



MESSAGE STICK

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Quarterly Newsletter

Prepared by the United Nations Secretariat for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA, United Nations

Vol.2. No.3. July to September 2004

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¹ Above photo: Alexandra Grigorieva (CAXA-RAIPON) (center) with the Thunderhawk Singers.



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Welcome to the fifth issue of the **MESSAGE STICK**², which presents the activities of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) during the months of July, August and September 2004.

Secretariat of the UNPFII
JULY

COP10 of UNFCCC, indigenous participation

Much has happened in these last few months at UNPFII following our Third Session in May. We are very sad to announce the passing of one of our Vice-Chairperson and Permanent Forum member Ms. Njuma Ekundanayo, who was a champion for indigenous peoples and invaluable in pushing our work forward. Ms. Liliane Muzangi Mbela was elected by ECOSOC as a new member from the Democratic Republic of Congo. This period also saw the election of another new member of the UNPFII, Ms. Merike Kokajev from Estonia, thereby completing the mandated number of UNPFII members.

UNPFII members presented and participated in various fora, including the twentieth session of the Subsidiary Bodies for the Implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Training Center for Indigenous Peoples, and the third session of the ECOSOC among others. UNPFII was also a partner in the launch of UNDP's Human Development Report 2004, which focused on cultural liberty and made integral references to indigenous peoples.

During this period the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues also enhanced the UNPFII website by launching a database of UNPFII recommendations, which have been organized according to the sessions and status of implementation. The database remains a tool in progress and any feedback or suggestions to improve it would be appreciated.

We hope you find this edition of the Message Stick informative and useful. We look forward to receiving your feedback and may be reached at the following address for comments, questions, and suggestions:
indigenouspermanentforum@un.org

The Twentieth Session of the Subsidiary Bodies for the Implementation (SBI 20) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 25 June 2004. Mr. Tamang attended the sessions in representation of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, where he presented the recommendations of the Forum to the UNFCCC and in a meeting with the Executive Secretary of UNFCCC discussed how the UNPFII and UNFCCC could work together. The meeting also discussed the issue of the participation of indigenous peoples during the Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) which will be held in Argentina from 6 to 17 December 2004.

According to the SBI 20 session, Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair of the contact group on agenda item 9 d³, *Effective participation in the Convention process, regarding Participation of indigenous peoples*³, the SBI considered the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as other requests by indigenous peoples organizations, summarized in document FCCC/SBI/2004/5. The SBI noted that indigenous peoples' organizations have been admitted as observers in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 6, of the Convention and that the secretariat has an officer responsible for liaising with observer organizations, including the indigenous peoples organizations. It also noted that the agendas of the Convention bodies

² 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.

³ FCCC/SBI/2004/L.7



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include items relevant to the concerns of indigenous peoples. The SBI encouraged the indigenous peoples organizations to make full use of the existing bodies and the opportunities currently afforded to them under the Convention.

To read the complete document you can visit the UNFCCC web site:

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2004/sbi/I07.pdf>

Condolences: Ms. Njuma Ekundanayo

We deeply mourn the unfortunate passing of one of the distinguished Members and Vice-Chairpersons of the Forum, **Mrs. Njuma Ekundanayo**, on Tuesday the 6th of July 2004, in Kinshasha, Democratic Republic of Congo. In her, we have lost not only a kind and caring human being, but a strong and fearless voice for the rights of the indigenous peoples all over the world.

Participation of Mr. Fortunato Turpo in the International Training Center of Indigenous Peoples

The International Training Center of Indigenous Peoples (ITCIP) is based in Nuuk, Greenland. This center provides workshops to indigenous peoples from around the world with the focus on indigenous peoples in the international system.

This year, ITCIP launched a training program from 9 to 24 July in Spanish for indigenous peoples from South and Central America. Mr. Fortunato Turpo was invited to be one of the speakers and he presented the history, mandate and functions of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Also, he trained the indigenous participants on how to present their recommendations during the annual session of the UNPFII.

UNDG Programme Group adopted the revised Guidelines for CCA/UNDAF

As part of his 1997 UN reform agenda to make the United Nations an effective institution for world peace and development in the 21st century, the Secretary-General stressed the inter-linkages between peace and security, poverty reduction and sustainable human development, and the promotion and respect for human rights. In response to his call for the United Nations to articulate a coherent vision and strategy for a unified approach towards common development goals at the country level, the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) were adopted as strategic planning tools for the UN system.

