

THE message stick

Quarterly Newsletter of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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CONTENTS

Introduction

Highlights of activities:

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Preparation of the first publication on the State of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Task Team of the UNDG Programme Group to produce Guidelines for UN Country Teams to work on indigenous issues

Call for nomination of Members of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Preparations for the sixth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Decision on the visual identifier for the UNPFII



Her Excellency Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President of the General Assembly; Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the UNPFII and Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorrough, representative of the Arctic.

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 2006.

Indigenous peoples live in every region of the world. They live in climates ranging from Arctic cold to Amazon heat, and often claim a deep connection to their lands and natural environments. For many indigenous peoples, the natural world is a valued source of food, health, spirituality and identity. Land is both a critical resource that sustains life and a major cause of struggle for indigenous peoples' physical and cultural survival.

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 different activities that took place at United Nations Headquarters until the General Assembly's decision to defer action on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We also include information on the integration and mainstreaming of indigenous issues in the United Nations' operational work at country level.

SPFII is preparing the annual international expert meeting to be held in January 2007 and the Sixth Session of the UNPFII from 14 to 25 May 2007.

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.



SPECIAL FEATURES ON THE UN DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Press conference to discuss the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, its history, significance and current status, 13 October 2006, New York, UNHQ

The press conference highlighted that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is an instrument of great value through which to advance the rights and aspirations of the world's more than 370 million indigenous people, affirming the rights of indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures and traditions and to pursue development in keeping with their needs and aspirations. The draft Declaration was adopted on 29 June 2006 during the inaugural session of the Human Rights Council, it also had been more than 20 years in the making. Last May, the Permanent Forum had recommended that the General Assembly adopts the draft Declaration during its sixty-first session.

Panelists were H.E. Mr. Enrique Berruga, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations; Mr. Aqpaluk Lynge, President of the Inuit Circumpolar Council Greenland and Vice-Chairman of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference International and Bureau member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII); and Mr. Kent Lebeck, Executive Director of the American Indian Law Alliance.

H.E. Mr. Berruga described the draft Declaration as a landmark achievement in fulfilling the long-standing demands of indigenous peoples. It recognized their rights –once historically denied– of intercultural heritage; traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions; the right to the land, territories and resources traditionally owned; the right for indigenous peoples to live according to their own political systems and institutions; and the right to participate in the State decision-making processes.

Mr. Lynge urged all Member States to adopt the draft Declaration without amendments, saying that, although the doors of the United Nations had been closed to indigenous peoples for decades, a vote in favour of adoption would be “a vote to open the doors to indigenous people once and for all”.

Mr. Lebeck said the draft Declaration reflected one of the first true people's movements within the United Nations system. “We opened the doors in 1977 and the Working Group was established in 1982. It's time to pass this Declaration.”

The press conference was organized by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations.

You can find the press conference webcast in UN Webcast archives at <http://www.un.org/webcast/2006.html>

Special indigenous related events at the United Nations to mark the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 16 – 17 October 2006, New York, UNHQ

To promote the presence and visibility of indigenous peoples during the discussions of the General Assembly Third Committee, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (SPFII) organized two panel discussions:

Dialogue and panel discussion: “Towards implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”

The event was co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Mexico and Peru to the United Nations and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Ms. Tonya Gonnella Frichner Esq., President, American Indian Law Alliance, gave the opening remarks. The panel included Ms. Xóchitl Gálvez Ruiz, Director-General, National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples, Mexico; Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Mr. Mattias Ahren, Head, Human Rights Unit, the Saami Council and Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous People.

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, stressed that many of the rights in the Declaration require new approaches to global issues, such as development, decentralization, and multicultural democracy. Mr. Stavenhagen, stressed the need to urgently get the Declaration adopted in the current session of the General Assembly and to work towards its full implementation, including making it a part of everyday life, across the world. The event was attended by various delegations of Member States, indigenous representatives, NGOs, UN staff and the media.

