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INTRODUCTION

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 October to December 2005.

UNPFII members were invited to attend various international meetings by different UN Agencies, Inter-Governmental organizations and indigenous organizations.

While UNPFII was editing this newsletter, we received the news that Ms. Lux de Coti, member of the UNPFII was acknowledged with the award "Bartolome de las Casas 2005". At the same time, the UNPFII received an honorific mention of recognition as a multilateral body that guarantees the presence and voices of indigenous peoples in the United Nations system.

In this newsletter we covered important information on the adoption of the Programme of Action and a Resolution on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People by the General Assembly.

Also, you will find information on the preparations for the Fifth Session of the UNPFII from 15 to 26 May 2006.

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:

indigenouspermanentforum@un.org

Secretariat of the UNPFII

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.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

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

Participation of Ms. Lux de Coti at the UNESCO General Conference, 3 – 21 October, Paris, France

Ms. Lux de Coti participated at the discussions of the UNESCO General Conference, where the Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions was adopted in 20 October. The Convention is the result of a long process of maturation and two years of intense negotiations, punctuated by numerous meetings of independent and then governmental experts, the text that takes the form of an international normative instrument, reinforces the idea already included in the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, unanimously adopted in 2001. To read the Convention in languages, please visit:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001271/127160m.pdf>

Participation of Mr. Aguiar de Almeida at the First International Symposium on Isolated Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon and Gran Chaco Regions, 8 – 11 November, Belem, PA -Brazil

In recent years there have been evidences of the existence of Indigenous peoples or groups of such peoples in the Amazon and Gran Chaco regions of South America and in other parts of the world, who, of their own decision or because of various forms of aggression, have decided to maintain themselves isolated from national societies. Such indigenous peoples are also variously known as peoples in a state of voluntary isolation, hidden peoples, uncontacted peoples, simply isolated, among other descriptions.

Others find themselves in a state of initial contact. During the symposium, attended by Mr. Aguiar de Almeida representing the UNPFII, it was pointed out that many isolated indigenous peoples of Amazonia and the Gran Chaco are located in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru and possibly also in other countries.

An International Alliance for the Protection of Isolated Indigenous Peoples was convened by the institutions

and individuals attending the symposium and the Belem Declaration on Isolated Indigenous Peoples was then issued. You can read the Declaration at: <http://www.ibcperu.org/doc/public/src/00321.pdf>

Mr. Aguiar de Almeida, in his intervention highlighted recommendations of the fourth session (May 2005) of the UNPFII and the recommendations of the Programme of Action of the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/60/270), related to Isolated Indigenous Peoples. To read Mr. Almeida's notes on the Belem Symposium, please visit the following website

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/SimposioBrazil.pdf>

Participation of Mr. Littlechild and Mr. Id Bakassm at the World Summit on Information Society, 13 – 18 November, Tunis, Tunisia

In March 2005, the Government of Canada, the Aboriginal Canada Portal and Connectivity Working Group and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) hosted the WSIS Indigenous Thematic Planning Conference for Tunisia. This was a global conference, with indigenous participants from each of the world's regions, (some 50 persons participated).

As the Indigenous Thematic Planning Conference for Tunisia progressed, support grew for the formation of a WSIS International Indigenous Steering Committee (IISC)², committed to working together to bringing Indigenous peoples to Tunisia, to ensuring a robust and inclusive agenda, and to ensuring the international dialogue regarding Indigenous connectivity does not end with the second phase of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous is represented on the IISC.

² The IISC was composed of two (2) members (one male and one female) from the seven indigenous socio-cultural regions recognized by the UNPFII² for a total of fourteen (14) members; State participation consists of one (1) member from the seven indigenous socio-cultural regions for a total of seven (7) members. The Government of Canada, under the auspices of the Aboriginal Canada Portal and Connectivity Working Group, was the North American representative on the IISC. An additional seven (7) members were added from our evolving community of interest, to include UN Agencies, NGOs, the private sector and the academic community.

A parallel event was held on November 14, 2005 in Tunis, Tunisia, hosted by the IISC entitled: "Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society: "Towards an International Indigenous Portal". Co-Chairs for this parallel event were Mr. Littlechild, Member of the UNPFII, and Ms. Eliane Potiguara, Board Member of Comité Inter-Tribal. During the parallel event, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) announced their commitment with a focal point for indigenous peoples. To read the report in languages, which provides an overview of discussions, please visit: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/news/news_2.htm

Also, Mr. Id Balkassam, Member of the UNPFII was invited by Dragonfly Blue Productions and Dialogue Between Nations Project to participate in two workshops, where Mr. Id Balkassam highlighted the mandate and activities of the UNPFII as a subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

As a result of these efforts, the Tunis Commitment³ at the Second Phase of the WSIS, mentions indigenous peoples in two paragraphs.