These Guidelines are intended to help United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) to prepare Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) as the first steps in the preparation of country programmes and projects supported by UN agencies. Analysis contained in a CCA or a similar national document provides the rationale for UN operations in the country concerned while the UNDAF indicates their link to national priorities (including the MDGs), their strategic direction and expected results. The United Nations Development Group has included indigenous issues as one of its 2004 priorities.

During the meeting held on 7 July 2004, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) adopted the revised Guidelines for Common Country Assessment Assistance and United Nations Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF), which include references to indigenous peoples. The UN Country Teams and all UNDG members have been informed about these amendments and are expected



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to make them operational. The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum worked close with the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) on Indigenous Issues to propose these revisions to the CCA/UNDAF Guidelines.

Launch of UNDP's Human Development Report 2004 *Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World*.

Mr. Magga, Chairperson of the UNPFII, participated at the Global launch of UNDP's Human Development Report 2004 *Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World* in Brussels. Mr. Magga's statement appears on the UNPFII web site at:

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/Mr_Magga_%20BelgiumJuly2004.htm

The Report contains important remarks on indigenous issues such as the following:
"Accommodating people's growing demands for their inclusion in society, for respect of their ethnicity, religion, and language, takes more than democracy and equitable growth. Also needed are multicultural policies that recognize differences, champion diversity and promote cultural freedoms, so that all people can choose to speak their language, practice their religion, and participate in shaping their culture—so that all people can choose to be who they are." For more information, please visit UNDP's web site:
<http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2004/>

Also, on the occasion of launch of the Human Development Report 2004, Mr. Parshuram Tamang was invited to deliver a statement in Kathmandu, Nepal. He pointed out that cultural diversity is a common heritage of humankind, which has to be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of the present and future generation. In addition to these remarks, he gave an overview of the status of cultural diversity in the world, the relation of the United Nations

system and cultural diversity, the collaboration between the UNPFII and UNDP, and the specific situation of Nepal with respect to cultural diversity. You can read his intervention in our web site:

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/Mr_Tamang_HDReport_2004.htm

Presentation of the Third Session Report to ECOSOC

Mr. Ole Henrik Magga, Chairperson of the UNPFII, came to New York to present the Report of the Third Session to the Economic and Social Council and also meet with the chairpersons of the Functional Commissions of ECOCOC and the ECOSOC Bureau to strengthen methods of work and collaboration with the Council. During the meetings he expressed satisfaction to take part in these consultations as it is the UNPFII's mandate to promote coordination and integration/mainstreaming of indigenous issues in the UN system. *"It is therefore crucial for me, for us, to be in dialogue with the other subsidiary bodies of the Council and explore how we, together, can help improve the lives of the 370 million indigenous people around the world, one of the most marginalized parts of humanity,"* said Mr. Magga.

Mr. Magga, also suggested some practical recommendations that will hopefully enhance collaboration among functional commissions:

- A system should be established so that the secretariats of the functional commissions regularly transmit to other commissions, including the UNPFII, multi-year programmes of work and agendas of future sessions;
- Joint meetings of Bureau and secretariats of functional commissions should be instituted,



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and budgetary provisions should be made from the regular budget to that effect; such meetings should discuss coordination and how to promote multi-disciplinary approaches on subjects of common concern, including indigenous issues; and

- Commissions, through their secretariats, should distribute to the other commissions resolutions and recommendations of special relevance to each commission.

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council (28 June to 23 July 2004)

DECISIONS:

2004/264

Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

At its 48th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2004, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/58 of 20 April 2004/289 and endorsed the Commission's recommendation that the Working Group be authorized to meet for five working days prior to the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

2004/267

Human rights and indigenous issues

At its 48th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2004, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/62 of 21 April 2004/289 and approved the decision of the Commission to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people for a further period of three years, and the request to the Special Rapporteur to

submit a report on his activities to the General Assembly at its fifty ninth session and to the Commission at its sixty-first session. The Council also endorsed the Commission's request to the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the necessary human, technical and financial assistance to the Special Rapporteur for the effective fulfillment of his mandate.

