

Third Committee of the UN General Assembly Adopts Resolution on “Rights of the child” Emphasizing the Rights of Indigenous Children

As part of its 67th Session, the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted (orally revised) Resolution A/C.3/67/L.23/Rev.1 on the “Rights of the Child. The Resolution includes a chapter and a comprehensive overview on the rights of indigenous children.

The full text of the Resolution is available at www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.3/67/L.23/Rev.1.

Post-2015 and Indigenous Peoples: E-discussion

“Indigenous people were absent from the Millennium Declaration and have remained so throughout the Millennium Development Goals processes: according to the UN System Task Team report on the post-2015 agenda, the MDGs have not reached the poorest and most marginalized people.”



Co-moderated by UNICEF and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, this e-discussion on Inequalities and Indigenous Peoples in the Post-2015 Development Agenda began on 27 November 2012 and ran for three weeks. It is the sixth in a series of discussions aimed at galvanizing dialogue and discussion in framing the post-2015 agenda.

The recommendations emerging from the e-discussions will be part of a synthesis report that will be presented to a high-level meeting in Denmark in February 2013 on inequalities.



The report will also be provided to the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda appointed by the UN Secretary-General.

More information is available at www.worldwewant2015.org/inequalities.

Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum was established by the General Assembly in 2002.

It is based at UN Headquarters in New York in the Division for Social Policy and Development of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DSPD/DESA).

The Secretariat is now located in the Secretariat Building, Room S-2954

SPFII Staff:

Ms. Nilla Bernardi
Mr. Joshua Del Duca
Ms. Nataliia Grushevska
Mr. Broddi Sigurðarson
Ms. Bertha Bravo
Ms. Mirian Masaquiza
Mr. Arturo Requesens
Mr. Martin Wolf Andersen
Ms. Sonia Smallacombe
Ms. Chandra Roy-Henriksen

Web: www.un.org/indigenous

Email: indigenous_un@un.org

