

**DPA's contribution to the Tenth Session of the UN Permanent Forum on
Indigenous Issues**

1. At its tenth session in 2011, UNPFII will review its recommendations in relation to (a) Economic and Social Development; (b) Environment; (c) Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

There were no specific recommendations to DPA.

2. Given the Forum's recommendations for the adoption of policies on indigenous peoples issues, please specify whether your agency has: (a) a policy or other similar tool on indigenous peoples' issue; (b) recent programmes on indigenous peoples' issues; (c) budgetary allocations for indigenous peoples' issues; and (d) projects/activities on indigenous peoples' issues.

DPA is the UN's lead department for political analysis, peacemaking and preventive diplomacy and is often called upon to assist governments to address political or institutional crises, social tensions, or controversies with neighbouring States.

As part of its policy on mediation, DPA has incorporated the "UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues" into the information package for Special Envoys and mediators. The guidelines provide them with information on the international human rights framework for the UN's work on indigenous issues and also provide practical advice on designing programmes with a special focus on indigenous issues. The guidelines are extremely important as they were issued after the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly on 13 September 2007. The Declaration specifically calls upon the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to contribute to the full realization of its provisions.

DPA hired an expert on indigenous/land issues to support the work of the Mediation Support Unit's Stand-by team of experts. His initial assignment was to develop guidance material for mediators on land and indigenous issues, as well as make an inventory of possible upcoming needs for technical support in these areas.

3. Capacity-building programmes on indigenous issues?

As part of its staff development programme, DPA staff has the opportunity to attend training courses on conflict-prevention, preventive diplomacy and conflict-resolution. In connection to this, in August 2010, DPA's Focal Point on Indigenous Issues participated in the training on indigenous issues organized by the UN Country Team in Bolivia. The training included the participation of the Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Mr. Carlos Mamani.

With a view to develop in-house capacity on indigenous issues, DPA recommends to include DPA's Focal Point on Indigenous Issues in the next Training-of-Trainers on the UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Issues.

4. Does your agency have a Focal Point on Indigenous Issues?

Yes, DPA's Focal Point on Indigenous Issues is Carlos Vergara, Political Affairs Officer in the Americas Division. He can be reached by email at vergaral@un.org or telephone 212-963-8039. DPA's Alternate Focal Point is Ms. Sharon O'Brien, Political Affairs Officer in the Policy and Mediation Division. She can be reached by email at sobrien@un.org or telephone (917) 367-2052.

5. Conferences organized or supported by DPA on indigenous issues.

DPA helped the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (CPPF) organize a one-day meeting on the situation of indigenous peoples in Latin America. The meeting took place on 7 December 2010 in New York. CPPF, a programme of the Social Sciences Research Council (SSRC), was established to strengthen the knowledge base and analytical capacity of the United Nations in conflict prevention and management, peacemaking and peacebuilding.

The CPPF meeting had the participation of indigenous leaders, including Ms. Elisa Canqui, member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the former UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of indigenous peoples, Professor Rodolfo Stavenhagen. Several DPA officials from the Americas Division and Policy and Mediation Division (PMD) as well as colleagues from UNDP, UNFPA, OHCHR and the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had the opportunity to attend the meeting.

The CPPF meeting had the following three objectives: a) evaluate the demands and issues of the indigenous peoples from Latin America; b) identify the main advances and challenges for the successful inclusion of indigenous peoples in the political, economic and social arenas; and c) examine in which way the international community could help Member States to address the demands of indigenous peoples.

In April 2010, DPA's Focal Point on Indigenous Issues participated in a workshop on the development of a UNDP regional strategy on indigenous peoples in Latin America. The workshop was held in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. The workshop included the participation of indigenous leaders from Bolivia, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua as well as of UNDP officials working with indigenous peoples in several Latin American countries. During the workshop participants exchanged information on current UNDP projects with indigenous peoples in Latin America, covering both national and local community issues.