2004/286

Pre-sessional meeting of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2004, the Economic and Social Council decided to authorize, on an exceptional basis, a three-day pre-sessional meeting of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2005 to prepare for the fourth annual session of the Forum with the support of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues.

2004/287

Workshop on free, prior and informed consent

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2004, the Economic and Social Council decided to authorize a technical three-day workshop on free, prior and informed consent, with the participation of representatives of the United Nations system and other interested intergovernmental organizations, experts from indigenous organizations, interested States and three members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and requested the workshop to report to the Forum at its fourth session, under the special theme of the session.

2004/288



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Venue and dates for the fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2004, the Economic and Social Council decided that the fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues would be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 16 to 27 May 2005.

2004/289

Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2004, the Economic and Social Council approved the following provisional agenda and documentation for the fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Special theme: Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples:
 - (a) *Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals*: "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger", to be addressed under the following thematic approach of combating poverty: good practices and barriers to implementation;
 - (b) *Goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goals*: "Achieve universal primary education", to be addressed under the thematic approaches of language, cultural perspectives and traditional knowledge.

Documentation: Note by the Secretariat and other documentation to be submitted by the United Nations system

4. Ongoing priorities and themes:

- (a) Human rights, with special emphasis on an interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people;
- (b) Data collection and the desegregation of data on indigenous peoples;
- (c) Follow-up to previous special themes: "Indigenous children and youth" (2003) and "Indigenous women" (2004).
Documentation: Note by the Secretariat and other documentation to be submitted by the United Nations system

5. Future work of the Forum.

6. Draft agenda for the fifth session of the Forum.

7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourth session.

2004/290

Proposal for a second international decade of the world's indigenous people

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2004, the Economic and Social Council decided to transmit to the General Assembly for its consideration the recommendation contained in draft decision V (note 299) of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the proclamation of a second international decade of the world's indigenous peoples, to begin in January 2005, and further recommended that, in its consideration, the General Assembly, inter alia:

- (a) Identify goals for a second decade, taking into account the achievements of the first decade;
- (b) Identify a coordinator that would coordinate the programme of activities of a second decade; and



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- (c) Address the question of human and financial resources to be made available in support of the activities undertaken in the framework of the decade, including the possible continuation of the Voluntary Fund established by General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994.

Note 199: Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 23 (E/2004/43), chap. I, sect. A

2004/291

Report of the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

At its 49th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2004, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (note 300) and took note of the serious concerns and reservations in paragraph 52 contained in document E/2004/SR.48. The Economic and Social Council decided to transmit those concerns and reservations to the Permanent Forum and requested the Permanent Forum to take them into account in its work, in accordance with its mandate as contained in Council resolution 2000/22. Note 300: Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 23 (E/2004/43)

Elections of a member of the UN Permanent Forum Members

Ms. Merike Kokajev was elected by ECOSOC as a new member of the UNPFII from the Estonian government for the period 2005 – 2007. The full list of the UNPFII members as of January 2005 is:

Mr. Eduardo AGUIAR DE ALMEIDA
Mr. Hassan Id BALKASSM
Mr. Yuri BOYCHENKO
Mr. Michael DODSON

Mr. William Ralph JOEY LANGEVELDT
Ms. Merike KOKAJEV
Mr. Wilton LITTLECHILD
Ms. Otilia LUX GARCIA DE COTI
Mr. Aqqaluk LYNGE
Ms. Liliana MUZANGI MBELA
Ms. Ida NICOLAISEN
Ms. Nina PACARI VEGA
Ms. Xiaomei QIN
Mr. Pavel SULYANDZIGA
Mr. Parshuram TAMANG
Ms. Victoria TAULI-CORPUZ

Database of Recommendations of the UNPFII

In June the secretariat of the UNPFII launched the UNPFII Recommendations Database on the website; it displays and organizes all the recommendations provided by the Forum at its different sessions and their status of implementation.

It is now possible to access the list of recommendations provided by the Forum at its Third Session, prepared by the secretariat of the UNPFII. Please check our database on the following address:
<http://unhq-appspub-01.un.org/desa/unspfii.nsf/Session%20of%20the%20Forum?OpenPage&Start=1&Count=50&Expand=2> we hope you find it useful, and look forward to your feedback.