"(22) In the evolution of the Information Society, particular attention must be given to the special situation of indigenous peoples, as well as to the preservation of their heritage and their cultural legacy."

"(32) We further commit ourselves to promote the inclusion of all peoples in the Information Society through the development and use of local and/or indigenous languages in ICTs. We will continue our efforts to protect and promote cultural diversity, as well as cultural identities, within the Information Society".

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Mr. Boychenko and Mr. Langeveldt meet the International Financial Institutions, 15 November, Washington DC.

Following recommendations of the UNPFII at its second and third sessions, the World Bank facilitated a meeting between UNPFII representatives and International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Separate meetings were first held with World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank representatives for a

detailed discussion of their indigenous-related programmes in order to get the insight of the Forum. In the second half of the programme a meeting was held with all IFIs present (some 30 IFIs, more than 40 persons) to discuss the mandate of the UNPFII, the challenges faced by IFIs related to indigenous issues and ways in which the Forum could be of assistance in promoting these issues within IFIs. Separate meetings were held with the Vice-President of the World Bank and with the Director of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank.

The UNPFII representatives were pleased to get considerable interest from the high officials representing IFIs, including interest to organize training on our issues for their staff and to cooperate with SPFII for networking with indigenous organizations. Various other IFIs representatives indicated that they would like to attend the next session of the UNPFII and perhaps even organize special events.

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the UNPFII visits WHO and UNAIDS, 25 November, Geneva Switzerland

At the invitation of WHO, the UNPFII undertook an official visit to the organization. A meeting with the Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS was arranged during the visit. Ms. Tauli-Corpuz met a number of senior officials of different departments relevant to indigenous issues including mental health and substance abuses, HIV/AIDS, traditional medicine, MDGs, diabetes, tobacco and policy issues. In total, 8 separate meetings were held within WHO and one with UNAIDS.

The main discussions of each meeting focused on specific health issues of indigenous peoples, the challenges faced by WHO in addressing them and the ways in which the UNPFII could be of assistance in promoting these issues within WHO.

In addition, Ms. Tauli-Corpuz made a keynote presentation at the lunchtime seminar on indigenous peoples, health and human rights organized for WHO staff at large. Ms. Lu, of the SPFII provided information on the role of Secretariat in support in the work of the Forum. The presentations were followed by a session of questions and answers.

At the meeting with UNAIDS, the

³ Second Phase of the WSIS (16-18 November 2005, Tunis), **The Tunis Commitment** (document WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/7-E)

organization presented its work on data related issues and indigenous peoples and HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS indicated their interest to present their first written report to the Permanent Forum at its fifth session in May 2006.

It was suggested to both WHO and UNAIDS to organize special events during the fifth session of the UNPFII to present their work with indigenous peoples and dialogue with them. Equally, it was suggested that WHO consider inviting UNPFII at special events during its World Health Assembly.

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Mr. Langeveldt and Mr. Lynge meet IFAD, 28 – 29 November, Rome, Italy.

Participation at the IFAD Brainstorming Workshop on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Perspectives on Selected IFAD-funded Projects at IFAD, and meeting with IFAD's President.

At the Workshop at IFAD, the Chair of the UNPFII and SPFII presented the results of the case studies conducted of IFAD's work with indigenous communities, identified the key issues, processes and best practices, discussed the lessons learned, presented and discussed an Advocacy Framework for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and made recommendations on the way forward for IFAD, in close cooperation with the UNPFII. More than 40 participants attended the workshop, mainly senior IFAD officials, three members of the UNPFII, ILO and FAO representatives, indigenous experts, academics and representatives of Guatemala and Denmark.

The President of IFAD opened the workshop and was also present during the adoption of the conclusions and recommendations. The President also announced the appointment of Mr. Phrang Roy, Assistant President of IFAD, as Assistant President on indigenous issues, a welcome development for IFAD and beyond. A special meeting between UNPFII members and SPFII was arranged with the President of IFAD, where the members and SPFII encouraged IFAD to create a systematic learning process for its staff based on the good practices it has built and also to share these case studies with others in the UN system. The Workshop received very good feedback from participants, including the President of IFAD.

