

December 2014



This edition contains a summary of activities carried out by the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from October through December 2014.

End of Year Message from the Chair of the Permanent Forum, Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough

Activities related to indigenous peoples during the 69th session of the General Assembly

The annual meeting of the UN Interagency Support Group on Indigenous Issues

Activities of members of the Permanent Forum

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.



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.



End of Year Message from the Chair of the Permanent Forum

I am writing this holiday message after a very full and dynamic year. Though each Expert Member of the Forum has done extraordinary work within their own home communities and at the national or domestic level, much has also happened over the past 12 months at the international level.

The most significant event of 2014 was the High Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. After four years of planning, the September 2014 gathering at United Nations headquarters in New York attracted thousands of Indigenous peoples' representatives and supporters, who took part in two days of deliberations alongside leaders and delegates from UN Member States.

Following an inspirational opening ceremony, the Outcome Document, Resolution A/Res/69/2, was



passed by acclamation. This UN General Assembly resolution reflects a wide array of solemn commitments by all UN member states. The significant reaffirmation of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter as well as their reaffirmation of support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as formal commitments, are crucial to the future of Indigenous peoples, nations and communities.

Through these few words, it is safe to say that the general international law and customary international law principles and norms are essential and constant parameters for all future dialogue, negotiation and operationalization of the individual and collective human rights of Indigenous peoples. Furthermore, the content of the right of Indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent, and the continuing importance of Indigenous peoples' rights to their lands, territories and resources, which were all referenced in the Outcome Document, remain urgent and necessary features for the survival and sustainability of Indigenous peoples, nations and communities.

Among the most important priorities for Indigenous peoples in the Outcome Document are the explicit member state commitments to take action at the national level to “acknowledge, advance and adjudicate the rights of Indigenous peoples pertaining to lands, territories and resources” (para. 21) as well as to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples in relation to projects affecting Indigenous “lands or territories and other resources” (para. 20). Furthermore, the Outcome Document makes specific reference to UN member state commitments “to prevent abuses of the rights of Indigenous peoples” (para. 24) in relation to the impact of development, extractive industries and “transnational corporations and other business enterprises” (para 23).

In addition, the UN member state commitments “to achieve the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” through specific action, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, “to develop and implement national action plans, strategies or other measures” are highly significant. Indigenous

peoples are acutely aware of the “implementation gap” and these UN member state commitments to undertake concrete action at the national and domestic level are crucial to closing this gap. And, the post-2015 development agenda, Indigenous elders, women's rights, health, the rights of persons with disabilities, and inclusion of youth and children are all clearly important areas of concern for Indigenous peoples and were fortunately addressed by the Outcome Document.

Though this achievement should be celebrated by all, I have observed an inconsistency between member state policy at the international level and their actions and policy at the national or domestic level. Fortunately, the Permanent Forum and Indigenous peoples generally enjoy support from UN member states at the international level. However, too often, little support or prioritization to implement Indigenous human rights norms at the national and domestic level is shown. And, in some extreme cases, we have member state support in key areas internationally, while at home, in these same states, Indigenous peoples are being forcibly removed from their lands and their very survival and security threatened both individually and collectively.

As Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, I have felt the enormous challenges facing Indigenous peoples. There is no time or room for complacency. Collectively, we must work even harder to make a difference on the ground for Indigenous peoples. These priorities and the corresponding UN member state commitments affirmed by the Outcome Document are now more urgent than ever and the solemnity with which these commitments were made must prompt immediate action at the domestic and national level. We need to see the real “outcomes” of the Outcome Document – we need to see the action-oriented work that UN member states iterated and reiterated in the drafting process of this General Assembly resolution.

I make this call to action because every Indigenous person that I have met in every community and every meeting that I've been engaged in over the past year, I have only heard of the enormous and horrific problems that they



face, ranging from assassinations and killings to displacement and eviction from their lands, territories and resources to criminalization for attempts to defend their basic human rights to lack of access to education, health and other social services to extreme poverty and food insecurity to soaring suicide rates and continuing discrimination and marginalization to the loss of Indigenous languages.

Not once have I met an Indigenous person that stated that everything is going well for them and their community. And, though Indigenous peoples are receiving more attention than ever in the media, through human rights groups and through Indigenous peoples' own networks, at the same time, injustices are perpetrated against Indigenous peoples on a daily basis.