***Panel discussion and book launch: “Mairin Iwanka
Raya, Indigenous Women Stand against Violence”.*** The event was organized by the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI) and MADRE in collaboration with the Secretariat of UNPFII. Speakers included Ms. Charlotte Bunch, member of the Advisory Committee on the Secretary-General's study on violence against women; Ms. Monica Aleman, Coordinator of the International Indigenous Forum on Indigenous Issues; Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson, UNPFII; and Ms. Christine A. Brautigam, Chief, Women's Rights Section, UN Division for the Advancement of Women.

The book focuses on human rights violations and the violence faced by indigenous women. It is a companion piece to the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Women launched on 9 October 2006.

Delegates of Member States, representatives of indigenous organizations, NGOs, media and UN staff participated at the event.

Mairin Iwanka Raya: Indigenous Women Stand against Violence publication is available for download at MADRE's website: <http://www.madre.org/fimi/vaiwreport06.pdf>

Representatives of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus, the Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous People meet with the President of the General Assembly, 20 October 2006, New York, UNHQ

The representatives of Indigenous Peoples Caucus who were at the United Nations attending the General Assembly Third Committee deliberations on indigenous issues asked the Secretariat of the UNPFII to convene a meeting between a delegation of indigenous leaders from the various indigenous socio-cultural regions to meet with the President of the General Assembly, Her Excellency Sheikh Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, regarding the draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the Human Rights Council in June this year.

Ms. Tauli Corpuz, Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and Mr. Stavenhagen, UN Special

Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous People were also present at the meeting. They brought to the attention of Her Excellency their appeal letter regarding the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and they requested it be made available to the Members of the Bureau and all the delegations of the Third Committee.

The Appeal Letter is available in languages at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/dec_appeal_en.doc

Briefing on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples organized jointly by the Permanent Missions of Denmark, Mexico, Norway, Peru and Spain to the United Nations, 26 October 2006, New York, UNHQ

It was organized with the aim of raising awareness about the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recently adopted by the Human Rights Council, towards taking action on it at the General Assembly. The briefing was attended by various Member States, representatives of indigenous organizations and NGOs.

Panelist were Mr. Craig Mokhiber, Officer in Charge of the New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; Ms. Xóchitl Gálvez, Director General of the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples, Mexico; Ms. Astrid Helle Ajamay, Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Norway to the International Organizations based in Geneva; Mr. Luis Enrique Chávez, Deputy Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations and former Chairman-Rapporteur of the Working Groups on the elaboration of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; H.E. Ms. Silvia Escobar, Ambassador in Special Mission for Issues Related for Human Rights of Spain. Moderator was Ms. Elsa Stamatopoulou, Chief of SPFII.

Highlights of General Assembly Third Committee, Agenda Item 64: Indigenous Issues, 16-17 October 2006, UNHQ, New York.

The item was introduced by Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, who, as Coordinator of the Second Decade, echoed the call for adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the General Assembly session this year. Mr. Ocampo stressed that the Declaration will provide to the international community a comprehensive international standard towards which all should strive together. The United Nations, had an obligation to continue to promote respect for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in development processes at all levels. Mr. Ocampo referred to responses of the UN system to the Programme of Action for the Decade and thanked governments that had contributed to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues.

Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people stated that the Declaration should be adopted without change or delay, as its adoption by the Council at its first session was a result long-awaited by indigenous people and the human rights community, coming after more than 20 years of negotiations in Geneva. The Declaration represented a new path for the protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples and reflected the emerging international consensus on the content of their rights. He appealed to Member States not to disappoint the hopes of indigenous peoples of the world.

Mr. Stavenhagen drew attention to the "implementation gap"

between legal standards and substantive change in the lives of indigenous peoples that deserved the careful attention of the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. In many countries; international norms and principles were not always applied in domestic legislation.

Many delegations expressed support for the adoption of the Declaration; some expressed reservations.

Representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) also made statements and asked for the adoption of the Declaration.

The debate on the item was held in an atmosphere of general consensus. Nineteen governmental and three agency statements were made. They included three group statements (CARICOM, Nordic Group and New Zealand, Australia and US Group).

The Special Rapporteur and the Chairperson of the UNPFII had addressed a formal letter of appeal to all States for the adoption of the Declaration without further delay at the present GA session.

