



MESSAGE STICK

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Quarterly Newsletter

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Welcome to the **MESSAGE STICK**¹, the newsletter that highlights the activities undertaken by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and its Secretariat for the period from April to June 2005.

UNPFII members participated in various international meetings invited by different UN Agencies, Inter-Governmental organizations and indigenous organizations such as UNESCO, SCBD ILO, UNIFEM, the International Association of Official Statisticians, Conservation International and the Congress of Indigenous of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia & the Far East in Moscow.

The Secretariat of the UNPFII (SPFII) was invited to co-sponsor the MDG-related Conference "Community Commons" with UNDP – Equator Initiative, Fordham

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.

University, Tribal Link Foundation and others.

The preparations for the fourth session of the UNPFII involved several activities such as the pre-session meeting of the UNPFII Members, organization of special events, two training seminars for indigenous representatives and a seminar for members of Permanent Missions and other activities.

In this newsletter, you will find highlights of the UNPFII fourth session regarding participation, substantive outcomes, methodological changes and innovations.

We hope that you will 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:

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Secretariat of the UNPFII

Representation of the UNPFII at important meetings of relevance to its mandate

Participation of Mr. Tamang at the 5th Congress of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia & the Far East in Moscow, 11- 13 April.

Mr. Tamang and Ms. Stamatopoulou participated at a roundtable that took place at the new Ministry for Regional Development of Russian Federation and was devoted to an evaluation of the First International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and the preparation of recommendations for the Plan of Action of the Second Decade. In addition, Mr. Tamang and Ms. Stamatopoulou held a separate meeting with the Deputy Minister for regional development, Mr. Ponomaryev, and his colleagues regarding the main areas of work of the Ministry, which is the focal point on indigenous peoples in the Russian Federation. At the meeting, the work of the UNPFII was described and it was suggested that the Russian Government could present good examples of cooperation with indigenous peoples at the Forum's sessions. Russia currently chairs the Arctic Council and indigenous peoples from Russia participate at the Council for the first time.

In addition, Mr. Tamang participated at the Congress of Indigenous Peoples of the North, which takes place every four years. Some 350 delegates from all over the North, Siberia and the Far East of Russia participated. The Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Sergei Lavrov, addressed the opening session and so did Mr. Tamang. Messages were read out on behalf of the President and the Prime Minister of Russia. The Duma was also represented. Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga, Member of the UNPFII, and President of RAIPON was also present. Many foreign guests attended the Congress from the diplomatic

community, the United Nations system, the Council of Europe and NGO's. Many speakers over the two days, including the Foreign Minister, placed emphasis on the importance of action and cooperation. An extraordinary 3-hour indigenous cultural event was also presented during the Congress.

Participation of Mr. Aguiar de Almeida at the meeting on indigenous peoples and conservation organized by Conservation International in Cuzco, Peru, 12-14 April.

The purpose of this meeting was to have an open dialogue between indigenous leaders and Conservation International to explore options of collaboration in topics of conservation. Mr. Aguiar de Almeida on behalf of the UNPFII underlined that conservationists should overcome tendencies that reproduce concepts based on colonialist roots that prejudice or exclude indigenous peoples. He highlighted that Indigenous peoples have the deepest understanding of the Earth's living resources, and they must have ownership, control and title of their lands.

A major outcome of the meeting was the necessity to organize national and local dialogues to empower the alliances between indigenous peoples and environmental organizations.

Participation of Mr. Dodson at the IAOS Satellite Meeting on " Statistics for Small Populations including Indigenous and Small Domain Populations" in Wellington, New Zealand.

In its Third Session (May 2004), the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues decided that "representatives from the Forum shall participate in scientific meetings to improve statistics in this area of work, such as the upcoming meeting sponsored by

the International Association of Official Statisticians (IAOS) meeting, to be held in New Zealand on 14 and 15 April 2005, on the theme "Measuring small and indigenous populations" (E/C.19/2004/23).

In this framework, Mr. Dodson, member of the UNPFII, attended the meeting and presented the results of the "International Expert Workshop on Data Collection and Disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples" held in New York, in January 2004 in a plenary session.