For any matters, you can contact us at the following address:
indigenouspermanentforum@un.org. As usual, your comments and suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

Participation of Mr. Ayitegan Kouevi and other members of the UNPFII at the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr. Ayitegan Kouevi was designated to represent the UNPFII at the 22nd Session of



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the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP), which was held from 19 to 23 July 2004 at the United Nations Office in Geneva. The main theme was:

Indigenous Peoples and Conflict Resolution.
The WGIP was also attended by Mr. Wilton Littlechild, Mr. Fortunato Turpo and Ms. Mililani Trask.

Mr. Littlechild had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Louise Arbour, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and he also participated in the celebration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People during the WGIP in Geneva, Switzerland.

AUGUST

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

In 1994, the General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous People shall be observed on 9 August every year during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (Resolution 49/214 of 23 December). The date marks the day of the first meeting, in 1982, of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

The UN General Assembly had proclaimed 1993 the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, and the same year, the Assembly proclaimed the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, starting on 10 December 1994 (Resolution 48/163). The goal of the Decade is to strengthen international cooperation for solving problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health.

The program at the United Nations Headquarters in New York this year included statements of the UN Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum and others as well as various indigenous cultural presentations. The program was organized by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in cooperation with the Department of Public Information and the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

The Day's commemorative event as well as the Art Exhibit 'IN CELEBRATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES', was open to the public. For more information on the programme of the Day and the statements issued, please visit the web site of the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/news/news_2.htm

Commemoration in Mexico

Mr. Anders Kompass, Director of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mexico and Mr. Marcos Matias, member of the UNPFII gave a Press Conference on 6 August 2004, in the Mexican UN country office in commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People. Also, the Museum of Popular Cultures invited Mr. Matias to participate in different activities related to the commemoration of the International Day.

Commemoration in Moscow

Ms. Zinaida Strogalschikova participated in the commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People organized by the United Nations Information Center in Moscow on the 12th of August 2004 and attended by indigenous peoples organizations academic and research



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institutions. During the event Ms. Strogalschikova informed the audience of activities and the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Participation of Mr. Magga, Mr. Boychenko and Ms. Strogalschikova at the Fourth World Finno-Ugric Peoples' Congress in Tallinn, Estonia

The Fourth World Finno-Ugric Peoples' Congress was held in Tallinn, Estonia, from 15 to 19 of August 2004. During the Congress the members of the UNPFII were asked by the members of the Youth Association of the Finno-Ugric Peoples to have a meeting with the most active members and participants of this youth organization. At that meeting indigenous peoples rights protection issues in the UN system were discussed.

At the request of the Organizing Committee of the IV World Finno-Ugric Peoples' Congress, Ms. Strogalschikova prepared a special presentation that was given at the Congress⁴. The presentation may be viewed at the website

http://www.finugor.ru/news/sob/kon_kar_perep.doc

Ms. Strogalschikova was elected as a Chairperson of the Editorial Commission to prepare the Resolution of the IV World Finno-Ugric Peoples' Congress, which was adopted at the plenary meeting on the 19th of August. The English version of the Resolution of the 4th World Congress of the Finno-Ugric Peoples may be found on http://kongress.ugri.info/eng/cat-332/cat-332/article_id-241, the Russian one on <http://www.finugor.ru/news/sob/resolution.doc>

⁴ Section "Health, demography, ecology" – All-Russian Census 2002: problems and some results.

SEPTEMBER

Participation of Mr. Marcos Matias in UNICEF's regional meeting on the Programme of the Rights of indigenous children in Latin America

UNICEF organized regional meeting on the Programme of indigenous children in Latin America, held in Panama. Mr. Nils Kastberg, UNICEF Regional Director, Mr. Marcos Matias as well other indigenous representatives from Guatemala, Ecuador and Mexico attended this important meeting.

Among other things, they discussed the orientation of a new approach of UNICEF's work with indigenous children and the advancement of the recommendations made by the UNPFII. During this meeting, UNICEF also announced the constitution of an Advisory Group of Indigenous Leaders on indigenous youth and children in Latin America⁵. The result of this meeting will be presented at the Iberoamerica Summit, which will be held from 18 to 20 November 2004 in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Elections of a member of the UN Permanent Forum Members

At its resumed session, the Council elected Ms. Liliane Muzangi Mbela (Democratic Republic of Congo) to replace the late Ms. Njuma Ekundanayo. The membership of the UNPFII for 2005 – 2007 appears in the annex. (Annex I)

Preparations for the 10-year Review of the Beijing Platform for Action

⁵ Advisory Group: Ms. Otilia Lux de Coti (Guatemala), Mr. Pedro de la Cruz (Ecuador), Ms. Irma Alicia Velasquez (Guatemala), Mr. Marcos Matías (México).



