

# THE message stick

Quarterly Newsletter of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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Photo: Mr. Littlechild, Member UNPFII; H.E. David Choquehuanca, Foreign Affairs Minister; Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson UNPFII; H.E. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia; Ms. Kokajev, Member UNPFII (19 September 2006)

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the **MESSAGE STICK**<sup>1</sup>, the newsletter that highlights the activities undertaken by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and its Secretariat for the period from July to September 2006.

In the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup>, indigenous movements have been changing the world's outlook. Who are indigenous peoples? What are these movements that refuse to be excluded from social discourse and political developments? These movements are expressions of the desire of 370 million indigenous people around the world, whose aim is the recognition of their rights as peoples and individuals, of their right to identity, education, health, environment, and the whole spectrum of human rights, economic, civil, political and cultural, as well as the right to development.

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 various international meetings of UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and other organizations.

In this newsletter we would like to share information on important recent developments, such as plans for the integration of indigenous issues in United Nations operations and the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues. An historical meeting between Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, and members of the UNPFII was held, after the President's address at the UN General Assembly, where he urged the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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](mailto:IndigenousPermanentForum@un.org)

*Secretariat of the UNPFII*

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## REPRESENTATION OF THE UNPFII AT IMPORTANT MEETINGS OF RELEVANCE TO ITS MANDATE

### Participation of Ms. Tauli-Corpuz at the ECOSOC panel discussion, 7 July 2006, UNHQ, New York.

The Chairperson of the UNPFII, Ms. Tauli-Corpuz addressed the Coordination Segment of ECOSOC on 7 July 2006 with a view to providing a policy oriented assessment from the perspective of functional commissions and subsidiary bodies of the Council. She highlighted that as Chairpersons they must enhance their cooperation and coordination in order to achieve the comprehensive UN Development agenda.

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz reiterated some recommendations that will hopefully enhance such collaboration:

(1) A system should be established so that the secretariats of the functional commissions regularly transmit to other commission's multi-year programmes of work and agendas of future sessions; (2) Joint meetings of Bureaux and their secretariats should be instituted, 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; (3) Commissions, through their secretariats, should distribute to the other commissions resolutions and recommendations of special relevance to each commission; (4) Given its mandate to promote mainstreaming of indigenous issues, the other commissions should extend invitations to the Permanent Forum to participate at relevant meetings and the Forum should do the same.

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz finalizing her remarks stated that "the UNPFII continues to strive towards the full implementation of its mandate to end marginalization, exclusion, and poverty in the lives of the world's indigenous peoples, but cannot achieve this without the partnership and support of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions."

### Participation of Mr. Id Balkassm at the United Nations General Assembly's High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development, 14-15 September 2006, UNHQ, New York

The High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development took place on 14 and 15 September 2006 in New York at UN Headquarters. In its resolution 58/208 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly decided to devote a High-Level Dialogue to international migration and development during its sixty-first session in 2006. The purpose of the High-Level dialogue was to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts. Additionally, the high-level dialogue had a strong focus on policy issues, including the challenge of achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Mr. Id Balkassm participated at the panel, and highlighted that following the UNPFII's recommendations a workshop on indigenous peoples and migration was organized this year by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum. This workshop had emphasized the lack of reliable data on the issue and made a number of recommendations specifically for this High-Level Dialogue, which were endorsed by the Permanent Forum at its Fifth Session earlier this year.

To read Mr. Id Balkassm's speech please visit: [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/migration\\_balkassm.doc](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/migration_balkassm.doc)

### Participation of Ms. Lux de Coti and SPFII at the 3rd Meeting of UN Agencies in Mexico and Indigenous Women's Organizations of Central America and Mexico, 21 – 22 August 2006, Mexico City, Mexico



Photo: Ms. Teresa Rodriguez, Regional Programme Director, UNIFEM; Ms. Lux de Coti, Member UNPFII and indigenous leaders.

