

October 2014

The Message Stick highlights the activities undertaken by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) as well as its Secretariat. A Message Stick is a traditional Australian Aboriginal method of correspondence in which runners would deliver messages carved in symbols on a piece of wood.

This newsletter covers activities carried out from June to September 2014. The following events are covered in this newsletter:

- The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples
- International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- Adoption by ECOSOC of the Permanent Forums' Report
- The 7th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Activities of the Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (22 and 23 September 2014)

The High-Level meeting of the General Assembly: the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, took place on 22 and 23 September 2014.



UN Photo/Loey Felipe

The World Conference opened with statements from the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Sam Kutesa; Secretary General of the UN, Mr. Ban Ki Moon; the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Mr. Evo Morales Ayma; the President of the Republic of Finland, Mr. Sauli Niinisto; the President of the Republic of Congo, Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso; the President of the Republic of Estonia, Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilyes; the President of Mexico, Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto; Chief of the Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs, Chief Oren Lyon; President of the Sami Parliament of Norway, Ms. Aili Keskitalo; Senator of the Republic of Colombia, Mr. Luis Evelis; UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al-Husseini; and Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorrough. Nobel Peace Laureate Ms. Rigoberta Menchu Tum also addressed the conference as a special guest speaker.





UN Photo/Cia Pak

Following the opening remarks, the *Outcome document of the High-level meeting of the General Assembly known as The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples* was adopted by consensus. The Outcome Document contains a number of commitments by States with respect to the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples and reaffirmation of indigenous peoples' substantive rights. It is available here:

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/L.1

During the World Conference, three roundtables and one panel discussion were held. On 22 September, two roundtables were held simultaneously: Roundtable 1 focused on UN system action for the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Roundtable 2 focused on Implementing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the national and local level. On 23 September, Roundtable 3 and the panel discussion were held simultaneously: Roundtable 3 focused on Indigenous Peoples' Lands, Territories and Natural Resources, and the panel discussion focused on Indigenous Priorities for the post-2015 development agenda. UNPFII member, Ms. Joan Carling co-chaired Roundtable 3.

Participation at the roundtable and panel discussions included Member States,

indigenous peoples, observers and representative of entities of the UN system, civil society organizations and national human rights institutions.



UN Photo/Loey Felipe

Webcasts and written summaries of the roundtable and panel discussions are available at:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/69/meetings/indigenous/programme.shtml>

There were over 30 side events organized during the WCIP, providing the opportunity for sharing of information and exchanging good practices and experiences. The side events covered a range of topics affecting indigenous peoples including climate change; development; business and human rights; indigenous health; lands, territories and resources; participation in parliaments; indigenous justice systems, indigenous women, and other issues. The side events were organized by indigenous peoples' organizations, Member States, NGOs, and UN entities.

Twelve members of the UNPFII attended the World Conference, representing all seven regions. The following members attended: Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough, Chairperson; Ms. Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine; Ms. Kara-Kys Arakchaa; Ms. Joan Carling; Ms. Maria Eugenia Choque Quispe; Ms. Megan Davis; Mr. Edward John; Ms. Aisa Mukabenova; Mr. Gervais Nzoa; Mr. Alvaro Esteban Pop;



Mr. Raja Devasish Roy and Ms. Valmaine Toki. The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Ms. Victoria Tauli Corpuz, the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Mr. Albert Deterville, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Mr. Francisco Cali Tzay, and the Chair of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights, Mr. Pavel Sulyandsiga, also attended.



UN Photo/Mark Garten

The World Conference was attended by around 1600 people, including representatives of indigenous peoples from across the world, UN Member States, non-governmental organizations, and UN agencies, programmes and funds, among others.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August 2014)

A special commemoration of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was held on 8 August 2014 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The event was held on this day because 9 August fell on a Saturday. The celebration commenced with a traditional welcome by the Chairperson of the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Messages from the UN Secretary General, the President of the General Assembly, the Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs and Coordinator of the Second

International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, were made. These statements highlighted the fact that while there had been some progress in the recognition and implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples, huge gaps remain. On behalf of the UNPFII, Grand Chief Edward John, Vice Chairperson of the Permanent Forum, provided opening remarks and moderated the inter-active dialogue on the subject "Bridging the gap: implementing the rights of indigenous peoples". This was followed by a question and answer session.



The event also showed a documentary film about the Two Row Wampum campaign. This campaign represents a partnership between the Onondaga Nation and Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation to develop a broad alliance between the Haudenosaunee and their allies in New York and throughout the world. The celebration ended with a closing song.

Several Permanent Forum members also issued statements in commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Ms. Joan Carling issued a statement on behalf of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, in which she discussed current developments in the UN system related to indigenous peoples, including the World Conference, the post-2015 development agenda, and the World Bank's review of its safeguard policies. Also, Ms. Maria Eugenia Choque Quispe issued a statement that



discussed ongoing challenges facing indigenous peoples and the situation of indigenous women. For details, see: <http://www.aippnet.org/index.php/statements/1437-aipp-statement-on-international-indigenous-peoples-day-2014-realizing-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples-at-the-national-level>

and

<http://reddemujeresindgenas.blogspot.com/2014/08/dia-internacional-de-los-pueblos.html>

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is officially celebrated on 9 August annually in recognition of the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 1982.