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At its 49th session in March 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women will consider the two interrelated themes: "Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly"; and "Current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls."

The review and appraisal by the Commission will focus on implementation at the national level and identify achievements, gaps and challenges, and provide an indication of areas where actions and initiatives, within the framework of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, are most urgent to further implementation.

The UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) has set up a webpage which provides information on both the global and regional ongoing review processes, including links to reports from Member States on national level implementation. Upcoming events, meetings and information about forthcoming on-line discussions will be posted on the website. For news and updates, please visit:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/Review/index.htm>

The Secretariat of the UNPFII is also preparing an informative webpage on these activities.

Cooperation between the SPFII and Statistics Division - DESA

The Secretariat of the UNPFII is working with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) on promoting the inclusion of indigenous peoples in national statistics and data disaggregation.

Task Force on Indigenous Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality

The Task Force on Indigenous Women was convened by the secretariat of the UNPFII on 11 June 2004 and the members of the Task Force are UNIFEM, FAO, OSAGI, DAW/DESA, SPFII/DSPD/DESA, ILO, UNDP, OHCHR, ESCAP, ECA and UNICEF. However, as the work develops, the Task Force will be calling upon other agencies to contribute.

The Task Force had before it the recommendations of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its Third (May 2004) Session, which had Indigenous Women as its special theme. These recommendations drew from the submissions of indigenous women's preparatory meetings in Africa, Asia and Latin America, a panel on the contribution of indigenous women to conflict prevention and peace-building held during the March 2004 session of the Commission on the Status of Women, a high-level panel on indigenous women that opened the Permanent Forum's session, as well as rich discussions during the whole Third Session of the Forum.

The Terms of Reference were adopted by the Task Force on Indigenous Women in September and contain the goals and objectives of the Task Force in the short, medium and long-term. After the adoption of its terms of reference the Task Force met on 28 September to make operational its short-term work plan that will be accomplished by February 2005. The Task Force will report to the IANWGE at its February 2005 meeting.

DESA Intra-departmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues



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On 15 September 2004, the SPFII convened the Intra-departmental Task force on Indigenous Issues with the purpose to integrate indigenous issues in DESA's technical cooperation programmes.

The Secretariat of the UNPFII is preparing a survey of possibilities and challenges of DESA's technical cooperation programmes for the integration of indigenous issues and the results will be shared with the Task Force, so that further steps can be taken.

Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues

The Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) was established to support and promote the mandate of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues within the United Nations system. It allows UN organizations and agencies to analyze recommendations made by the Forum with a view to facilitate comprehensive and coordinated responses to the UNPFII.

This year the meeting was facilitated and hosted by UNDP. Four Members of the UNPFII attended. To read the IASG statement on the Millennium Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples, please visit our web site:

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/links_unsystem/inter_agency_statement.htm

Participation of various members of the UNPFII in the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the Draft Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

UNPFII members Ms. Trask, Mr. Littlechild, Mr. Koeuvi, Mr. Boychenko and Chairperson

Mr. Magga attended the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples held in Geneva, Switzerland from 13 to 24 September 2004.

Visit of UNPFII members to International Labor Organization (ILO).

As part of the practice of the UNPFII to conduct visits to various intergovernmental organizations, Mr. Littlechild and Mr. Boychenko from the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues met with the ILO Advisory Committee on Indigenous Issues in Geneva on Thursday 23 September 2004.

Present at this meeting were also in-coming UNPFII members, Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz and Mr. Hassan Id Balkassm.

Mr. Magga and Mr. Littlechild met with the Executive Director of the ILO's Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Sector, Mr. Kari Tapiola on Friday, 17 September 2004. A number of ideas were put forward to strengthen ILO's cooperation with the UNPFII.

Deadline for Logo Competition

The deadline for presentation of the design of a logo for the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, directed to indigenous children and youth is **1 December 2004**. To access the complete information about the art competition, please visit our website at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/pfii/news.htm>