The Outcome Document and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are the framework for the genuine implementation of our rights at the national and domestic level and more important, in the actual homelands of Indigenous peoples. The work before us and in particular for UN member states, must be done at home, in member state capitols and within Indigenous homelands – not in the halls of the UN in New York, Geneva, Nairobi or elsewhere. I want UN member states to breathe life into the strong and solemn commitments that they made in the Outcome Document. I do not want member states to feel that the World Conference was the end of an international process – it is only the beginning of sorely needed domestic processes and dialogue. And, such processes and dialogue with Indigenous peoples domestically are URGENT.

In addition to this message and call to action, I want to share a few words about the Thirteenth Session of the Forum in May 2014 and my engagements as the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum in recent months.

The two-week session was attended by over 1200 participants, with a large number of representatives of Member States, including high-level officials, UN agencies, funds and programmes, Indigenous peoples' delegates and NGOs. There were also a significant number of indigenous women and youth, and Indigenous

persons with disabilities.

The theme of “principles of good governance consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People” gave voice to Indigenous legal traditions that emulate and represent good governance. There were also examples of member state and Indigenous cooperation to develop governance structures that improve conditions within indigenous communities and where indigenous peoples' direct involvement in every stage of project design were highlighted. Such instances helped to emphasize the importance of Indigenous participation in decision-making and the design of meaningful and effective governance approaches.

My interest in the use of this theme was to highlight the relevant of transparency; responsiveness; consensus oriented; equity and inclusiveness; effectiveness and efficiency; accountability; participation; consultation and consent; human rights; and the rule of law in order to influence both the high level plenary meeting and the ongoing dialogue concerning the Sustainable Development Goals. For Indigenous peoples, far too often, the principles of good governance, which are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, are rarely practiced by UN member states. Again, my desire was to emphasize these important dynamics necessary for advancing Indigenous peoples' human rights at the national and domestic level, where good governance should be practiced as a norm and not merely an ideal.

Under the agenda item of Human Rights, the Permanent Forum congratulated Professor James Anaya on the successful conclusion of his service as Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. We also welcomed the appointment of Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz as the new Special Rapporteur and we look forward to working closely with her. We had the honor of the presence and words of Mr. Wilton Littlechild on behalf of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Francisco Cali, President of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Ms. Soyata Maiga, on behalf of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; Mr. Emilio Alvarez, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human



Rights; and Mr. Kenneth Deer on behalf of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples. It was important for the Permanent Forum to publicly congratulate Mr. Cali and acknowledge his appointment as the first Indigenous expert to be appointed as President of a United Nations treaty body.

Our half-day discussion on Asia yielded a range of recommendations to Asian States as well as to the United Nations system and Indigenous peoples' organizations from the region. The Forum has expressed concern that most of those recommendations are yet to be implemented. At the same time, some positive developments concerning Asian Indigenous peoples must be noted. In particular, the legal recognition of the Ainu as the indigenous people of Japan; the decision of the Constitutional Court of Indonesia in recognizing the customary rights of Indigenous peoples with regard to forests; and the increased engagement and partnerships of national human rights institutions and agencies of the United Nations system with indigenous organizations and institutions were all notable outcomes of this half day focus.

However, the Permanent Forum and its members remain concerned about the increasing adverse impacts of climate change, the large hydroelectric dams, nuclear power plants, biofuel plantations, windmills and geothermal plants, which are all adversely impacting Asian Indigenous peoples' territories and being pursued without the free, prior and informed consent or the full and effective participation of Indigenous peoples.

For 2015, among many other objectives, we are preparing for our Fourteenth Session (April 20 - May 1); a forthcoming Expert Group Meeting on a voluntary optional protocol to the UN Declaration (January 27-29); an inter-sessional meeting in Salekhard, Russia to focus upon reform of our methods of work to strengthen the role of the Permanent Forum within the UN system (February 25-28); and ensuring that the human rights and concerns of Indigenous peoples are explicitly reflected in the 2015 sustainable development goals.

In conclusion, I want to stress the importance of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous

Peoples to this future work. As an international human rights instrument, the UN Declaration forms the framework for all of the Permanent Forum's work – it firmly guides our activities and our objectives within the UN system and beyond. As noted, we cannot afford to divert from our continued effort to address the implementation gap in regard to all of the inter-related, inter-dependent, indivisible and inter-connected provisions of this pivotal human rights instrument. Through the UN Declaration and our collective work, we must ensure that there is a real difference being made on the ground for Indigenous peoples.