One of the most important concerns expressed during the meeting was the development of a statistical framework for indigenous populations. Diversity, in terms of geography, cultural identity, socio economic circumstances and lifestyles are key considerations which must be taken into account in the construction of sampling frames for indigenous populations.

Participation of Mr. Langeveldt and Mr. Tamang at the "Conserving Cultural and Biological Diversity" meeting in Tokyo, Japan, 30 May-2 June

Mr. Langeveldt and Mr. Tamang participated in the above symposium co-organized by UNESCO FAO, UN University, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (SPFII), in cooperation with the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Mr. Tamang addressed the opening session. He highlighted the need to integrate indigenous perspectives and indigenous holistic approaches with regard to cultural and biological diversity in the work of protection of sacred sites. He also participated in debates of the symposium and stressed the need for effective participation of indigenous peoples in the management of sacred sites and the

principle of free, prior and informed consent as guidelines on any projects taking place in indigenous communities, the issue of equal and fair benefit-sharing of tourism in national parks and the inter-dependence between indigenous peoples and their sacred sites.

The symposium was attended by nearly 80 participants and consisted of 9 sessions. The SPFII and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) were responsible for Session 9: "Protective Measures for Sacred Sites in the Context of *Akwé:Kon* Guidelines". Mr. Langeveldt chaired the session and he also participated in the roundtable to present the summary of the session.

The presence of two members of the Forum at the symposium has contributed to the integration of indigenous perspective in the final declaration of the symposium. In addition, the two members had discussions with representatives from other UN agencies and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to raise awareness of indigenous views in the work of protection of biological and cultural diversity. For the final declaration and more information about the symposium, please see:

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

Participation of Mr. Id Balkasaam at the national workshop on the rights of indigenous peoples in Youndé, Cameroon, 15-17 June

The national workshop on the rights of indigenous peoples was organized by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in order to assess the situation of indigenous and tribal peoples in Cameroon, as regards protection in law and in practice, and in development strategies and policies, and their implementation.

In the African region, indigenous issues have been rarely discussed in an official capacity. However, pursuant to its Resolution of 2000, the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights has established a Working Group of Experts in Indigenous Populations/Communities, in order to address the specific considerations that are required in order to address indigenous issues in the African context.

At the workshop Mr. Id Balkasaam highlighted that indigenous and tribal peoples should be consulted and can participate at all stages of development, legislative and other processes that affect them.

Important recommendations on priorities for improving the situation of indigenous and tribal peoples in Cameroon were the result.

Participation of Ms. Lux de Coti and Ms. Pacari at the Second Meeting of UN Agencies and Indigenous Women representatives of Central America and Mexico, Mexico City, 21-23 June.

This meeting was organized by the Inter-Agency Working Group on Gender of Mexico, UNIFEM Mexico, the International Forum of Indigenous Women (FIMI) and the Mexican National Commission for Indigenous Peoples. The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the agreements established in the First Meeting held in 2004 in Mexico City, follow up on the participation of indigenous women in the Beijing+10 process and to convey the position of the UNPFII in relation to the Millennium Declaration and the process of MDGs.

Ms. Lux de Coti and Ms. Pacari gave a presentation on the Permanent Forum's mandate and the outcomes of the fourth session; they also highlighted the Forum's recommendations of the special theme "Indigenous Women" of the third session.

Indigenous Women's Issues

Meeting of the Task Force on Indigenous Women (TFIW) of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANGWE)

The TFIW was initiated following a decision of IANGWE at its February 2004 session and the recommendations of the Permanent Forum at its third session regarding indigenous women. After the presentation of its first report at the annual session of the IANGWE in February 2005, the TFIW met on April 25 and decided to devote its work in the next 10 months to collecting good examples on UN agencies, programmes with indigenous women.

The final collection of good examples will be presented to the IANGWE in February 2006 and made widely available to all agencies and especially to UN Country Teams.

News from the Secretariat of the UNPFII

Participation of the SPFII in the Task Force on Civil Society of the UNDG Programme Group.