The Third Meeting of Indigenous Women of Mexico and Central America and the United Nations System was held in Mexico City on 21 and 22 August 2006. At the meeting some 30 indigenous representatives from Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama and Honduras participated, as well as 10 UN Agencies from the region, including UNICEF, UNESCO, PAHO, PNUD and the OHCHR. The event was organized by UNIFEM and the Indigenous Women's Network from Central America. Ms. Lux de Coti and a staff member of the Secretariat of the UNPFII participated at the meeting.

This meeting is one of a series of events organized by the Indigenous Women's Network of Central America, with the purpose to evaluate the implementation of the Beijing Platform (approved at the 4th World Conference on Woman in 1995) and the recommendations of the Third Session of the UNPFII related to indigenous women. A Plan of Action was developed by the participants; the main activity is the creation of a capacity building programme for indigenous women of the region with the support of UNIFEM and universities. Other issues discussed included as maternal mortality and the intra-familial violence in indigenous communities.

### Participation of Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Mr. Id Balkassm and SPFII at the meeting for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 4-6 September 2006, Cancun, Mexico.

The 3-day meeting organized by the Government of Mexico was attended by sixty people comprising Indigenous Peoples, States and the National Committee for Indigenous Peoples Development and Foreign Affairs of Mexico. It provided an opportunity to consider issues that might be relevant to implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The following issues emerged from the discussions: the Legal Nature of the Declaration; Particular Characteristics of the Declaration; Judicial Scope; Responsibility of UN Organs and Organizations; Responsibility of States and Responsibility of indigenous peoples.

The UNPFII Chairperson, Ms. Tauli-Corpuz gave a presentation on the responsibilities and functions of UN bodies and organizations. Ms Tauli-Corpuz pointed out that Articles 41 and 42 of the Declaration relates to the UN and



its organs including the UNPFII to promote respect for and full application of the provisions of the Declaration and follow-up the effectiveness of this Declaration. The Declaration can be used by UN agencies as a point of reference to guide the implementation of policies and programs, to review programs of action and specific measures contained in them such as the Program of Action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. It will also enable development agencies such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund, among others, to redefine and adjust their policies and programs according to the principles and norms established in the Declaration.

## MEETINGS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNPFII AND ITS SECRETARIAT

### **Participation of Mr. Lyngge and SPFII at the 10th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, 9-13 July 2006, Barrow, Alaska**

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) General Assembly was held in Barrow, Alaska. It was composed of 18 delegates from each of the four ICC countries (Russian Federation, Alaska/USA, Canada and Greenland/Denmark). It was attended by observers from the Saami Council and some 300 Alaskans and authorities and residents of the Barrow community, as well from the UN system (IFAD, the UN University and SPFII attended the Assembly). Government representatives from the four countries were also present. The meeting was conducted with interpretation in 5 languages: English, Russian, Inupiak (spoken by Alaskan Inuit), Inuktituk (spoken by Canadian Inuit) and Greenlandic.

The agenda covered economic and social development, human rights, education, health, culture and climate change and the environment. Special challenges identified were issues around whaling and other hunting, unemployment, housing, drug abuse, the fact that youth abandon school, the loss of language in some areas due to inadequate incorporation in the school system, global warming and its impact on the Arctic, including the expected opening of a polar shipping route.

One day was devoted to ICC's international work and strategies, including the UNPFII, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Arctic Council and the Convention on Biodiversity. Mr. Lyngge, President of ICC Greenland, currently one of the Vice-Chairs of the UNPFII, and SPFII participated at a panel regarding the UNPFII. Dale Sambo, a reknown Inuit lawyer from Alaska, and Hjalmar Dahl of ICC Greenland, presented the recent developments on the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

SPFII made a statement on links between the indigenous movement and the United Nations, which led to many institutional positive changes, including establishment of the UNPFII.

The Assembly adopted the Utqiagrik Declaration that outlines ICC's work direction for the next four years.