Other points of the discussion were:

- Support by all speakers for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the Special Rapporteur;
- Various statements underlining positive measures taken by governments at the national level;
- The agency statements (IOM, WIPO and IFAD) highlighted their work on indigenous issues and how the Declaration will help for future action at national level.

About thirty indigenous peoples' leaders from around the world attended the Third Committee to follow developments towards the adoption of the Declaration.

UN General Assembly Third Committee discusses the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 10 November 2006, UNHQ, New York.

EXCERPTS of UNDPI press release: General Assembly (GA/SHC/3871) - Sixty-first General Assembly, Third Committee 44th Meeting (PM), 10 November 2006.

"Today, the Committee was urged to adopt the draft International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances and the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which were referred to the General Assembly by the Human Rights Council. The President of the Council, Luis Alfonso de Alba of Mexico, told the Committee that the two important international instruments were the outcome of decades of work and lengthy negotiations and should be adopted as soon as possible.

Following Mr. de Alba's brief statement, the Committee resumed its general discussion on the report of the Human Rights Council. While some delegations focused on the two international instruments before the Committee, others took the opportunity to discuss the work of the Council during its first months of operation.

Several delegations expressed their strong support for the Convention on enforced disappearances, and none expressed opposition. However, opinions were divided on the draft Declaration on indigenous peoples".

To read the complete press release at the Sixty-first General

Assembly Third Committee 44th Meeting (PM), please visit <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2006/gashc3871.doc.htm>

UN General Assembly Third Committee defers adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 28 November 2006, UNHQ, New York.

EXCERPTS of UNDP press release: General Assembly (GA/SHC/3878) - Sixty-first General Assembly Third Committee 53rd Meeting (AM) - 28 November 2006

"The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) on 28 December 2006 adopted a draft resolution that would see the General Assembly defer consideration and action on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with the aim of concluding consideration of the Declaration before the end of its current sixty-first session.

Under a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/61/L.18/Rev1), the full text would have been adopted by the Assembly in relatively short order, but the draft was amended (A/C.3/61/L.57/Rev.1).

In its new form, the draft would have the Assembly decide "to defer consideration and action on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to allow time for further consultations thereon". Furthermore, the Assembly would also decide "to conclude consideration of the Declaration before the end of its sixty-first session".

The amendments were adopted by a vote of 82 in favour to 67 against, with 25 abstentions. The amended draft was then adopted with a vote of 83 in favour to none against, with 91 abstentions, with the latter notably including countries that had been co-sponsors of the original motions"

To read the resolutions (A/C.3/61/L.18/Rev1) and (A/C.3/61/L.57/Rev.1), please visit

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

To read the complete press release at the Sixty-first General Assembly Third Committee 53rd Meeting (AM), please visit <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2006/gashc3878.doc.htm>

Message of Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2006.

"Indigenous peoples would have joyfully celebrated the International Human Rights Day this year if the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the General Assembly before the end of 2006.

Unfortunately, the decision of the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on November 28th, 2006, to defer the adoption of the Declaration has weakened the meaning of this day.

At the Fifth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues the shared expectation of indigenous peoples, of the UN system and of the Permanent Forum was for the adoption of the Declaration by the General Assembly, as had also been the call of Heads of State at the World Summit in 2005. The Permanent Forum thus adopted the following recommendation at its session in May 2006:

The Permanent Forum is convinced that a declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples will be an instrument of great value through which to advance the rights and aspirations of the world's indigenous peoples. The Permanent Forum therefore recommends the adoption without amendments of the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples ... by the General Assembly during its sixty-first session in 2006. This would represent a major achievement for the Second

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

To the credit of the newly established Human Rights Council, it adopted this Declaration in June 29, 2006, at its First Session. All the regional caucuses of indigenous peoples spoke with one voice and echoed the resolution of the Human Rights Council that this be adopted by the General Assembly at its 2006 Fall Session.

Indigenous peoples were shocked and deeply disappointed at the recent decision of the Third Committee of the General Assembly to defer the adoption, following an initiative of some Members States. I am also deeply disappointed by this move to defer the adoption of the Declaration because this is illustrative of the continuing discrimination against indigenous peoples in many parts of the world. The Declaration stands out as one of the most extensively discussed and negotiated texts in the history of the UN with the full participation of the subjects of those rights—a process for which the international community should stand proud. The non-participation of some Governments in more than 20 years of drafting and negotiations on the Declaration does not justify a further delay of its adoption. This Declaration represents the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples.

