

THE message stick

Quarterly Newsletter of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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H. E. Mr. Evo Morales, Presidente de Bolivia and Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the Permanent Forum, January 2006

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 January to March 2006.

The indigenous movement is today spreading its influence to the development agenda, building on its victories and also on the UN's overall human rights agenda, which has today become our policy framework.

The establishment of the Permanent Forum is testimony to the increasing profile of indigenous issues within the United Nations system. As a result UNPFII members have been invited to attend various international meetings by different UN Agencies, Inter-Governmental organizations and indigenous organizations.

In this newsletter we covered important information on decisions taken during the Pre-sessional meeting of the UNPFII in Nuuk, Greenland. Also, we are pleased to announce the launching of the new website of the secretariat of the Forum; it has new and interesting information on the work of the Permanent Forum.

We hope that you will find this edition of the Message Stick informative and useful. We look forward to receiving your feedback 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. Tauli-Corpuz at the Presidential inauguration ceremony of H. E. Mr. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, January 20-22, La Paz, Bolivia

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz attended the inauguration invited by his H. E. Mr. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia. Ms. Tauli-Corpuz invited the President Morales to the fifth session of the Permanent Forum, which will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 15 to 27 May 2006. The opening meeting of the Forum on May 15th will be in the General Assembly Hall and the focus will be the launch of the Programme of Action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

Participation of Mr. Tamang at the Fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions (23 to 27 January 2006) and the Fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (30 January to 3 February 2006), Granada, Spain.

At both meetings a statement was made by Mr. Tamang welcoming the collaboration between the Permanent Forum and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in working to advance the objectives of the Convention. Mr. Tamang drew attention to two workshops relating to traditional knowledge held in 2005, in Tokyo, and Panama and expressed the hope that the Working Group on Article 8j would consider the recommendations produced in those workshops with a view to creating a joint mechanism for the direct involvement of indigenous peoples in the development and implementation of policy and programmes affecting their food security, traditional knowledge, agricultural diversity and food sovereignty.

In reference to the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those relevant to indigenous peoples and the environment, Mr. Tamang stated that it was important to analyze the linkages between the human rights of indigenous peoples, biological and agricultural diversity, forests, poverty and sustainable development, as well as the importance of promoting the implementation of Article 8(j) as a cross-cutting issue in all programmes relating to the Convention. Respect for indigenous rights and the creation of the right environment were also essential to encouraging indigenous peoples to pursue the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of genetic resources. The implementation of Article 8(j) would ensure full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making under the Convention, along with their fair access to genetic resources and equitable benefitsharing.

To learn more about the meetings, please visit CBD's website at <http://www.biodiv.org>

Participation of Ms. Tauli-Corpuz and Mr. Id Balkassm at the expert seminar on indigenous peoples and permanent sovereignty over natural resources, OHCHR, 23 to 26 January 2006, Geneva, Switzerland

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights convened an expert seminar, to which representatives of indigenous peoples and Governments, as well as the Special Rapporteur, Mrs. Erica-Irene Daes, were invited, in order to further discuss the political, legal, economic, social and cultural aspects relating to the study of the Special Rapporteur entitled "Indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources" (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/30,

and Add.1), as well as her other study entitled "Indigenous peoples and their relationship to land" (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/21).

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz and Mr. Id Balkassm attended the expert seminar and contributed to its deliberations. To read the conclusion of the seminar please visit OHCHR's website at <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/docs/sovereignty/conclusions-eng.doc>

Participation of Mr. Sulyandziga at the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, 13 to 24 February 2006, UNHQ, New York.

During the fourth session of the UNPFII, Mr. Sulyandziga, member of the Forum was appointed as a Special Rapporteur to work with the United Nations Forum on Forests in the area of traditional forest-related knowledge and social and cultural aspects of forests pertaining to indigenous peoples, and to report on that subject to the UNPFII at its fifth session.

Following the recommendation Mr. Sulyandziga attended the sixth session of the UN Forum on Forests.

To read the documents related to the Forum on Forests, please visit <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/session.html>

Participation of Ms. Muzangi Mbela and Mr. Id Balkassm at the Regional Training Program of UNITAR, 6 to 16 March, Morocco.

The regional training programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives was organized by UNITAR. The aim of this programme was to provide advanced training in conflict analysis and negotiation to key representatives of indigenous peoples. The focus was on a problem-solving negotiation approach to strengthen participants' capacity to more effectively negotiate to have their needs met, while also promoting constructive relationships between members of their communities and those in the dominant community. Ms. Muzangi Mbela and Mr. Id Balkassm, members of the Permanent Forum, as well as French-speaking indigenous representative from Africa, specialists and representatives of regional organizations participated in the training programme.