### **Participation of Ms. Lux de Coti at the First Congress of the Coordinating Body for the Indigenous Organizations of the Andean Region organized by CONAMAQ, CONAIE and CONACAMI, 15 -16 July, Cuzco, Peru.**

The First Congress of the Coordinating Body for the

Indigenous Organizations of the Andean Region (Quechua, Kichwa, Aymara, Mapuche and others) was attended by some 500 official delegates of indigenous organizations such as: ECUARUNARI (Ecuador); CONACAMI (Peru); CONAMAQ (Bolivia), ONIC (Colombia) and CITEM (Chile). It was held in the city of Cuzco, Peru.

Ms. Lux de Coti on behalf of the UNPFII participated at the panel discussion on "The Current Situation of Indigenous Peoples and Nationalities of the Americas". As conclusions of this panel some main issues were highlighted such as: the free trade agreements and its consequences for indigenous peoples in the region; preparation of a common agenda for indigenous peoples of the region within the context of the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People; and, development with identity.

To read the Cuzco Declaration and other articles on the meeting, please visit the following website:

[http://www.ecuarunari.org/es/eventos/index\\_peru.htm](http://www.ecuarunari.org/es/eventos/index_peru.htm)

### **Participation of Mr. Aguiar de Almeida at the meeting on international instruments on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, 26 – 27 July 2006, Olinda, Pernambuco, Brazil.**

Mr. Aguiar de Almeida as a member of the UNPFII to a close event to discuss and make follow up evaluation of a current project carried by Brazilian indigenous organizations on "International Instruments on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". The meeting was sponsored by the Brazilian office of Oxfam - Great Britain.

### **Indigenous experts meeting on Indigenous Peoples and Indicators of Well-being, 4- 6 September 2006, Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua.**

The Secretariat of the UNPFII sponsored a meeting of indigenous experts on Indigenous Peoples and Indicators of Well-being convened by the Centro para la Autonomía y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CADPI) for the Latin America and Caribbean region. This meeting of indigenous experts is part of a series of regional meetings, including Asia and Africa, and is intended to contribute together with other efforts, to a comprehensive indicator framework of the UN system, through the Permanent Forum. It will build on the challenges, gaps, and existing work on global and regional indicators across the mandated areas of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

### **International Meeting on Communication and Development, 13 – 15 September 2006, Santa Cruz, Bolivia**

The Indigenous Confederacy of Bolivia (CIDOB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Secretariat of the UNPFII convened the above-mention meeting in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. It was attended by indigenous representatives of organizations and institutions of Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Argentina and Bolivia.

The meeting noted that indigenous peoples across Latin America are actors of their own destiny, in particular in Bolivia, and through their constant struggle, they exercise control of their own future. Within this context and in preparation for the World Congress on Communication for Development, 25-27 October 2006 ([http://www.cipaco.org/article.php?id\\_article=494](http://www.cipaco.org/article.php?id_article=494)), the

organizers created a space for them to share their visions, experiences and develop proposals to articulate policies within their countries on communication and development for Indigenous Peoples.

The SPFI made a presentation on the UNPFII, its mandate and its working methodology. To read the Declaration adopted at the meeting (only Spanish), please visit:

[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/comunicacion\\_desarrollo.doc](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/comunicacion_desarrollo.doc)

**Meeting between His Excellency Evo Morales, President of Bolivia and Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Ms. Kokajev and Mr. Littlechild, members of the UNPFII, 19 September 2006, New York.**

The Secretariat of the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (SPFI) convened a meeting between H. E. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, the country's Foreign Minister, H.E. David Choquehuanca and his delegation with Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Ms. Kokajev, and Mr. Littlechild on 19 September 2006, after the President's address at the UN General Assembly.

At the meeting, the President explained his concern about the fact that absolute criminalization of coca leaf did not take account the fact that it plays a variety of significant roles for indigenous communities, its principal role being its use as a medicinal plant for indigenous peoples. Mr. Morales also mentioned the importance of strengthened local governments and called for the Forum's support for technical cooperation for his country in the areas of health, education, environment and others.