I commend the Member States who voted for the adoption of the Declaration at the Human Rights Council and those who did not support the deferral of its adoption at the General Assembly Third Committee.

I urge all Governments to demonstrate that the UN stands for human rights for all, including indigenous peoples, and to adopt the Declaration without amendments. It is the responsibility of all UN Member States to address the past and continuing injustice, racism and discrimination against indigenous peoples. International Human Rights Day will be more significant for indigenous peoples once the UN adopts the Declaration and continues building genuine partnerships and solidarity with indigenous peoples."

To download the Chairperson's message, please visit http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/vtc_hr_day_06.doc

Press conference by Indigenous Leaders and Human Rights advocates on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 12 December 2006, UNHQ, New York.

The press conference was co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations and the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The press conference included as speakers Mr. Roberto Mucaro Borrero, Indigenous Peoples' Caucus and Chair of the NGO Committee on the Decade of the World's Indigenous People; Ms. Alison Graham, International Service for Human Rights and Mr. Phil Fontaine, National Chief, Assembly of First Nations.

Reading a statement from the International Indigenous Peoples' Caucus, Mr. Borrero said that the Caucus was shocked the non-adoption by the General Assembly Third Committee of "the most important international instrument for the promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples".

Ms. Graham presented a joint statement by Amnesty International, Canadian Friends Service Committee, the International Service for Human Rights, and the Netherlands

Centre for Indigenous People, saying that international human rights organizations were outraged by the decision of the Third Committee to defer the adoption of the Declaration. The United Nations had missed a historic opportunity to fill a critical gap in international human rights protection.

Chief Fontane said that he wanted to add the voices of Canada's First Nations' Chiefs to the statements read out in the room. They also agreed with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples and the Chair of the Human Rights Council, who had both expressed their deep regret at the events in the Third Committee. Indeed, indigenous peoples were shocked and outraged over the latest developments in connection with the Declaration. They were also gravely concerned about the lack of respect and protection of human rights of over 350 million people worldwide.

To read the report of the press conference, please visit http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2006/061212_Indigeno.us.doc.htm

General Assembly defers action on Indigenous Peoples' Rights Declaration, 20 December 2006, UNHQ, New York

EXCERPTS of UNDPI press release: General Assembly (GA/10563) - Sixty-first General Assembly Plenary 82nd Meeting (AM), 20 December 2006.

"The General Assembly today adopted an International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and deferred action on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as it adopted the remaining seven resolutions and three decisions recommended by its Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

.../....

In other business, the Assembly adopted a resolution on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, by which it decided to defer consideration of and action on that document until sometime before the end of the current session. The deferment had been sought by delegations who had expressed concerns about the Declaration's potential effects on national sovereignty and land rights, though several other Member States, mainly from Latin America, had noted during the Committee's meetings that, after 24 years of drafting and revisions to address the concerns of many delegations, it was time to make the Declaration a reality".

That resolution was adopted by a recorded vote of 85 in favour to none against, with 89 abstentions. (See *Annex*)

To read the complete press release at the Sixty-first session General Assembly Plenary, 82nd Meeting (AM), please visit <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2006/ga10563.doc.htm>

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

Participation of Ms. Lux de Coti at the 7th Biarritz Forum, Valle del Bravo, Mexico, 5 – 6 October 2006.

The forum has been organized annually since 2000, it is a space to share and exchange ideas involving politicians, economists, academics, and communication professionals concerning issues that affect Europe and Latin America. Their testimonies contribute to develop a better joint work among both continents. The special theme of the 7th Biarritz Forum was "Identities - Integrations". Ms. Lux de Coti participated at

the meeting.

To learn more about the Biarritz Forum, please visit <http://www.cmeal.org/el-foro-de-biarritz.php#prensa>

Participation of Ms. Tauli-Corpuz at the World Congress on Communication for Development, Rome Italy, 25-27 October 2006.