In follow-up to the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on the United Nations-Civil Society Relations ("Cardoso Report"), and the report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Cardoso Report, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) has decided to establish a Working Group on Civil Society (WGCS) to develop an action plan on the follow-up to the recommendations as they pertain to the UNDG, in particular those contained in paragraphs 45 and 47² of the

² 45. *I have asked all resident coordinators to identify a qualified professional with relevant development experience to serve as a civil society focal point for the United Nations Development Group, who*

Secretary-General's report. In the report, the Secretary-General announced, among other things, the establishment of a trust fund to enhance the capacity of NGOs and the Office of the Resident Coordinator to engage with civil societies.

The SPFII is participating in this UNGD Working Group with the purpose to include indigenous peoples' perspectives in initiatives and strategies that this WG is developing.

Participation of the SPFII at the MDG-related Conference "Community Commons" held at Rose Hill Campus of Fordham University, New York City, 16-18 June 2005

The SPFII was invited by the organizers to co-sponsor this meeting along with UNDP – Equator Initiative, Fordham University, Tribal Link Foundation, Conservation International, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, IDRC, IUCN, The Nature Conservancy, TVE, United Nations Foundation, Capacity 2015, GROOTS International, Wildlife Conservation Society and Global Call to Action against Poverty.

Despite the enormous contributions that civil society, and particularly local communities and indigenous peoples, have made to

would coordinate civil society engagement by United Nations agencies in each country, with an additional dedicated staff member to be appointed to the office of the resident coordinator as soon as resources allow (proposals 11 and 25). Equally, resident coordinators will be asked to conduct orientation courses, where required, with a view to developing or enhancing partnerships with multiple constituencies (proposals 7 and 28).

47. I will establish a trust fund, inviting support from bilateral donors and foundations, to enhance the capacity of NGOs at the country level and to finance additional capacity in the office of the resident coordinator. A working group of the United Nations Development Group, chaired by UNDP as administrator of the fund, will guide the use of the fund (providing, for example, seed money for country teams that propose innovative initiatives) and develop strategies to promote further enhanced engagement with NGOs. The United Nations Development Group will work closely with the expanded Partnerships Office in the Secretariat, which should be a member of the aforementioned working group.

sustainable development, local and grassroots groups remain the least well positioned to integrate their experiences and knowledge into international policy processes. The Community Commons worked to rectify this imbalance by bringing local voices and perspectives to the global Millennium Review Summit process through a dedicated dialogue both among successful community initiatives and between community representatives and global policy-makers.

The dialogue sessions taking place in the Commons included targeted discussions on key themes of direct relevance to the five-year review progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), drawing on the wide experience and insights of community representatives from around the globe.

To read more about the outcomes, important documents, declarations and regional plan of actions, please visit the following website: <http://www.undp.org/equatorinitiative/secondary/events/CommunityCommons/CommunityCommons.htm>

Participation of the SPFII at the Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector at UN Headquarters in New York, 23-24 June 2005.

The General Assembly held Informal Interactive Hearings with non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector from 23-24 June at UN Headquarters. In preparation for this event, the General Assembly President had set up a Task Force made up of 8 NGO Networks and one representative from the private sector to put forth recommendations on the format, criteria and modalities for these Hearings. The Hearings were to contribute to the September General Assembly Summit.

The President of the General Assembly invited about 200 active participants from NGO/CS/PS, including 25 to 30 speakers, to make a substantial contribution to the Hearings.

Four sequential sessions were held over the two-day Hearings. Each of these sessions focused on one of the four clusters of the Secretary General's report "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (document A/59/2005), namely : (I) Freedom from Want, (II) Freedom from Fear, (III) Freedom to Live in Dignity and (IV) UN Reform.

Indigenous leaders participated and several spoke at the Hearings. To read relevant information, please visit at: <http://www.un-ngls.org/GA-hearings.htm>

Final preparations for the UNPFII fourth session:

a. Training workshop for delegations of Member States, April 27.

In response to the growing interest of Member States on indigenous issues and to assist them to familiarize with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Secretariat of the UNPFII organized a one-day seminar for delegates interested in indigenous issues prior to the Fourth Session of the Permanent Forum on 27 April.