To learn more about the programme, please visit UNITAR's website at <http://www.unitar.org/peacemaking/PPD1.htm>

MEETINGS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNPFII AND ITS SECRETARIAT

The International Expert Group Meeting MDGs, Indigenous Participation and good governance, 11 to 13 January 2006, UNHQ, New York.

The international workshop was organized by SPFII in accordance with the recommendation of the UNPFII at its Fourth Session endorsed by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2005 (decision 2005/252). Experts from States, UN system and indigenous experts from Latin America, Pacific, Arctic, Africa, Asia, Russia and North America and observers from indigenous organizations were invited to participate in the workshop. Ms. Tauli-Corpuz and Mr. Dodson, members of the UNPFII, attended the workshop.

The Workshop's recommendations are a contribution to further progress on the issue of participation and good governance and will be submitted to the Permanent Forum's fifth session. To read the background documents of the

expert meeting and the report, please visit
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/workshopMDG.html>

International workshop on Partnership Visions for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, 14 to 15 February 2006, Nuuk, Greenland.

Partnership-building with indigenous peoples is a major focus of the Programme of Action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People adopted by the General Assembly (A/60/270). With a view to supporting the UNPFII by identifying good practices of partnerships with indigenous peoples, the Greenland Home Rule Government and the Permanent Forum, in cooperation with the Danish Government and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC), hosted a workshop on partnership visions for the Second Decade. A wide range of partnerships with indigenous peoples covering diverse situations were presented at the workshop and substantive recommendations were made to the fifth session of the UNPFII.

To read the background documents of the workshop and the report, please visit

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

Pre-sessional Meeting of the UNPFII, 13 and 16 February 2006, Nuuk, Greenland

At the informal pre-sessional meeting the Permanent Forum members agreed on the programme of work of its fifth session.

In addition, it was decided that accreditation is to be given also to Indigenous parliamentarians who wish to participate as observers in the Forum's sessions.

The UNPFII expressed its continued support to the idea of a report on the state of the world's Indigenous peoples

The UNPFII also decided to address a letter to the President of the General Assembly and the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights in support of indigenous issues in the new Human Rights Council.

Participation of Ms. Tauli-Corpuz and Mr. Aguiar de Almeida at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Porto Alegre, Brazil 7 to 10 March, 2006.

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz and Mr. Aguiar de Almeida, members of the UNPFII participated at the panel on "Indigenous Peoples and their right to land, territories and resources: Synergies and Tensions with Agrarian Reform and Rural Development", during the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD). The panel was organized by the SPFII in cooperation with FAO. It was composed of indigenous experts from Africa, Asia, Central and South America, Mr. Aguiar de Almeida, a representative of IFAD and it was chaired by Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the Permanent Forum. The purpose was to raise awareness of the specific challenges faced by indigenous peoples in relation to agrarian reform and rural development in the context of the ICARRD.

The ICARRD was convened to review different experiences of agrarian reform and rural development processes around the world by analyzing impacts, processes, mechanisms and the actors involved in order to develop proposals for future action.

Workshop on "Indigenous Peoples and Indicators of Well-being", 22-23 March 2006, Ottawa, Canada.

The UN system and a significant number of its Member States have been gearing their programming at the national level for the achievement of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), 18 targets and 48 indicators. The formulation of the

Goals and the targets and indicators, however, did not include the participation of or consultation with indigenous peoples, thus resulting in a situation where the goals, targets and indicators do not capture or inadequately capture the situation of indigenous peoples. At its Fourth Session in 2005, the Permanent Forum stated that "...Poverty indicators based on indigenous peoples' own perception of their situation and experiences should be developed jointly with indigenous peoples".

In order to assist in this effort, the SPFII is organizing a series of meetings of indigenous experts on indicators and seeks to formulate global and regional indicators across the mandated areas of the Permanent Forum. The results of this process will be presented to the Permanent Forum. The Ottawa workshop was the first in this series and focused on indicators of well-being of indigenous peoples in developed countries. It was co-sponsored by the Government of Canada and took place within the framework of the Aboriginal Policy Research Conference. The results of the workshop will be presented to the fifth session of the UNPFII.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Trust Fund regarding the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/59/174 for a Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People on 22 December 2004. As a part of the Second Decade a Trust Fund has been established to promote and support the objectives of the Decade. Indigenous organizations or organizations working for and with indigenous peoples can apply for small grants from the Trust Fund. The Fund will give priority to projects focusing the main areas of the Second Decade: culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development.