Adoption by ECOSOC of the report of the Permanent Forum (16 July 2014)

At its annual substantive session in July, the Economic and Social Council unanimously adopted the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from its thirteenth session held in May 2014. The UNPFII Chair, Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough, presented the report on behalf of the UNPFII.

Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (7 to 11 July 2014)

The Expert Mechanism held its seventh session from 7 to 11 July 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland. As required by the resolution establishing the mandate of the Expert Mechanism, the UNPFII Chair, Dalee Sambo Dorough, participated at this session. The following issues were discussed: (1) the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples; (2) follow up to thematic studies and advice; (3) continuation of the study on access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples; (4) study on the promotion and protection of the rights of

indigenous peoples in natural disaster risk reduction and prevention and preparedness initiatives; and (5) the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Ms. Sambo Dorough provided comments during the agenda item on the World Conference as well as made interventions on other agenda items.

While in Geneva, Ms. Sambo Dorough also met with the chief of the Universal Periodic Review Section of the Human Rights Council as well as members of the UN Human Rights Committee. She also gave a briefing on the Permanent Forum to staff from Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights who work with UN treaty bodies.

Activities of Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

11th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (9 to 11 September 2014)



The UNPFII Chair, Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough, participated at the 11th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region which was hosted by the Canadian parliament in Whitehorse, Canada from 9 to 11 September 2014. The Conference held discussions on four key topics: (1) sustainable infrastructure development, (2) governance models and decision-making processes; (3) enhancing northern economies: responsible resource development and capacity building; and (4) environmental

challenges. The Conference also unanimously adopted a conference statement directed towards the governments of the Arctic Region, the Arctic Council and institutions of the European Union.

In her statement at the second discussion on governance models and decision-making processes, Ms. Sambo Dorough spoke about the international human rights standards that support the expansion of the role of Arctic indigenous people within relevant international and national governance entities, including the Arctic Council. She highlighted that such participation is especially necessary in the context of land claims agreements, self-government and autonomy discussions. The statement is available here:

<http://www.arcticparl.org/files/sambo.pdf>.

Statement to the European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights (11 September 2014)

On 11 September 2014, Mr. Oliver Loode made a statement at the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament in Brussels at a session on extractive industries and indigenous peoples. Mr. Loode's statement focused on the work of the Permanent Forum related to extractive industries, as well as to ongoing developments during the preparations for the World Conference on this subject. At the session, a *Study on Indigenous Peoples, Extractive Industries and Human Rights*, commissioned by the European Parliament, was launched.

Statement at session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (7 July 2014)



UNPFII Chair, Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough, gave the keynote address at the 28th session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore at the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Maria Eugenia Choque Quispe also participated in the session. The Intergovernmental Committee has been undertaking negotiations on the development of an international legal instrument for the protection of traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions and genetic resources.

Climate Investment Funds Stakeholder Day (22 June 2014)



Permanent Forum members Mr. Gervais Nzoa and Ms. Valmaine Toki and Secretariat staff attended the 2014 Climate Investment Funds (CIF) Stakeholder Day on 22 June 2014 in Montego Bay, Jamaica. There was participation from over 100 stakeholders,



representing civil society, indigenous peoples, the private sector, governments, research institutions and development banks. There were two sessions convened, the first was on Reaching into the Roots of Partnership: Experiences from the Ground, and the second on Stakeholder Engagement in the Climate Investment Funds: Advances, Challenges and Promises.

Following these sessions, three breakout groups convened on stakeholder engagement in the: Pilot Program for Climate Resilience; the Forest Investment Program; and the Climate Technology Fund and the Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program. The results of the sessions were presented to the Climate Investment Funds Partnership Forum on 24 June.

The 2014 Climate Investment Funds Partnership Forum was convened the following two days on 23-24 June, in Montego Bay, Jamaica, and was co-hosted by the CIF and the Inter-American Development Bank. In addition, a Knowledge Bazaar enabled attendees to network, exchange ideas and participate in interactive learning.

The Partnership Forum brought together approximately 500 participants, representing governments, civil society, indigenous peoples, the private sector, development partners and researchers, to share lessons emerging from the CIF on how to foster partnerships and attract investment to deliver low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

One of the outcomes of the Stakeholder Day and the Partnership Forum was the call by indigenous participants for the Climate Investment Funds to develop a policy on indigenous peoples as many of the CIF projects impact indigenous peoples' lands, territories and resources.

The CIF is a collaborative effort among the multilateral development banks and countries to initiate transformational change towards climate-resilient, low-carbon development. The CIF, formally approved by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors in 2008, was designed through consultations with various stakeholders and is governed by donor and recipient countries, with active observers from the UN, the Global Environment Facility, civil society, indigenous peoples' organizations and the private sector.

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).

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