In this spirit, I would like call upon UN member states and UN agencies to collaborate with Indigenous peoples and to re-affirm their commitments towards genuinely attaining the exercise and enjoyment of human rights by Indigenous peoples in the coming year and beyond. As individuals, when you see violations, tragedy or violence being committed toward Indigenous peoples, don't remain complacent, don't remain silent, take action. And, as member state representatives, please recall your solemn commitments to promote and encourage respect for the human rights of Indigenous peoples.

I wish each of you the best for 2015. Thank you for your support over the past year. May our ancestors guide us well into the coming New Year.

Dalee Sambo Dorough
December 2014

69th Session of the UN General Assembly

Indigenous Peoples

The UN General Assembly allocates to the Third Committee agenda items relating to a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people all over the world, including issues related to indigenous peoples. On Monday 20 October 2014, the Third Committee of the General Assembly considered item 65, "Rights of Indigenous Peoples". Prior to the general debate, the Third Committee heard from three speakers:



Mr. Thomas Gass, the Assistant Secretary General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, presented the statement of Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Coordinator of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Mr. Gass presented the final report of the Secretary-General on the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second Decade and its impact on the Millennium Development Goals (A/69/27).

Mr. Gass summarized several of the recommendations made in the Secretary-General's report, including with respect to strengthening indigenous peoples own forms of governance; establishing a UN system-wide action plan; and establishing a third decade on the world's indigenous peoples. Mr. Gass thanked and referred to the Member States that made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues. Finally, he highlighted the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, which was carried out in close cooperation with indigenous peoples, and provided an overview of the requests made by the outcome document to the Secretary-General, including with respect to the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the final report on the Millennium Development Goals and the development of a UN system wide action plan on indigenous peoples.

Ms. Maarit Kohonen Sheriff, Deputy Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York, delivered a statement on behalf of Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. She reported on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and updated on its activities, including on the expansion of the mandate of the fund to support the participation of indigenous peoples in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

Ms. Victoria Tauli Corpuz, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, presented her first report to the UN General Assembly. In her presentation, the Special Rapporteur noted that her report focuses on the issue of development for indigenous peoples, as well as more broadly on issues pertaining to the

economic, social and cultural rights of indigenous peoples. The Special Rapporteur emphasized that these issues should be looked at in light of the cross cutting principles of non-discrimination and self-determination. Ms. Talui Corpuz also noted that her report provides an overview of some obstacles to the progressive achievement of economic, social and cultural rights for indigenous peoples, and recommendations for addressing these concerns in the context of policies and strategies to reach global sustainable goals within the post-2015 development framework.

In the discussion that followed, a number of Member States highlighted the importance of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Numerous Member States also welcomed the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and noted the importance of the adoption and implementation of the Outcome Document.

Resolution on Indigenous Peoples

On 26 November 2014, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution on indigenous peoples (A/C.3/69/L.27) by consensus. Co-sponsors of the resolution were Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Venezuela, Ukraine, Uruguay, and the United States of America. For more details, please see <http://undesadspd.org/IndigenousPeoples/tabid/70/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/203/UN-General-Assembly-Third-Committee-approves-resolution-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples-by-consensus.aspx>

Among other provisions, the resolution contains several paragraphs relevant to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, including paragraph 2, which “Welcomes the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and urges Governments and the United Nations system, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples through their representatives and



institutions, to implement, when necessary, appropriate measures, concrete policies, plans, programmes, projects and other measures to realize the commitments made in the outcome document”. It also decided to include a sub-agenda item on follow up to the World Conference outcome document under the agenda item on indigenous peoples at the 70th session of the General Assembly.

The Third Committee decided to convene “a high-level event to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”, which is to be held during the 71st session of the General Assembly in 2017. That event is to “take stock of the achievements of the preceding ten years and assess the remaining challenges for the rights of indigenous peoples, and also consider the further follow-up to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the consideration of a third International Decade”. The Third Committee also decided to continue celebrating International Day of Indigenous Peoples each year on 9 August.

Also of note were the provisions calling on States to “mainstream the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples into the development agenda” as well as to “give due consideration to” the rights of indigenous peoples in the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

Annual Meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group

The annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues was held from 2-3 December 2014 at OHCHR, Geneva. It was attended by UN agency focal points for indigenous peoples’ issues, as well as the Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Dalee Sambo Dorough and Joan Carling, PFII member and focal point for the IASG. 40 participants from the eighteen UN entities participated in the meeting, including five colleagues who joined via video-conferencing.