The first call for projects ended 15 January 2006. Over 200 organizations from all over the world have submitted project proposals for the Fund. The Bureau of the Permanent Forum, in its capacity as the Advisory Group for the Fund will meet at the second week of May to review the proposals for which grants are approved will receive a notice in June 2006.

The Secretariat will announce another round for submitting project proposals for the Fund in the second part of 2006.

Please keep checking our website at

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

A call to all actors involved to prepare their own Plan of Actions for the Second Decade.

Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo, the Coordinator of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, issued a letter on 28 March 2006, inviting to the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples' organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide their own organization's plans for the Second Decade as well as their views as to a midterm and end-of-term review of the Second Decade based on the goal, objectives and Programme of Action of the Second Decade.

Response should be sent by 20 June 2006 to c/o the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues/DSPD/DESA, 2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-1772; Tel: (917) 367-5100, Fax: (917) 367-5102; email:

IndigenousPermanentForum@un.org

INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

Presentation of DESA's Framework for Technical Cooperation in countries with Indigenous Peoples

The main achievement of DESA's Intradepartmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues this past year was the design and adoption of the "Framework of DESA technical cooperation programs in countries with Indigenous Peoples". It resulted from an extensive process of consulting the regular focal points on indigenous issues in each DESA division and also the colleagues in charge of technical cooperation programs. The following Divisions were involved: Development Policy Analysis Division, Division for the Advancement of Women, Division for Sustainable Development, Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, Division for Social Policy and Development (Social Integration Policies/ Youth Unit), Division for Public Administration and Development Management, Statistics Division.

This Framework is to be used as a tool in the formulation and implementation of activities of technical cooperation programs. It is based on the recommendations adopted by the UNPFII, references to indigenous issues in the CCA/UNDAF Guidelines, the tool kit on Indigenous Issues being developed by SPFII in cooperation with United Nations agencies, a number of case studies and the five key objectives defined in the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. The Framework is structured into four main sections: identifying indigenous peoples in diverse contexts, participation and free, prior and informed consent, collection and disaggregation of data, indigenous women.

The Framework was presented to the Director's Meeting of DESA on 3 March 2006.

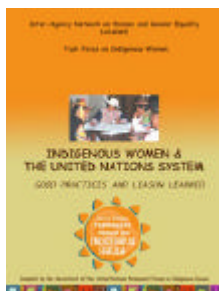
INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S ISSUES

Fifth session of the Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality, 22 to 24 February 2006, ECOSOC Chamber, New York.

The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) is a network of Gender Focal Points in United Nations offices, specialized agencies, funds and programmes. This year's session focused mainly on the follow up to the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit (A/60/430, paragraph 39). The final report will be available at IANGWE's website at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/>

The Task Force on Indigenous Women to the IANGWE is chaired by SPFII. The report of the Task Force highlighted that during its second year of existence, 2005-2006, it devoted its efforts to collecting good practices and lessons - learnt from the work of the UN system with indigenous women.

Release of the case studies "Indigenous Women and the United Nations System - good practices and lesson learned"



The collection prepared by the Task Force on Indigenous Women contains 18 cases submitted by CBD, FAO, IFAD, ILO, UNDP, UNFPA and UNIFEM about their work with indigenous women in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It is the intention of the Task Force to publish this collection once it is finalized and disseminate it widely so that it may serve as a

practical tool for future work of the UN system and other organizations engaging with indigenous peoples. The compilation appears on the website at

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/LANGWE_in_digenouswomen_mar3.pdf

50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

During the 50th Session of the CSW, the official panel for the commemoration of the International Women's Day, on 8 March 2006, included Ms. Noeli Pocater, President of the Permanent Commission of Indigenous Peoples National Assembly, Venezuela. In addition, on 1st March, the SPFII co-sponsored, jointly with MADRE and the International Indigenous Women Forum, a side event on "Violence against Indigenous Women". On 28 February 2006, the SPFII participated at the panel on "Opportunities and Challenges for Women in the Americas" organized by UNIFEM/LAC and the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations. To learn more about the session, please visit <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/>

NEWS

Preparations for the fifth session: Pre-registration for IPs, NGOs and Academic Institutions and Information Note for participants

The fifth session of the Permanent Forum will take place from 15 to 26 May 2006 at United Nations Headquarters, in New York. The theme of the fifth session of the Permanent Forum is The Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: Re-defining the Millennium Development Goals.