The World Congress on Communication for Development focused on demonstrating that communication for development is an essential ingredient for meeting today's most pressing development challenges and, as such, should be more fully integrated in development policy and practice. The three days Congress brought together communication professionals engaged in development initiatives, policymakers, development practitioners, donor and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives, community representatives, and academics from around the world to share experiences and best practices in this growing field for a common understanding of what works, what doesn't, and how best to measure impact.

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz participated as a chair of a side event on Indigenous Peoples' communication for development at the World Congress.

Participation of Ms. Nicolaisen at the First International Diabetes in Indigenous Peoples Forum, Melbourne, Australia, 13 – 15 November 2006.

The International Diabetes Foundation convened this important Forum taking into consideration that rates of diabetes among indigenous peoples across the globe, and in Australia, are extremely high and require specific, focused attention. During this Forum it was possible to raise awareness of the specific issues relating to diabetes that are being faced by Indigenous peoples and to clearly articulate what can be done to address this situation.

The Forum was attended by some 200 delegates, many of whom were indigenous. The event attracted great media attention, including BBC World, as the message is dire. Indigenous peoples are not only suffering disproportionately from diabetes, they are seriously at risk the words of one of the leading experts quoted in "The Australian", November 13. "Without urgent action there certainly is a real risk of a major wipe-out of indigenous communities, if not total extinction within this century".

Ms. Nicolaisen was a keynote speaker, her intervention was entitled "Curbing diabetes among indigenous peoples: A human rights approach".

Participation of Ms. Tauli-Corpuz and SPFI at the Teach-in programme on Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Economic Globalization, 18 November 2006, New York, USA

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum and some 30 Indigenous Leaders and other speakers from every Continent gathered at the stage of Cooper Union Great Hall, in New York to speak at the first event of its kind: A Teach-In featuring "Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Economic Globalization a Celebration of Victories, Rights and Cultures".

It was organized by the International Forum on Globalization and the Tebtebba Foundation. SPFI was invited to speak at the teach-in. Some 200 hundred people attended this event. Each speaker talked about important developments on the problems faced by and the rising resistance of indigenous peoples against the invasions of corporate globalization.

At the event, the publication of a new, expanded edition of "Paradigm Wars: Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Globalization," edited by Jerry Mander and Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, published by Sierra Club Books was presented. The book contains 28 articles on the major issues facing indigenous communities throughout the world, and highlights the many ways their resistance continues to counter corporate globalization's drive to exploit the world's last remaining natural resources, much of which is on native lands.

To learn more about the Teach-in: "Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Economic Globalization a Celebration of Victories, Rights and Cultures", please visit <http://www.ifg.org>

Participation of Ms. Muzangi Mbela as resource person in the Seminar on Indigenous Rights: instruments and good practices, 27 November - 1 December 2006, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Participants from French speaking countries of Central Africa including Burundi, Congo, Republic of Central Africa, Cameroon and Gabon participated at the seminar. Also, a representative of an international non governmental organization called Rainforest was present at the seminar organized by ILO. A number of issues were discussed at the seminar, such as identification of indigenous peoples and their challenges and priorities in the realization of MDGs, sub-regional specificities and challenges, integration of ILO convention 169 in the programming work and how to link sub-regional network to international processes.

Participation of Ms. Muzangi Mbela and Mr. Id Balkaasm at the First World Congress, Agadir, Morocco, 2 – 6 November 2006.

As follow up of the establishment of the Francophone Indigenous Caucasus during the fifth session of the Permanent Forum, the first Congress was attended by indigenous representatives from French speaking countries and areas including Quebec, North and West Africa, French Guyana and New Caledonia. Several workshops were organized during the Congress focusing on land and resources, identity and language, education, environment and conflict resolutions.

Participation of Mr. Aguiar de Almeida at the Regional Seminar on indigenous peoples in initial contact and voluntary isolation of the Amazonian Basin and El Chaco, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 20-22 November 2006.

The objective of the seminar was to build the basis for establishing a regional and national legislation on the region and facilitate the creation of links between different national administrations in order to address the situation of isolated indigenous peoples and in initial contact.