Participation of Mr. Dodson at the 7th World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE), 28 November, Hamilton, New Zealand

Te Wananga o Aotearoa extended an invitation to the UNPFII to attend the 7th World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education held in Aotearoa - New Zealand. Mr. Dodson, member of the UNPFII, participated as a key note-speaker on the theme "New Horizons of Knowledge", theme that honored the role of indigenous thinkers and educators in continuing and innovating to produce knowledge and insights for future generations.

To learn more about the conference, please visit at <http://www.wipce2005.co.nz/index.htm>

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

International Seminar of Intercultural approach on maternity health, 9 – 11 November, Otavalo, Ecuador

The international seminar was organized by Jambí Huasi "Health House", an indigenous initiative that has as partners to the Health Department of Ecuador, the National Council of Women, and several national NGOs. The seminar was sponsored by UNFPA in partnership with UNIFEM, UNICEF, PAHO and others. Some 80 delegates from indigenous communities, government officials and other NGOs participated.

The main purpose of the international seminar was to open the discussion of intercultural approach on health, which means a dialogue between actors of different cultural perspectives, visions and knowledge. The indigenous and non-indigenous knowledge on health should be complementary and promoted through educational system. *Reported by: UNFPA*

Ms. Pacari meets with the UN Country Office Representatives of Ecuador, 24 November, Quito, Ecuador.

The UN Inter-Agency Support Group on Intercultural Issues of Ecuador facilitated a breakfast-meeting attended by Ms. Pacari, member of the UNPFII, and UN country office Representatives (FAO, WFP, PAHO, OHCHR, UNCHR, UNDP, UNIFEM, UNFPA, and UN Volunteers). The main objective of this meeting was to introduce to representatives of UN agencies, funds and programmes in Ecuador the recommendations of the

UNPFII, and to motivate them in pursuing the recommendations produced by the Forum.

Ms. Pacari in her intervention highlighted the value and importance of the recommendations of the UNPFII, especially in the framework of the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People. She expressed the wish for several activities to take place such as a meeting of the UNPFII members with UN Agencies at regional level; a publication with reference to recommendations of the Permanent Forum, the Second Decade and MDGs for indigenous leaders; educational material. Ms. Pacari also underlined the importance of having appropriate cultural indicators which will create unique challenges to follow up on the MDGs. At the end, Ms. Pacari proposed that UN country offices in Ecuador prepare a comprehensive report of their activities following the recommendations of the UNPFII and present it to the fifth session in May 2006. *Reported by: UNFPA*

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Discussions under Agenda Item 68, Indigenous Issues, at the Third Committee of the General Assembly, 19 - 20 October, United Nations Headquarters, New York

The item was introduced by the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development/DESA on behalf of the Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, highlighting the specific references to indigenous peoples in the Outcome of the World Summit⁴. The important results of the fourth session of the Permanent Forum on MDGs 1 and 2 had focused on the human rights based approach to development, inclusion of indigenous peoples in the design and implementation of policies, programs and projects, as well as culturally appropriate and sensitive bilingual education.

The Committee had before it the Secretary-General's report on the Draft Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (documents A/60/270

and A/60/270/Add.1).

The objectives of the Decade include promoting non-discriminatory laws, policies, resources and programmes; promoting full participation of indigenous peoples in decisions that affect their lifestyles, traditional lands and territories and cultural integrity; altering development policies to ensure respect for indigenous peoples' cultural and linguistic diversity; adopting targeted policies, programmes and budgets for development of indigenous peoples, particularly children, women and youth; and creating strong mechanisms to monitor implementation of legal, policy and operational frameworks for protecting indigenous peoples and improving their lives.

Also before the Committee was a note by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (document A/60/358), which transmitted the report of Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people.

A draft resolution on indigenous issues was co-sponsored by some 45 states and focused on the adoption of the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade.

To read *UN Press Releases* on discussions on item 68 at the Third Committee, please visit:

UN Press Release - October 19, 2005

Respect for sustainable development, human rights essential to eliminating poverty of indigenous people.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/gashc3825.doc.htm>

UN Press Release – October 20, 2005

Speakers cite need to adopt declaration on indigenous peoples' rights, as Third Committee concludes discussion of issue.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/gashc3826.doc.htm>

Third Committee of the General Assembly adopted the Programme of Action and Resolution on the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People at the, 21 November, United Nations Headquarters, New York

On 21 November, the Third Committee of the General Assembly adopted the draft

⁴ The three paragraphs containing specific references appear in the annex to this newsletter. You can also find it visiting the website: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/World_Summit2005_IPS.pdf

resolution on the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (document A/C.3/60/L.23), without a vote. Adopting the programme of action, the text urges all actors involved in the process to cooperate to achieve the Second Decade's goals. The Assembly appeals to the international community to provide financial support to the Decade's Voluntary Fund and adopt the following theme for the Decade "Partnership for action and dignity".