Thirty eight Missions registered to participate; twenty-eight representatives of Member States participated. Representatives from UNICEF, WIPO, IFAD, UNDP, ILO and the American Indian Law Alliance made presentations on their organizations' work on indigenous issues and their substantive support to the Permanent Forum. The SPFII provided information on the background and working methodologies of Forum.

The evaluation of the seminar by participants demonstrated that the seminar was appreciated by Missions and that such seminars should be organized regularly prior to each session of the Forum.

b. Cooperation with NGOs for two ad hoc training sessions of indigenous delegations.

In order to strengthen the capacity of indigenous organizations to work with the United Nations system, the Secretariat has co-sponsored two training sessions.

The Global capacity-building for indigenous peoples

The training was organized by two organizations, Tribal Link Foundation and Land is Life. About 40 indigenous persons from all regions participated in the three-day training; the programme covered the UN system, human rights mechanisms, documentation research and the Permanent Forum. Focus was placed on the working methodologies of the Permanent Forum and how to participate in the session, including choosing agenda items, and preparing statements, how to dialogue with members of the Forum and how to network for advocacy on indigenous issues.

STAR WORKSHOP

During the weekend interlude between the first and second week of the Fourth Session of the UNPFII a small and engaged group of indigenous UNPFII attendees, UN staff and fellows, graduate students and other members of civil society and government joined together to explore the issue of trauma: individual, trans-generational and societal. More specifically the seminar addressed the relationship between trauma and identity—the trauma of threat to or loss of one's identity, including way of life, language, land, culture, etc. The seminar

was organized by the Institute for Justice and Peacebuilding of Eastern Mennonite University in cooperation with the SPFII.

The STAR model identifies the healing of trauma as one component in a well-functioning and healthy society. Other components include the restoration of justice, the building of peace, the establishment of security both human and ecological, and the centrality of spirituality or a vision of the whole. Understanding and healing trauma encompasses the physiological, emotional and spiritual effects on an individual and the collective. It requires transformation of the person, the group and the structures that perpetuate cycles of aggression and victimization. Emphasis is also placed on identifying factors of resiliency in trauma and breaking the cycles of trauma.

c. Pre-sessional meeting of the UNPFII Members.

A three-day pre-sessional meeting of the UNPFII took place from 11 – 13 May 2005.

During the session various issues were discussed pertaining to the making methods of the Forum and the fourth session. The third day was devoted to a discussion with the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues

Highlights of the UNPFII fourth session, UN HQ New York 13 – 27 May 2005



Participation: Some 1200 participants attended the fourth session of the UNPFII:

- About a thousand indigenous peoples', NGO, academic and other civil society representatives
- 68 Member States and the Holy See. Donor States, including Germany and Italy, increasingly attend the Forum.
- 30 UN system and other intergovernmental entities, a clear growing engagement of the international system with the UNPFII. The World Bank had a four-member delegation attending for the full two weeks. ECLAC and the Commonwealth Secretariat attended for the first time.

The high officials who participated in the session (the Deputy Secretary-General, the Acting President of the GA, the Vice-President of ECOSOC, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the UNDP Administrator and Chairman of the UNGG, the Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on the MDGs, the Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Gender and others) also contributed to the visibility and constructive outcome of the session.

Substantive outcomes: Focusing especially in **MDG1** (eradicate extreme poverty) and MDG2 (primary education for all), the Forum voiced concern that, unless the particular situation and voices of indigenous peoples are taken into account, MDG processes may lead to accelerated loss of land and natural resources and accelerated assimilation, thus prolonging and even worsening their marginalization, discrimination and poverty. The Forum recommended the implementation of a human rights based approach to development and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in designing, implementing and monitoring MDG-related programmes and projects that

concern them or may affect them as well as in poverty reduction strategies. The Forum recommended that PRSPs recognize rights to indigenous land, forest, marine and other natural resources. It also recommended that the CSD take measures to protect water from privatization and other incursions that affect the integrity of waters and impoverish communities. The Forum encouraged the World Bank to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in its work and the revision of its recently adopted policy on indigenous peoples. The Forum recommended that the policy and practice of the World Bank and other multilateral development banks should be consistent with internationally recognized human rights of indigenous peoples and should respect their free, prior and informed consent.