Carlos Vergara

DPA's Focal Point on Indigenous Issues/20 January 2011

United Nations  Nations Unies

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AD (Carlos Vergara)

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REFERENCE: DESA/10-3384

22 November 2010

Dear Mr. Pascoe,

I am pleased to invite your department to participate in and contribute to the tenth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), which will take place at United Nations Headquarters from 16 to 27 May 2011.

The attached provisional agenda of the tenth session includes discussions on Central and South American and the Caribbean, as well as comprehensive dialogue with United Nations agencies and funds on follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum relating to Economic and Social Development; Environment and Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

I would like to draw your attention to the Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its ninth session in 2010 (document E/2010/43) which is available at the website http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_ninth. The report provides a number of recommendations within its mandated areas, some of which are addressed to UN agencies. A list of recommendations from the ninth session is also attached.

Your department is welcome to submit a concise summary of the action undertaken or planned by your agency regarding indigenous peoples' issues. Submissions should, if possible, not exceed 4,000 words and should include a brief summary. The Secretariat of the UNPFII intends to synthesize the responses for presentation to the Permanent Forum. Attached is a questionnaire which you may use as a guide for the preparation of your submission.

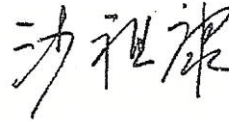
I would appreciate it if you could ensure that your written submissions are sent to us by 31 January 2011 at the latest, as all documentation has to be submitted to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in a timely manner. It would also be appreciated if your contributions could be sent electronically to indigenous_un@un.org with a hard copy mailed to the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations Headquarters (room DC2-1454; telephone number 917-367-5100; fax number 917- 367-5102).

Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe
Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs
United Nations
New York

Should you require any further clarification please contact Ms Sonia Smallacombe, Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, telephone 917-367-5066 fax 917-367-5102, email: smallacombe@un.org.

I look forward to working with you in our joint effort to effectively implement the mandate of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and improve the lives of indigenous peoples

Yours sincerely,



Sha Zukang
Under-Secretary-General

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE UN SYSTEM AND OTHER
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING WRITTEN
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNPFII

1. At its tenth session in 2011, UNPFII will review its recommendations in relation to (a) Economic and Social Development; (b) Environment; (c) Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

(i). Please provide information on how your agency is dealing with this important issue in the seven regional areas of the Permanent Forum¹.

(ii). What are some of the obstacles your agency has encountered in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, including those addressed specifically to your agency?

(iii). What are some of the factors that facilitate your agency's implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, including those addressed specifically to your agency?

2. Given the Forum's recommendation for the adoption of policies on indigenous peoples' issues, please specify whether your agency has:

(i). A policy or other similar tool on indigenous peoples' issues;

(ii). Recent programmes on indigenous peoples' issues;

(iii). Budgetary allocations for indigenous peoples' issues;

(iv). Projects/activities on indigenous peoples' issues,

(In order to facilitate the quantification of data by the Forum, please indicate the number of programmes and projects/activities devoted to indigenous peoples issues in the past year).

3. Does your agency have regular or ad hoc capacity-building programmes on indigenous peoples' issues for staff, or a plan for capacity-building activities in this area, at headquarters or in the field?

4. Does your agency have a focal point on indigenous issues? If so, please provide the name and contact information of this person.

5. Please provide a list of conferences and other meetings organized or supported by your agency on indigenous issues for the current year as well as next year.

¹ UNPFII's seven socio-cultural regions are Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; the Arctic; Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific.

Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Permanent Forum

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum:
 - (a) Economic and social development;
 - (b) Environment;
 - (c) Free, prior and informed consent.
4. Human rights:
 - (a) Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
 - (b) Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and other United Nations human rights mechanisms.
5. Half-day discussion on Central and South America and the Caribbean.
6. Comprehensive dialogue with United Nations agencies and funds.
7. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.
8. Draft agenda for the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum.
9. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its tenth session.