Indigenous representatives, governmental institutions, academic experts and international organization were invited to participate. Mr. Aguiar de Almeida represented the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the seminar.

The seminar was organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Bolivian Vice-Ministry of Lands, the International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and the Bolivian Confederacy of Indigenous Peoples (CIDOB).

Participation of Mr. Littlechild and SPFI at the Treaty Meeting, 13 – 16 November 2006, Edmonton, Canada

The three days meeting was attended by sixty people comprising experts, indigenous peoples, some representatives of member States and UN Agencies in Hobbema, a Maskwacis Cree Reservation, one hour's drive

from Edmonton, Canada.

The meeting was held in response to Resolution 2002/19 of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights which recommended that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organize before the end of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, a seminar on treaties, agreements and other constrictive arrangements between States and indigenous peoples and explore ways and means to follow up on the recommendations included in the final report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Miguel Alfonso Martinez (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/20).

Various presentations were given by experts from Canada, Australia, United States of America and New Zealand, Panama and Burkina Faso. Many of the presenters from Canada, USA and New Zealand emphasized the importance and continued relevance of treaties and other agreements. However, there was the view that there was a lack of implementation of the Special Rapporteurs' final report and these recommendations needed to be resubmitted with appropriate updates. There was also the view that there is an ongoing need to assert indigenous peoples' own understanding of Treaties negotiated by Treaty Nations and that education programs, with the full participation of indigenous peoples, include historical records of indigenous peoples, treaty rights and responsibilities of citizens, governments and officials. Experts also recommended that the UN Human Rights Council include an on-going agenda item in regards to its states' peer review process and observance of the human rights of indigenous peoples including compliance with Treaties, Agreements and other constructive arrangements.

MEETINGS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNPFII AND ITS SECRETARIAT

SPFI organizes expert meeting in cooperation with RAIPON and the government of the Yamal Nenets Autonomous Region of the Russian Federation: Participation of Mr. Sulyandziga, Mr. Langeveldt and SPFI at the expert group meeting towards the preparation of the first publication on the State of the World's Indigenous Peoples, 2 -3 December 2006, Salekhard, Yamal Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Siberia, Russian Federation.

The above-mentioned publication has been mandated by the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues since its first session. The Expert Group Meeting was possible thanks to the sponsorship of the local government of Yamal Nenets as well as the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), the umbrella organization of the indigenous peoples of Russia. Authors of various chapters of the world report participated, shared outlines of their chapters and provided peer review as to the content and goal of the chapters and the report overall. Local authorities, parliamentarians and indigenous representatives also participated and provided feedback. Mr. Sulyandziga and Mr. Langeveldt, members of the UNPFII also participated and co-chaired the meeting.

The authors of chapters had the opportunity to present the outline of their chapters. This included SPFI's contribution of the introductory chapter. Peer review was provided to each chapter. Chapters whose authors were unable to attend (3 authors) were presented by other participants and discussions were held. The report is scheduled to come out in May 2008.

The group was warmly welcomed by the local authorities, the local Duma and the indigenous peoples of the region, who took pride in having facilitated the first report on the state of the world's indigenous peoples.

On 29 November, SPFII visited the offices of RAIPON in Moscow and had meetings with Mr. Sulyandziga and his colleagues on their work and possible areas of further cooperation with SPFII.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Trust Fund

The second call for projects for the Trust Fund ended 15 November 2006. Approximately 90 organizations from all over the world have submitted proposals for the Trust Fund for the 2007 round.

The Bureau of the UNPFII as Advisory Group for the Fund will meet on 10 and 11 May 2007 to review the proposals. Organizations succeeding in achieving a grant will receive a notice thereafter.

Next year's deadline will be on the same date; 15 November 2007. Guidelines and info sheet in each of the four languages the proposals can be submitted, English, Spanish, French and Russian have been made available on the website of the Trust Fund soon. The website of the Trust Fund for the Second Decade can be found at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/second_trustfund.html

UNITED NATIONS' OPERATIONAL WORK AT COUNTRY LEVEL

The Inter-Agency Support Group, working as a task team of the UNDG Programme Group, finalizes the terms of reference, methods of work and workplan to produce the Guidelines for UN Country Teams to work on indigenous issues.