Mr. Choquehuanca asked the members of the Permanent Forum for their support in organizing a training programme for indigenous diplomats in his country. Both suggested that the Permanent Forum should be the voice of indigenous peoples at this high level body at the UN. Mr. Morales and Mr. Choquehuanca invited the members of the Forum to attend a meeting to be held in Bolivia (8-12 October 2006) within the framework of events on the 500 years of Indigenous Resistance and include at the panel discussions the status of indigenous issues at the international level and how the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples should be implemented.

Members of the Forum expressed their gratitude to the President for urging the General Assembly to adopt the Declaration at this GA session. Ms. Tauli-Corpuz invited the President to attend the forthcoming session of the Permanent Forum and the expert workshop to be held in January 2007 and to share the experiences on the process of various reforms in the country.



Photo: H. E. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia and Indigenous leaders of North America.

The day before, indigenous leaders of North America and the Aymaran President of Bolivia, Evo Morales, held a historic meeting, where they discussed the dangers facing the environment as well as human rights issues for Native peoples. Mr. Littlechild was at that meeting too. This meeting was hosted by the Secretariat of the UNPFII and the American Indian Law Alliance, an indigenous peoples' nongovernmental organization with offices in New York City.

## SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

### *Second Decade and the integration of indigenous issues in UN operations*

**Intervention of Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General and Coordinator of the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People at the UNDG Principals, 12 July 2006.**

On 12 July 2006 an important decision was taken by the UNDG (UN Development Group--which brings together all the development-related parts of the UN and its agencies). Based on a proposal of Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo, the Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs and Coordinator of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, the UNDG decided to transmit to all UN country teams the Programme of Action of the Second Decade and ask them to promote its implementation in each country. In addition, the UNDG decided that specific guidelines are needed for the mainstreaming of indigenous issues in UN operations and invited the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues to carry out this work. This decision of the UNDG will have significant ripple effects in terms of making operational the UN policies on indigenous peoples' issues at the filed level.

## INTERAGENCY SUPPORT GROUP ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

**Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum participated in the annual Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) meeting, 15-18 September 2006, Tivoli/Rome, Italy.**

17 UN agencies, funds, programmes and departments, were represented at the IASG held in Italy. The 2006 annual meeting of IASG was chaired by IFAD (the International Fund for Agricultural Development). Several members of the top management of the hosting agency IFAD participated at the meeting, including IFAD President, Lennart Båge.

The theme of the meeting was Development with Identity with three sub-themes: (1) Indigenous Lands, Territories and Resources, (2) Indigenous Peoples and Technology Development and (3) Indigenous Culture and Development.

Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Coordinator of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, addressed the meeting from New York through videoconference. The Secretariat of the UNPFII had prepared background notes on recommendations of the Forum in relation to the theme of the meeting addressing the UN system.

The outcome of the meeting included decisions on number of joint activities, the importance of a cultural diversity perspective in development, the need to promote indigenous peoples' technology and better information sharing and on how to strengthen the capacity of UN Country Teams to engage indigenous peoples at national level.

The IASG welcomed the initiative of the UNDG to implement the Programme of Action of the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People at country level and the recommendation to the IASG to develop specific guidelines for mainstreaming indigenous issues in UN operations. The IASG decided to work on this important task in cooperation with the UNDG.

The IASG decided to accept the generous offer of the Secretariat of the CBD (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity) to host the IASG annual session next year in Montreal, Canada.

## INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S ISSUES

### **SPFII participation at the 7th International Meeting on Gender Statistics within the MDGs framework, 19 – 21 September 2006, Aguascalientes, Mexico.**

The United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) invited the Secretariat of the UNPFII to make a presentation at the 7th International Meeting on Gender-Sensitive Statistics within the Millennium Development Goals framework. It was jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the National Institute of Women (Inmujeres), the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Computer Sciences and UNIFEM. This meeting was held in the city of Aguascalientes, Mexico.