To read the draft Programme of Action and the resolution on the Second Decade, please visit:
http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/news/news_2.htm

Full text of UN Press Release GA/SHC/3842 dated 21 November 2005, can be read at the following:
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/gashc3842.doc.htm>

Adoption of the Resolution on indigenous issues by the General Assembly Plenary, 16 December, United Nations Headquarters, New York

On 16 December, the General Assembly adopted the resolution A/RES/60/142 under Agenda item 68 –Indigenous Issues, which contains the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Note was also taken of the Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people.

Please visit our website to read the Report of the Third Committee in languages:
http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/news/news_2.htm

INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

DESA's Framework for technical cooperation in countries with indigenous peoples

DESA's Framework for technical cooperation in countries with indigenous peoples was prepared by DESA's Intra-Departmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues. This framework is to be used as a tool in the formulation and implementation of activities of technical cooperation programs.

The framework is based on the recommendations adopted by the UNPFII⁵, references to indigenous issues in the CCA/UNDAF Guidelines, the Tool Kit on Indigenous Issues being developed by the Interagency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, a number of case studies⁶ and the five key objectives defined in the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

NEWS

Funding for project proposals under the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The Secretariat of UNPFII is pleased to announce that the guidelines for submission of project proposals relating to activities for the Second International Decade are ready and posted on the website. The deadline for submission of project proposals is 15 January 2006.

The SPFII has also prepared a template to assist in the preparation of project proposals, documents available in English and Spanish:

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

BARTOLOME DE LAS CASAS 2005 AWARD

Ms. Lux de Coti, member of the UNPFII received the award "Bartolome de las Casas 2005".

At the same time the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues received an honorific mention of recognition as a multilateral body that guarantees the presence and voices of indigenous peoples in the United Nations system.

The Bartolome de las Casas Award was established 15 years ago by the Spanish Government in order to grant a public and solemn recognition to - persons or institutions - who have distinguished themselves in the defense of the interests, rights and identity of indigenous peoples in Latin America.

Please visit the following link to listen Ms. Lux de Coti's interview on the award

⁵ Reports of the UNPFII: E/2002/43/Rev., E/2003/43, E/2004/43, E/2005/43

⁶ For example: Best practices for including indigenous peoples in sector programme support, Draft Tool Kit, Danida, (September 2004), IFAD case studies

http://www.un.org/radio/es/search_d.asp?NewsDate=12/20/2005

NEWS FROM SPFII

Report on the International Technical Workshop on Traditional Knowledge

The Technical Workshop on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge was convened following a recommendation of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its fourth session. The Forum called for the convening of such a workshop, in collaboration with United Nations agencies dealing with this issue and with the participation of indigenous experts, to promote a collaborative, complementary and holistic approach to traditional knowledge in order to enhance better understanding of indigenous concerns and their possible solution.

The Workshop was attended by twenty-eight experts from indigenous organisations and the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations. In its conclusions and recommendations, the workshop identified indigenous perspectives and experiences with indigenous traditional knowledge issues, gained a better understanding of the various programs relating to indigenous traditional knowledge of the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations, and formulated certain recommendations for the Forum's consideration. Recognizing the multiplicity of policy areas in which indigenous traditional knowledge issues arise, and the range of priorities, objectives and strategies relating to indigenous traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, workshop participants identified a number of recommendations addressed to the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations, governments, indigenous peoples and academia, as well as some recommendations addressed to the Forum itself.

The unedited version of the report is available on the website at: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/TKreport_uneditedversion.pdf

Participation of SPFII at the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group meeting, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Group Centre, Cambridge, UK, 12 - 13 December 2005.

The aim of this meeting was to establish an international Poverty and

Conservation Learning group. The meeting shared and reviewed different international initiatives addressing poverty-conservation linkages and to highlight areas of potential collaboration and identify key gaps. The meeting developed a plan of action for the next 1 - 2 years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Preparations for the Fifth Session of the UNPFII (15 to 26 May 2006)

Special theme for the fifth session:

"Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: Re-defining the Millennium Development Goals". The provisional agenda is on the website. Other relevant information on the fifth session of the Permanent Forum will be made available in due time at the following address:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii>

Pre-registration Forms now available on the website

Please note that there is one form for Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the ECOSOC, another one for Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and a third for Academic Institutions interested in the work of the Forum. These pre-registrations form in languages are available at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/5session/index.htm>

Preparations for the International Expert Workshop on "Millennium Development Goals, Indigenous Participation and Good Governance", 11 - 13 January 2006, New York.