In July, the UNDG (the United Nations Development Group) Principals' Meeting recommended that "the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues" in consultation with the UNDG Programme Group, provide support and guidance for mainstreaming and integrating indigenous issues in UN operational activities, working through existing mechanisms and procedures".

The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG) at its annual meeting in September 2006, welcomed this recommendation and decided to cooperate with the UNDG in this task. A Task Team was formed among member-agencies of the IASG including DESA, FAO, UNESCO, ILO, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNEP, UN-HABITAT, IFAD and the World Bank. The co-conveners of the Task Team are UNICEF and the Secretariat of the Forum.

The Task Team held two meetings in November and December to finalize the terms of reference, methods of work and workplan. The main tasks of the Team are to produce the Guidelines for UN Country Teams to work on indigenous issues and a plan of action for the implementations of the Guidelines by December 2007 and to provide capacity-building activities and technical support to UN Country Teams.

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

ECOSOC approves draft agenda, date and venue of the UNPFII's sixth session, the expert workshop and takes note of the fifth session report, 15 December 2006, UNHQ, New York.

The Economic and Social Council, at its 2006 resumed Substantive Session, considered the report of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, at its fifth session (document E/2006/43). The Council approved a draft decision to authorize a three-day international expert group meeting on "the Convention on Biological Diversity international regime on access and benefit-sharing and indigenous peoples' human rights".

The Council also adopted the provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues specifying "territories, lands and natural resources" as its special theme.

The Council in its decision 2006/270 also approved a draft decision to hold the sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York, from 14 to 25 May 2007. Holding the event in Bangkok, Thailand, as originally intended, would have entailed programme budget implications.

The Council (Decision 2006/269) decided not to take action on a draft decision to devote the coordination segment of its 2007 substantive session to indigenous issues. Instead, it approved a text by which it would decide that the theme for that particular segment would be "The role of the United Nations system in promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all".

Preparations for the Sixth Session of the UNPFII, to be held from 14 to 25 May 2007, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Special theme for the sixth session: "Territories, lands and natural resources". The session will also focus on implementation of earlier recommendations, and on urban indigenous issues and have a meeting devoted to Asia. The provisional agenda is on the website. Other relevant information on the sixth session of the Permanent Forum will be made available in due time at the following address:

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

Pre-registration Forms available on the website in January 2007 soon: 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.

Preparations for the International Expert Workshop on the Convention on Biological Diversity international regime on access and benefit-sharing and indigenous peoples' human rights, 17 – 19 January 2007, UNHQ, New York.

SPFII is in the process of preparation of the international expert group meeting on "the Convention on Biological Diversity international regime on access and benefit-sharing and indigenous peoples' human rights" mandated by the UNPFII at its fifth session in May 2006 and confirmed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2006/268. The expert workshop will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 17 to 19 January 2007.

The international expert group meeting will bring together experts from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, Governments, Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and indigenous experts. Its aim is to contribute to further progress on this issue and submit a report for the Permanent Forum's sixth

session.

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

SPECIAL NEWS

Call for nomination of Members of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2008-2010)

In accordance with resolution 200/22 of the Economic and Social Council, the Permanent Forum is comprised of sixteen independent experts, functioning in their personal capacity, who serve for a term of three years as Members and may be re-elected or re-appointed for one additional term.

Eight of the Members are nominated by governments and eight are nominated by indigenous organizations.

The current membership of the Permanent Forum is due to expire at the end of 2007. Nominations are now requested for the three - year period from January 2008 until December 2010. Current members who have served the maximum of two terms (6 years) as Permanent Forum members cannot be nominated for a further term.

Letters in English, Spanish, French and Russian from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs calling for the nominations of indigenous candidates for the upcoming term from indigenous peoples' organizations are in our website at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/members.html>

A note verbale has been sent to Member States asking for nominations.

Decision on the logo competition for the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

At the Second Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (held in 2003) where Indigenous Children was the special theme, the Forum adopted a series of recommendations on indigenous children and also decided to organize an indigenous youth art competition for the design of a logo for the Forum and announced it at the fourth session.