The aim of the meeting was to promote the exchange of experiences and thoughts on the progress reached until now on the incorporation of a gender perspective in the production of statistics and national indicators and their utilization in public policies. The importance of international strategies and countries' experiences on the matter will be discussed, within the MDGs framework, and the agenda also included sessions dedicated to the issues of violence, indigenous populations and time-use.

The event was attended by high-level management employees of the National Statistics' Offices and Women Institutes and directors of multinational agencies, which allowed for a productive dialogue in favour of the development of gender-sensitive statistics in the region.

Mexico presently heads, through its National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI), the CEPAL Statistics Conference of the Americas ([www.eclac.cl/ceacepal](http://www.eclac.cl/ceacepal)). In this role, INEGI coordinates national statistical offices and heads the UN Statistics Commission (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd.statcom.commission.htm>). Given that UNIFEM and INEGI are partners in developing statistical information with a focus on equity, it was strategic to them that the Secretariat of the UNPFII joined the panel on indigenous populations (September 21). On the panel, SPFII highlighted the recommendations of the UNPFII related to the theme and also presented the activities that are taking place on data collection and disaggregation, indicators and gender issues, so participants understood the urgent need to include indigenous peoples in statistics, especially indigenous women.

## NEWS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

### **Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be considered at the General Assembly.**

The Secretariat of the UNPFII is preparing to facilitate access of Permanent Forum members and indigenous representatives to the upcoming discussions of indigenous issues at the General Assembly the week of 16 October 2006, which is expected to include discussions on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Two special events and dialogues will be organized during those days (16 and 17 October respectively): one on the occasion of the Third Committee of the General Assembly "Towards implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples", co-sponsored by the Secretariat of the UNPFII/DSPD/DESA, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Permanent Mission of Mexico and Peru to the United Nations, and the launching of the report "Mairin Iwanka Raya, Indigenous Women Stand against Violence", co-sponsored by the Secretariat of the UNPFII /DSPD/DESA, the International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWF/FIMI) and MADRE, International Women's Human Rights Organization. For more information on the events, please visit <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/news.html>

SPFII is also preparing an expert meeting that will contribute towards a report on the state of the world's indigenous peoples. The meeting will take place in Salckhard, Siberia on 1-2 December 2006, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga and his organization RAIPON. The meeting is sponsored by the Administration of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug (YNAO). Information on developments regarding these events will be posted on our website as they become available.

### **SPFII participation at 9th Eschborn Dialogue, 5- 9 September 2006, Frankfurt, Germany**

The German Technical Cooperation, officially known as Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) devoted this year's to Eschborn Dialogue on 5 and 6 September to the theme "Knowledge Powers Development-Sharing experience, shaping the future".

Knowledge as a factor of production is becoming increasingly important, because economic growth depends primarily on a growth in knowledge. Conversely, the lack of access to knowledge is always an obstacle to development. GTZ concerns itself with knowledge and learning in a variety of ways. As a learning organization, GTZ lives from the experience and knowledge it gains in projects and programmes in partner countries. At this year's Eschborn Dialogue, GTZ invited representatives of politics, business, academia and civil society to discuss the manifold aspects of knowledge with development experts. Concrete work experience and new theoretical approaches show ways of facing the challenges of the future. A varied programme of side-events allowed participants to experience the topic first hand.

The SPFII participated at a panel discussion on "Democracy builds on knowledge – knowledge builds on democracy", highlighting recommendations of the UNPFII on development and the five objectives of the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

To learn more about the 9th Eschborn Dialogue, please visit



<http://www.gtz.de/en/top-themen/14648.htm>

## SPECIAL NEWS

### Commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, 9 of August 2006, UNHQ, New York.



Photo: Prang Roy, Willy Littlechild, Qorianka Kilcher, Sonia Smallacombe, Johan Schölvink, Romy Tincopa

The 12th commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People was held on 9 of August 2006 at UN Headquarters in New York, organized by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues DSPD/DESA and the NGO Committee on the Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

There were statements delivered on behalf of Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Coordinator of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, and Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and others.

