

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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DESA-03/144

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Dear Representatives of Indigenous Peoples,

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs presents its compliments to indigenous peoples organizations and has the honour to draw their attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/22 of 28 July 2000 entitled “Establishment of a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues”.

According to paragraph 1 of that resolution, the Economic and Social Council:

“Decides to establish as a subsidiary organ of the Council a permanent forum on indigenous issues consisting of sixteen members, eight to be nominated by Governments and elected by the Council, and eight members to be appointed by the President of the Council following formal consultations with the bureau and regional groups through the coordinators, on a basis of broad consultations with indigenous organizations taking into account the diversity and geographic distribution of indigenous peoples of the world, as well as principles of transparency, representativity, and equal opportunity for all indigenous people, including internal processes, when appropriate, and local indigenous consultation processes. The members of the Forum will serve in their personal capacity as independent experts on indigenous issues for a period of three years with the possibility of re-election or re-appointment for one further period.”

The Permanent Forum serves as an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues relating to economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights. The Permanent Forum holds annual sessions of ten working days.

The current membership of the Permanent Forum will expire at the end of 2004 and nominations are now requested for the three-year period from January 2005 until December 2007. I am encouraging consultations amongst indigenous organizations to commence as soon as possible to ensure that the President of the Economic and Social Council has suitable candidates for consideration and appointment.

In considering possible candidates you are encouraged to take into account the principles of geographic distribution, and gender balance. Furthermore and in order for nominations to be complete, it is indispensable to provide recent curriculum vitae of the nominees for consideration by the President of the Economic and Social Council. Information should also be submitted on the nominating organization(s).

The deadline for submission of nominations is 1 March 2004 and relevant correspondence should be sent to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), UN DC-2 Room No. 2314, New York NY 10017, United States of America.

I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Nitin Desai
Under-Secretary-General