Regarding **MDG2** universal primary education, the Forum stressed that education should not undermine the identities, languages, cultures and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and recommended bilingual and intercultural education and the review of national curricula and other action to erase culturally discriminatory materials, enhance knowledge of indigenous cultures and strengthen quality education.

Five key themes have emerged from the Forum's discussions on the MDGs: (i) non-discrimination and inclusion, (ii) full and effective participation, (iii) development with culture and identity, (iv) targeted programmes and budgets, especially for indigenous women, indigenous children and youth, and (v) strengthened monitoring and accountability.

The Forum also adopted recommendations on the follow-up themes and priorities of its agenda, namely indigenous children and youth, indigenous women and data collection and disaggregation. It also stated its determination to play an important role

during the Second International Decade of the World's, Indigenous People, by, among other things, providing its views on the draft plan of action for the Decade, holding a high-visibility event on the plan of action at its 2006 session and having its Bureau advise the Coordinator of the Decade (USG/DESA) on the use of the Voluntary Fund for the Decade. In a draft decision proposed for adoption by ECOSOC, the Forum recommends the authorization of an expert group meeting on the "MDGs, Indigenous Peoples' Participation and Good Governance".

The Chairperson of the Forum will participate at ECOSOC's dialogue on MDGs with functional commissions on 7 July. The Forum hopes that its recommendations will reach the September GA Summit, including through the help of interested governments.

Methodological shift and innovations:

The Forum this year stressed the need for prioritization, implementation, monitoring and coordination.

The Forum appointed experts among its members as special rapporteurs (a) to conduct an analysis of the recommendations of the first three sessions of the Forum and their status of implementation with an effort to prioritize among recommendations, (b) to prepare a paper on methods of work of the Forum, and (c) to create productive relations with the Forum on Forests.

In an effort to enhance its coordinating role, the Forum requested the organization of an expert meeting on indigenous traditional knowledge that will bring together the eleven inter-governmental entities currently working in this area as well as indigenous experts.

Increasing its regional focus, the Forum held three region-specific meetings this year in the form of special events (on Africa, Asia

and Latin America) and, based on the good feed-back, decided to organize similar meetings next year on North America, the Arctic, Eastern Europe and Latin America. The Forum also decided to hold a half-day session on Africa next year during its official meeting time.

Regarding the human rights item of its mandate, the Forum followed a new approach this year by deciding to give time and space in its agenda to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Mr Rodolfo Stavenhagen, to have a public dialogue with indigenous organizations. This approach was productive: the indigenous regional caucuses and others made statements underlining the main human rights problems indigenous peoples face in each region and added value to the work of the Special Rapporteur, giving him the opportunity to hear directly from indigenous people, an opportunity he does not have during the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights.

The Forum as a nodal point: The Forum's meetings were complemented by some 60 special events, more than in previous sessions, showing the vitality and engagement of its constituencies, indigenous peoples, the UN system, Governments and the media. An international funders meeting was held in NYC in the context of the Forum's session. Two pre-session training courses and one sessional course were also held. These events demonstrate that the sessions are a nodal point of catalytic actions and contacts at all levels regarding indigenous issues, with ripple effects throughout the year and beyond.

MORE NEWS

Special feature: *Interview with the first Chairperson of the UNPFII, Mr. Ole Henrik Magga*



Q. What would you say are the top three challenges faced by indigenous peoples around the globe? What are your suggestions on how they should be addressed?

The top three are land, education and health. Land is the basis for almost everything else, including in fact also education and health in most cases. More work together at all levels is the key: local, national, regional and international. This I have seen proved the last 30 years. And then the states must take their responsibility. To achieve this, we need to increase the international attention and pressure. It helps!

In our country Norway, it all began with the criticism of Norway's minority policies from the South-African apartheid regime in the 60ies. The Norwegian Government was forced to sweep in front of their own door before criticising others. I think the indigenous movement is on the right track in these things. But more activity is needed. One example is that we have not worked enough together with agencies like UNESCO. That is probably one reason why I was so badly treated as the Chair of the Forum at UNESCO meeting last September. They must become used to seeing more indigenous

faces and clothing - not to mention hearing more indigenous voices.