Along with an art exhibition by Kichwa artist Inty Muenala from Ecuador and a film screening, a panel discussion on "Indigenous Peoples: human rights, dignity and development with identity" were held. Speakers included Q'orianka Kilcher, lead actress in the 2005 Hollywood film, "The New World" and descendant of the Huachipaeri and Quechua people of Peru, Phrang Roy, Assistant President with the portfolio on Indigenous Issues, International Fund for Agricultural Development; Wilton Littlechild (Cree Nation-Canada), Member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; and Romy Tincopa, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Peru to the UN spoke at the event.

This year's observance coincided with a number of landmark events for indigenous peoples around the world.

A significant achievement has been the recent adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in June this year at the inaugural session of the newly elected Human Rights Council.

Indigenous peoples are looking forward to the final adoption of the Declaration by the General Assembly before the end of 2006. Advocates believe that the Declaration, once adopted by Member States, will serve as a crucial international instrument to protect and ensure indigenous rights. Celebrations and discussions this year also drew upon the theme of "Partnership for Action and Dignity", the central focus of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, which runs from 2005 to 2015.

To read the statements, messages of UN Agencies, pictures, etc. please visit at [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/news\\_internationalday](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/news_internationalday)

[2006.html](#)

### Recommendation on indigenous peoples at the 2006 United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses 10-14 July 2006, United Nations, New York

The 2006 United Nations Expert Group Meeting on the 2010 World Programme of Population and Housing Censuses convened in New York 10-14 July 2006. The Meeting was organized by the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistical Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The purpose of this meeting was to critically review and finalize the draft United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2 for presentation to the 38th Session of the Statistical Commission.

For the first time, the Report 2006 Expert Group Meeting on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, ESA/STAT/AC.114/1, under Annex II (p.110), include a complete section on indigenous peoples based on of the UNPFII reports.

To read the complete report, please see at [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/censusegm06/list\\_of\\_docs.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/censusegm06/list_of_docs.htm)

### Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector, 12 July 2006, UNHQ, New York.

The informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector were held on 12 July 2006, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/227 of 23 December 2005. It was organized by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States and representatives of NGOs in consultative status with the ECOSOC, civil society organizations and the private sector. The hearings were part of the preparatory process for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on 14-15 September 2006 in New York.

The hearings were divided into three topics: (a) promoting a comprehensive rights-based approach to international migration, and ensuring respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants and their families; (b) international migration and development: challenges for social and economic policies in sending and receiving countries; and (c) policy responses: promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including the bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike. Mr. Santiago de la Cruz from CONAIE (Ecuador) participated as a speaker under topic (b).

The hearings constituted the first opportunity for Member States, within the framework of the General Assembly, to interact with representatives of civil society and the private sector in a discussion of the challenges and opportunities that international migration has brought to development.

The summary report (A/61/187) contains, under item (c) The importance of a rights-based approach to international, a paragraph on Indigenous peoples, which states: "Some participants focused on the plight of indigenous peoples, particularly those forced to move from their ancestral lands by development projects, the exploitation of resources by

private companies or conflict. This situation often deprived them of sustainable livelihoods and resulted in poverty, ultimately contributing to their internal displacement or to their migration abroad. International cooperation and engagement were needed to protect the communal rights of indigenous peoples to their ancestral domains. A participant called on countries of destination to acknowledge and respect the rights of indigenous people to maintain their customs and practices.”

To read the complete Summary, please visit: [http://www.un-ngls.org/pdf/N0644786\\_Summary\\_Hearings\\_English.pdf](http://www.un-ngls.org/pdf/N0644786_Summary_Hearings_English.pdf)

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- Inter-Agency Support Group meeting hosted by IFAD, 15 – 18 September 2006, Rome, Italy.

- Participation of Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Mr. Id Balkassm and SPFII at the meeting for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 4-6 September 2006, Cancun, Mexico.
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For more information, please visit:

[www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii)



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