The Bureau of the Permanent Forum has chosen the artwork made by Rebang Dewan, a Chackma child from Bangladesh, 11 years old as the visual identifier of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

TABLE OF NEWS AND ACTIVITIES BY MONTH

OCTOBER

- Participation of Ms. Lux de Coti at the 7th Biarritz Forum, Valle del Bravo, Mexico, 5 – 6 October 2006.
- Press conference to discuss the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, its history, significance and current status, 13 October 2006, New York, UNHQ.
- Special indigenous related events at the United Nations to mark the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 16 – 17 October 2006, New York, UNHQ.
- Highlights of the UN General Assembly Third Committee, Agenda item 64: Indigenous Issues and the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People, 16 – 17 October 2006, New York, UNHQ.
- Representatives of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus, the Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous

Issues and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous People meet with the President of the General Assembly, 20 October 2006, New York, UNHQ.

- Participation of SPFII at the briefing on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples organized jointly by the Permanent Missions of Denmark, Mexico, Norway, Peru and Spain to the United Nations, 26 October 2006, New York, UNHQ.
- Participation of Ms. Tauli-Corpuz at the World Congress on Communication for Development, Rome Italy, 25-27 October 2006.

NOVEMBER

- Participation of Ms. Muzangi Mbela and Mr. Id Bakaasm at the First World Congress, Agadir, Morocco, 2 – 6 November 2006.
- UN General Assembly Third Committee discusses the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 10 November 2006, UNHQ, New York.
- Participation of Ms. Nicolaisen at the First International Diabetes in Indigenous Peoples Forum, Melbourne, Australia, 13 – 15 November 2006.
- Deadline to submit project proposals for the Trust Fund for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People is 15 November 2006.
- Participation of Mr. Littlechild and SPFII at the Treaty Meeting, 13 – 16 November 2006, Edmonton, Canada.
- Participation of Ms. Tauli-Corpuz and SPFII at the Teach-in programme on Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Economic Globalization, 18 November 2006, New York, USA
- Participation of Mr. Aguiar de Almeida at the Regional Seminar on indigenous peoples in initial contact and voluntary isolation of the Amazonian Basin and El Chaco, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 20-22 November 2006.
- UN General Assembly Third Committee defers adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 28 November 2006, UNHQ, New York.
- Participation of Ms. Muzangi Mbela as resource person in the Seminar on Indigenous Rights: instruments and good practices, 27 November - 1 December 2006, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

DECEMBER

- Call for nomination of Members of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2008-2010)
- SPFII organizes expert meeting in cooperation with RAIPON and the government of the Yamal Nenets Autonomous Region: Participation of Mr. Sulyandziga, Mr. Langeveldt and SPFII at the expert group meeting towards the preparation of the first publication on the State of the World's Indigenous Peoples, 2 -3 December 2006, Salekhard, Yamal Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Siberia, Russian Federation.
- Message of the Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2006.

- The Inter-Agency Support Group, working as a task team of the undg Programme Group, finalizes the terms of reference, methods of work and workplan to produce the Guidelines for UN Country Teams to work on indigenous issues.
- Press conference by Indigenous Leaders and Human Rights advocates on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 12 December 2006, UNHQ, New York.
- ECOSOC approves draft agenda, date and venue of the UNPFII's sixth session; the expert workshop and takes note of the fifth session report, 15 December 2006, UNHQ, New York.
- Concluding consideration of Third Committee reports, General Assembly defers action on Indigenous Peoples' Rights Declaration, 20 December 2006, UNHQ, New York
- Decision on the logo competition for the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Preparations for the Sixth Session of the UNPFII, to be held from 14 to 25 May 2006, United Nations Headquarters, New York.
- Preparations for the International Expert Workshop on the Convention on Biological Diversity international regime on access and benefit-sharing and indigenous peoples' human rights, 17 – 19 January 2007, UNHQ, New York.

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For more information, please visit:

www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii

ANNEX

General Assembly Vote on Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Draft resolution II to defer action on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (document A/61/448) was adopted by a recorded vote of 85 in favour to none against, with 89 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstain: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay.

Absent: Belize, Cambodia, Chad, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Somalia, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