The meeting was opened by the host, OHCHR followed by statements from the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the outgoing chair (UNICEF) and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The meeting was addressed through a video message by Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under Secretary General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and recently appointed Senior Official of the United Nations system responsible for coordinating follow up action for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. Mr. Wu requested the assistance of the IASG in the development of a system-wide-action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The appointment of the high-level official and the action plan were called for in the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

The IASG agreed to assist Mr. Wu in developing the system-wide action plan (SWAP) and decided to establish a working group that would carry out this work. This working group shall be informal, small in size, and free to any member of IASG to join/attend. The first items on the agenda of the working group are to develop its own terms of reference and to prepare a realistic timeline for the development of the SWAP.

The meeting also discussed the development of and operationalization of indicators within the context of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Presentations were made by SCBD, IFAD, OHCHR, ILO and Ms. Joan Carling. It was decided to establish an IASG working group on indicators on indigenous peoples, to be led by SCBD. The meeting also included discussions on enhancing the participation and cooperation with National Human Rights Institutions as well as opportunities for inter-agency collaborations for 2015.



Activities of Members of the Permanent Forum

The following highlights some of the main activities carried out by Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues during October - December 2014.

October

On 2 and 3 October 2014, Permanent Forum Member Valmaine Toki gave a presentation to the Forum on Traditional Knowledge at the University of Technology, in Sydney Australia.

On 3 October 2014, Permanent Forum Member Ms. Maria Eugenia Choque Quispe participated in a dialogue on the *First World Conference on Indigenous Peoples: the Outcome Document of the High Level Meeting*, in La Paz, Bolivia. The dialogue had the objective of providing information about the Outcome Document of the World Conference. The dialogue was carried out with the support of the Indigenous Peoples Unit of the Foreign Ministry and UNDP Bolivia and Sweden.

From 5 to 7 October 2014, Ms. Valmaine Toki gave a presentation on *Traditional Knowledge, the World Intellectual Property Organization and Indigenous Legal Systems* to the Conference on Indigenous Sustainability: Implications for the Future of Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations, in Arizona, United States. The conference was supported by Arizona State University.

From 6 to 17 October 2014, Permanent Forum Member Ms. Maria Eugenia Choque Quispe attended the *Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity*, in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea. The conference discussed the Strategic Biodiversity Plan 2011-2020 and the Aichi Goals, processes and implementation. Ms. Choque Quispe participated in the high level meeting on the evaluation of world resources for the implementation of the plan and provided information on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of indigenous peoples, within the framework of collective rights. During this meeting, Ms. Choque Quispe also attended the *First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties*

that acts as a Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. The meeting touched upon various themes including the status of ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.



Photo by Polina Shulbaea

On 13 October 2014, the Chair of the Permanent Forum, Professor Dalee Sambo Dorough gave a Lecture to the Rural Development course at the University of Alaska, Alaska, United States.

From 23 to 25 October 2014, Ms. Sambo Dorough attended the annual convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, during which she held meetings with various members of United States government agencies dealing with indigenous peoples.

On 28 and 29 October 2014, Permanent Forum Member Ms. Maria Eugenia Choque Quispe attended the *Regional Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change based on Eco Systems and Traditional Knowledge in Latin America and the Caribbean* in Lima, Peru. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the Programme for Adaptation based on Mountain Ecosystems. Ms. Choque Quispe made a presentation on the role of the indigenous women in relation to ecosystems and traditional knowledge, and their contribution to sustainable management of their lands and resources. The importance of the indigenous self-government and local initiatives

that support traditional knowledge was also emphasized.

November

From 2 to 4 November 2014, the Chair of the Permanent Forum, Professor Dalee Sambo Dorough, participated in a dialogue with scholars at the Indigenous Law Programme at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada.