Q. What is your proudest moment as Chairman of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues?

The moment when the Secretary-General of the UN spoke to the Forum with the words: "Welcome to the UN family!" That was a moment of very strong emotions. I had to concentrate in order not to burst in to tears.

Q. You are a professor, how has your work with the Permanent Forum influenced what and how you teach?

I see our everyday life more clearly as a part of a larger whole in indigenous perspective. And I try to convey this to my students. Never before have I seen so clearly that what we do at our University College influences the whole indigenous movement in one or another way. Every student is very important. Their way of thinking, their success or failure may mean success or failure to the whole movement.

Q. As a linguist, what are your suggestions for conserving the many indigenous languages being lost? Why is this important?

As a professor in Saami linguistics, I am even more convinced how important language is as a reservoir of indigenous knowledge and as the basic tool for communication. Much more must be done for the documentation and especially the securing and development of spaces for the use of indigenous languages. Much more! UN agencies like UNESCO must do more, but also institutions at the national level must be created for this purpose and the existing institution must intensify their work. And again, the *USE* of the languages is fundamental. Language use is the best language planning and development! There

must be a "market" for a language if it is to develop and survive. And these "markets" we create ourselves.

Language is an institution that is dependent on human decisions. It is not true that languages die of "natural causes". There are no "natural causes"!

Languages are not like plants and animals - that it is natural that they decay and die. So you see, education and use are central. And both depend on human decisions, not on nature. I have in fact been surprised that not more focus has been placed on language. Therefore we invited Ms. Tove Skutnabb-Kangas to speak to the Forum last year. And she was very clear on this point: There is enough knowledge and overwhelming experience showing that the use of children's first language is the best basis for primary education. To neglect this fact, is in fact a serious violation of basic human rights.

Q. You have achieved so much and impacted so many people, what personal goal do you still seek to achieve?

I look forward to having more time for linguistic research and writing of articles and textbooks in Saami and on the Saami language. I have spent so much time with politics in my life that this part of my work has suffered too much. Now I hope to render some balance in my personal account in this. And that feels good. But there are still many, many unsolved questions at the national and international level that deserve and need attention. So I am not quite finished with this, even if I am not any more a member of our parliament after this year. Just recently I came from Brazil, where we discussed indigenous intellectual property rights.

Preparation of a training film for UN country teams.

The SPFII is preparing an awareness-raising film for United Nations country teams and officials of Member States with the purpose of promoting the integration of indigenous issues in their work and providing general information on the UNPFII. This film will be available in English, French and Spanish.

TABLE OF NEWS AND ACTIVITIES BY MONTH

APRIL

- Participation of Mr. Tamang at the 5th Congress of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia & the Far East, Moscow, 11- 13 April.
- Participation of Mr. Dodson at the IAOS Satellite Meeting on "Statistics for Small Populations including Indigenous and Small Domain Populations", Wellington, New Zealand, 14 – 15 April.
- Meeting of the Task Force on Indigenous Women (TFIW) of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANGWE).
- Participation of the SPFII in the Task Force on Civil Society of the UNDG Programme Group.

MAY

- Participation of Mr. Langeveldt and Mr. Tamang at the Conserving Cultural and Biological Diversity meeting, Tokyo, Japan, 30 May-2 June.
- Final preparations for the UNPFII fourth session.
- Highlights of the UNPFII fourth session, UN HQ New York 13 – 27 May 2005.

JUNE

- Participation of Mr. Id Balkasaam at the National Workshop on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Yaoundé, Cameroon, 15-17 June.
- Participation of Ms. Lux de Coti and Ms. Pacari at the UN agencies and indigenous women, Mexico City, 21-23 June.
- Participation of the SPFII at the MDG – related conference "Community

Commons" held at Rose Hill Campus of Fordham University, New York City, 16-18 June 2005

- Participation of the SPFII at the Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, New York, June 23 -o 24.

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