By resolution 2000/22, ECOSOC decided, inter alia, that States, United Nations bodies and organs, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council may participate in the work of the Forum as observers.

SPFII opened a special webpage that provides information on participation of Indigenous Peoples Organizations NGOs, and other interested entities at the fifth session of the Permanent Forum. To read complete information on the fifth session, pre-registration forms, special events, etc., please visit

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_fifth.html

A Handbook for participants at the Forum's Sessions is also posted on the website, in French, English, Spanish and Russian.

Launch of the new SPFII website

The new website of the SPFII launched in March 2006 is an important information and communication tool.

The SPFII organized a training for Russian indigenous fellows

A group of six indigenous Fellows from Siberia, Russian Federation, participated in a two-day training session at the Secretariat of UNPFII from 9 to 13 January 2006. The training was sponsored by the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) and Novosibirsk State University. The students are from the Udege, Chalkan, Shorian and Eskimos (Inuit) peoples of Siberia.

The NGO Committee on the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the American Indian Law Alliance and Tribal Link Foundation, UNICEF, UNESCO and the SPFII provided training

sessions to the fellows. The topics covered, among other issues, the history and current challenges of indigenous movement at international fora, the Millennium Development Goals, the promotion of indigenous languages and cultures, mother tongue education, environment and biological diversity and the UN mechanisms on indigenous issues including the Permanent Forum.

The fellows also had the opportunity to participate, as observers at the Workshop on Millennium Development Goals, Indigenous Participation and Good Governance from 11 to 13 January 2006.

Details of the training can be found on the website of Novosibirsk State University:

<http://www.nsu.ru/ip/block.php?action=nitem&iid=513&sid=1&ng=en>

Release of a brochure on "Indigenous Children and Youth and the UNPFII: SPEAK UP"



The SPFII in cooperation with UNDPI produced the Indigenous Youth Brochure "Speak Up" in English, Spanish, French and Russian. The brochure describes how indigenous youth can get involved in the Permanent Forum and a description of UNPFII's work in a youth friendly way. It is available at

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

UN Film on "Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations"

SPFII produced the documentary mentioned, 28' minutes film aimed at raising awareness among UN agency officials, government officials working with indigenous communities. The film which available in English, French and Spanish, will be distributed to all UN Country Teams, to the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, to governments and others.

Tsleil-Waututh International Gathering: Indigenous Perspectives on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge, 2 February to 25 March, Vancouver, Canada.

The meeting provided an opportunity for elders and community members to become involved in issues discussed at the global level in relation to traditional knowledge and genetic resources.

TABLE OF NEWS AND ACTIVITIES BY MONTH

JANUARY

- The SPFII hosts training of Russian Indigenous Fellows
- Participation of Ms. Tauli-Corpuz at the Presidential inauguration ceremony of H. E. Mr. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, January 20-22, La Paz, Bolivia
- Participation of Mr. Tamang at the Fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions (23 to 27 January 2006) and the Fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (30 January to 3 February 2006), Granada, Spain.
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FEBRUARY

- Pre-sessional Meeting of the UNPFII, 13 and 16 February 2006, Nuuk, Greenland
- International workshop on Partnership Visions for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, 14 to 15 February 2006, Nuuk, Greenland
- Participation of Mr. Sulyandziga at the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forest, 13 to 24 February 2006, UNHQ, New York
- Release of a brochure on Indigenous Children and Youth and the UNPFII: SPEAK UP
- Presentation of DESA's Framework for Technical Cooperation in countries with Indigenous Peoples.
- Fifth session of the Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality, 22 to 24 February 2006, ECOSOC Chamber, New York.
- Release of case studies on Indigenous Women.
- 50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
- Tsleil-Waututh International Gathering: Indigenous Perspectives on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge, 2 February to 25 March, Vancouver, Canada

MARCH

- Participation of Ms. Tauli Corpuz and Mr. Aguiar de Almeida at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Porto Alegre, Brazil 7 to 10 March, 2006.
- Launch of the new SPFII website.
- Workshop on "Indigenous Peoples and Indicators of Well-being" at the Aboriginal Policy Research Conference, 22-23 March 2006, Ottawa, Canada
- Participation of Ms. Muzangi Mbela and Mr. Id Balkassm at the Regional Training Program of UNITAR, 6 to 16 March, Morocco
- The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues addressed a letter to the new Human Rights Council
- Release of the UN Film "Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations"
- Letter of Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo, the Coordinator of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 28 March 2006.



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