SPFII is in the process of preparation of the international expert group meeting on "Millennium Development Goals, indigenous participation and good governance" mandated by the UNPFII at its fourth session in May 2005 and confirmed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2005/252. The expert workshop will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 to 13 January 2006.

The international expert group meeting will bring together the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, Governments and indigenous experts. Also, it will contribute to further progress on this issue and will submit a report for the Permanent Forum's fifth session. Due to the technical nature of this meeting, a limited

number of participants will be able to attend.

The report and expert papers of the international workshop will be available at the website.

TABLE OF NEWS AND ACTIVITIES BY MONTH

OCTOBER

- Participation of Ms. Lux de Coti at the UNESCO General Conference, 3 – 21 October, Paris, France
- Discussions under Agenda Item 68, Indigenous Issues, at the Third Committee of the General Assembly, 19 - 20 October, United Nations Headquarters, New York
- Participation of Mr. Sulyandziga at WIPO on Traditional knowledge, 18 - 20 October, Uzbekistan
- Participation of Mr. Littlechild at the meeting on National Legislation related to rights of Indigenous Peoples, 12 – 14 October, Tucson, USA

NOVEMBER

- Participation of Mr. Aguiar de Almeida at the First International Symposium on Isolated Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon and Gran Chaco Regions, 8 – 11 November, Belem, PA -Brazil
- Participation of Mr. Littlechild and Mr. Id Bakassm at the World Summit on Information Society, 13 – 18 November, Tunis, Tunisia
- Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Mr. Boychenko and Mr. Langeveldt meet the International Financial Institutions at the World Bank, 15 November, Washington DC.
- Ms. Pacari meets with the UN Country Office Representatives of Ecuador, 24 November, Quito, Ecuador.
- Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the UNPFII visits WHO and UNAIDS, 25 November, Geneva Switzerland
- Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Mr. Langeveldt and Mr. Lynge meet IFAD, 28 - 29 November, Rome, Italy
- Participation of Mr. Dodson at the 7th World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE), 28 November, Hamilton, New Zealand

- Participation of Mr. Langeveldt at the 38th Session of the African Commission on Peoples and Human Rights, Gambia 21 November to 3 December, Banjul, Gambia
- Adoption of the Programme of Action and Resolution on the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People at the Third Committee of the General Assembly, 21 November, United Nations Headquarters, New York
- Launching: Guidelines for project proposals under the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

DECEMBER

- DESA's Framework for technical cooperation in countries with indigenous peoples is completed
- Preparations for the Fifth Session of the UNPFII, to be held from 15 to 26 May 2006, United Nations Headquarters, New York
- Preparations for the International Expert Workshop on "Millennium Development Goals, Indigenous Participation and Good Governance", 11 - 13 January 2006, New York.
- Participation of SPFI at the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group meeting, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Group Centre, Cambridge, UK, 12 - 13 December 2005.
- Adoption of the Resolution A/RES/60/142 by the General Assembly Plenary on the Programme of Action of the Second Decade, 16 December, United Nations Headquarters, New York
- Ms. Lux de Coti received the award "Bartolome de las Casas 2005", and the UNPFII received an honorific mention of recognition, 19 December, Spain.

Annex
A/RES/60/1

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
[without reference to a Main Committee (A/60/L.1)]

2005 World Summit Outcome

Specific paragraphs on Indigenous Peoples

Rural and agricultural development

46. We reaffirm that food security and rural and agricultural development must be adequately and urgently addressed in the context of national development and response strategies and, in this context, will enhance the contributions of indigenous and local communities, as appropriate. We are convinced that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, particularly as they affect children, is crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Rural and agricultural development should be an integral part of national and international development policies. We deem it necessary to increase productive investment in rural and agricultural development to achieve food security. We commit ourselves to increasing support for agricultural development and trade capacity-building in the agricultural sector in developing countries. Support for commodity development projects, especially market-based projects, and or their preparation under the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities should be encouraged.

56. In pursuance of our commitment to achieve sustainable development, we further resolve:

(d) To recognize that the sustainable development of indigenous peoples and their communities is crucial in our fight against hunger and poverty;

(e) To reaffirm our commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

127. We reaffirm our commitment to continue making progress in the advancement of the human rights of the world's indigenous peoples at the local, national, regional and international levels, including through consultation and collaboration with them, and to present for adoption a final draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples as soon as possible.