From 3 to 7 November 2014, Permanent Forum Member Joseph Mutangah attended the thirteenth UN-REDD Programme Policy Board Meeting, in Arusha, Tanzania. Mr. Mutangah participated on behalf of the Chair of the Permanent Forum, Dalee Sambo Dorough, who represents the UN Permanent Forum on the board of UN-REDD. At the conclusion of the meeting, the board made the following recommendation with respect to indigenous peoples: “The Policy Board requested the Secretariat to provide guidance to countries on opportunities to include relevant civil society and/or indigenous peoples organization(s) in the development of Targeted Support proposals when appropriate and in a voluntary manner, primarily on issues of participation, consultation, safeguards, land tenure and benefit sharing, and requests the Secretariat to report on the number of approved Targeted Support with inclusion of relevant civil society and indigenous organizations”.



From 4 to 6 November 2014, Permanent Forum Members Ms. Maria Eugenia Choque Quispe, Gervais Nzoa and Álvaro Pop participated in an *International Seminar on Cultural Diversity*,

Food Systems and Traditional Life Strategies, in Cusco, Peru. The meeting was co-organized by the Government of Peru, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the International Fund on Agriculture Development. The meeting followed a recommendation made during the 12th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which stated: “The Permanent Forum recommends that FAO, in 2014, the International Year of Family Farming, organize and host an expert seminar on culture, food sovereignty and traditional livelihoods to feed into the post-2015 process”. The meeting had the objective of giving visibility to the food systems in various contexts and ecosystems, as well as the systems that have sustained indigenous peoples throughout history.



From 4 to 6 November 2014, Permanent Forum Member Devasish Roy participated in the *Yangon Workshop on Human Rights and Agribusiness in Southeast Asia*, held in Yangon, Myanmar. The workshop was hosted by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, and supported by the Forest Peoples Programme, RECOFT (The Center for People and Forests) and the Rights & Resources Initiative. Mr. Roy made a presentation on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The Yangon workshop builds upon previous initiatives involving the same organizers and/or allied institutions and organizations, in alliance with indigenous peoples organizations.



From 6 to 8 November 2014, the Chair of the Permanent Forum, Professor Dalee Sambo Dorrough, made a presentation at the symposium on The Global Indigenous Peoples' Movement, supported by the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States.

From 10 to 12 November 2014, Permanent Forum Member Kara-kys Arakchaa, participated at the World Conference of UNESCO on "Education for Sustainable Development". Ms. Arakchaa's presentation focused on The Preservation of Traditional Knowledge about Natural Medicinal Waters in the Context of Sustainable Development. During the presentation, she provided examples of water of the Tuvan, Buryats and Mongols indigenous people in South Siberia and the Central Asia region.



On 13 and 14 November 2014, Permanent Forum Member Mr. Joseph Mutangah participated in a workshop to create awareness on the rights of the indigenous peoples in Kenya (who are constitutionally referred to as marginalized and minority ethnic communities). The overall objective was to bring together the local communities from marginalized and minority areas, civil society and human rights groups, together with officials from relevant government ministries/departments to exchange information on the future of the indigenous communities and disadvantaged community groups, including the disabled people. The workshop was co-organized with the National Gender and Equality Commission, in collaboration with the UN Development Programme, the Kenya National

Commission and Human Rights. The workshop concluded with a list of recommendations on the way forward.

On 13, 14 and 15 November 2014, Ms. Maria Eugenia Choque Quispe attended a Workshop to Prepare for the Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on Traditional Knowledge, in the Amarete ayllu (traditional territory) of the Kallawayaya nation, in Bolivia. Indigenous leaders, as well as other representatives from the community attended the meeting. The workshop had the objective of sharing traditional knowledge with respect to land and resource management and traditional medicines. The group is known as 'kallawayaya' for their knowledge of traditional medicine. The workshop focused on the role of women in the conservation, preservation, and innovation of traditional knowledge.



On 21 November 2014, Mr. Gervais Nzoa participated in the *Regional Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples in the Africa Region*, in Johannesburg, South Africa, hosted by the World Bank, in the context of the World Bank's review and updating of its environmental and social safeguard policies. This was the second regional dialogue in Africa, which focused on the proposed Environmental and Social Standard for Indigenous Peoples (ESS 7) as well as other proposed safeguards. Mr. Nzoa provided several observations and recommendations to the World Bank during his presentation.

On 24 and 25 November 2014, Mr. Devasish Roy attended the *Asia Regional Workshop on the International Fund for Agricultural Development*



(IFAD), in Jakarta, Indonesia, which was co-organized by Tebtebba Foundation and AMAN.

On 26 and 27 November 2014, Ms. Valmaine Toki participated in the Pacific Regional Meeting, in Nadi, Fiji, supported by Tebtebba. The workshops were part of a series of IFAD's regional preparatory workshops on *Indigenous Food Systems and Sustainable Livelihoods*. The major aims of the workshops were to: (a) review the recommendations of the First Global Meeting of the *Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD*, held in February 2013; (b) discuss advances, challenges and opportunities related to the above; and (c) decide upon regional participation at the second global meeting of the *Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD* to be held in Rome on 12-13 February 2015.

On 27 and 28 November 2014, Chair Dalee Sambo Dorough, and Permanent Forum Members Ms. Joan Carling, Ms. Maria Eugenia Choque Quispe and Mr. Devasish Roy participated in the International Seminar on *Enabling rights-based development for indigenous and tribal peoples – learning from 25 years' experience of ILO Convention No. 169* held at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The purpose of the meeting was to take stock of the advances on the rights of indigenous peoples brought by Convention No. 169, as well as to exchange information about ongoing challenges, lessons learned, and actions for the more effective implementation of the Convention. Ms. Sambo Dorough gave a presentation entitled "Follow-up of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document: the role of the UN mechanisms in promoting Convention No. 169 and UNDRIP". The meeting was organized by the International Labour Organization, the Government of Denmark, the Government of Mexico, the International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and the University of Lucerne.

On 28 November 2014, the Chair of the Permanent Forum, Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough, met with members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting was supported by the University of Luzern.

December

On 1 December 2014, Permanent Forum Chair, Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough participated in a side event at the United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights, entitled: "Indigenous Peoples, access to justice and reparation within the context of business operations". The side event was supported by the International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA). Ms. Joan Carling also participated at the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights.

From 1 to 3 December 2014, Permanent Forum Member Ms. Valmaine Toki gave a presentation to the *International Austronesian Conference on Good Governance and Indigenous Development*, in Taipei, Taiwan, supported by the Indigenous Peoples Council, Taiwan.

On 3 December 2014, the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough, together with the Chief of the Secretariat, Ms. Chandra Roy-Henriksen, met with the President of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Mr. Francisco Cali Tzay, and members of the secretariat of the human rights treaty bodies, in Geneva, Switzerland to discuss collaboration between the PFII and the treaty bodies.

From 3 to 5 December 2015, Permanent Forum Member Joan Carling participated in the Senior Expert Meeting on Integrated Measures for Monitoring, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme, in Gland, Switzerland. The objective of the meeting was to initiate discussions and exchange information and knowledge on specific themes, which included community land rights; chemicals and waste; air quality; oceans and water quality; and biodiversity), and to identify cross-cutting issues.

From 5 to 9 December 2014, Ms. Valmaine Toki participated in a seminar at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, at the University of Oslo, Norway. On 9 December, she gave a presentation on *International Human Rights Organs and UN procedures for Indigenous Peoples: Human Rights and Diversity*. The Norwegian Centre for



Human Rights thematic working group on human rights and diversity supported the seminar.

From 8 to 12 December 2014, Ms. Maria Eugenia Choque Quispe attended the Workshop on Preparation of the Report on Traditional Knowledge of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in Managua, Nicaragua.

On 10 December 2014, Permanent Forum Member Oliver Loode moderated a panel discussion on “Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples” at the annual human rights conference in Tallinn, Estonia. Panelists included: Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorrough (Chair of Permanent Forum); Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga (member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights); Mr. Mustafa Dzhemilev (Advisor to President of Ukraine on Crimean Tatar Issues); Ms. Valentina Sovkina (President of Kola Sami Parliament); and Mr. Dmitry Harakka-Zaitsev (Association of Izhorian people ‘Shoikula’).

From 17 to 19 December 2014, Permanent Forum Members Ms. Maria Eugenia Choque Quispe and Mr. Álvaro Pop participated in a preparatory workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean on *Indigenous Peoples food systems and sustainable ways of life*, in Paraguay. IFAD FIMI, DADPI, and the Paraguayan Indigenous Institute organized the meeting. Topics of discussion included indigenous food systems, traditional farming methods, and the development of indicators related to food systems. The meeting ended with the drafting of recommendations for the World Food Forum in February 2015 in Rome, Italy.

Throughout October, November and December, Permanent Forum Gervais Nzoa met with government representatives, UN agencies and other regarding the situation of the indigenous people in Cameroon.

Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum was established by the UN 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 located in the UN Secretariat Building, Room S-2954

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