

Department of Public Information

Response to the recommendations from the 12th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

118. The Permanent Forum recommends that Governments and United Nations agencies assign resources for communication activities, strengthen access to information and draw greater attention to the issues of indigenous peoples in the media, using various forms of media outreach, in order to complement the activities of the Department of Public Information.

1) Please provide information on the progress in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your agency.

The Department of Public Information (DPI) continues to promote indigenous peoples' issues through all available channels, including news stories, multilingual radio and television programming, press briefings, and social media, as well as live webcasting and summaries of official meetings and conferences.

Media outreach for the annual session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as well as for the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, and through press conferences, interviews, and multilingual press materials over the last year generated coverage by the AP, Reuters, *The Guardian*, *The Huffington Post*, EFE, Al Jazeera, IPS, Telesur, Prensa Latina, Xinhua, and other international media outlets.

Social media outreach and the multilingual website for the International Day (www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday), in the six official UN languages, reach not only the media, but a wider audience, including NGOs, academics and students.

2) Please provide information on joint initiatives, programmes or projects undertaken in cooperation with other UN agencies or activities undertaken collectively by the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues.

DPI is leading the development and implementation of a communications strategy for the upcoming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (22-23 September 2014) through an informal communications working group set up in

January 2014, made up of representatives from at least five members of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues. The strategy will be rolled out over the coming months, with the annual session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in May 2014 as a major communications opportunity.

DPI input to the Secretary-General's report on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples (2005-2014)

1) *How are indigenous peoples' issues included in the agenda, strategic or policy framework of your organization, and in the work of the agency / organization at country level?*

Indigenous peoples' issues, and the upcoming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, feature among the Department's priorities for 2014 as listed in the communications guidance sent to UN system partners and UN Information Centres in the field.

Indigenous peoples' issues are covered by all three Divisions of DPI, with a focal point located in the Strategic Communications Division of the Department.

2) *What are your organization's experiences of dialogue and cooperation with indigenous peoples' organizations at international and local level?*

Some UN Information Centres have had long-standing relationships with indigenous peoples' organizations. UNIC Mexico City worked with the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI) and the National Institute on Indigenous Languages (INALI) on a two-year project (2008–2010) to translate the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into more than 20 indigenous languages.

3) *What initiatives has your organization developed and/or implemented on protecting and promoting cultural diversity and indigenous peoples' heritage?*

The Department makes an effort to publish materials in as many languages as possible, and this includes the languages of indigenous communities. In 2009, DPI translated the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into the six official UN languages, and 12 other languages, including many indigenous languages (German, Greek, Hindi, Karaim, Kituba, Lingala, Mapuche, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Turkish and Wichi).

- 4) *Does your organization have disaggregated data and statistics on indigenous peoples; or specific monitoring mechanism, official reports or research on the situation of indigenous peoples?*

DPI relies on other UN system entities to provide this data.

- 5) *Please provide information on how activities aimed at implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples impact on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.*

DPI promotes indigenous peoples' issues, as well as the Millennium Development Goals, and aims to highlight linkages and cross-cutting issues. The recent expert group meeting on indigenous peoples' sexual health and reproductive rights, for example, allowed DPI to highlight the importance of addressing indigenous women's issues for the achievement of MDG-5.

- 6) *Please provide information on how your agency envisages activities, including indigenous peoples' rights, to be included in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals, in the framework of the new post-2015 development agenda.*

DPI coordinates communications around the post-2015 development agenda, but is not involved in the drafting of the new set of goals. Once the goals are drafted, DPI will plan outreach and communication activities that relate to the rights of indigenous peoples. The focus on Africa at the 12th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, for instance, allowed DPI to highlight the major contributions that indigenous peoples can make to the efforts to mitigate climate change through their traditional knowledge and the effective use and preservation of their lands and natural resources.

- 7) *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?*

With regular stories on the UN Intranet, iSeek, in English and French, DPI raises awareness of indigenous issues among staff members, including those away from UN Headquarters. UN Information Centres regularly receive outreach materials and key messages to publicize at the national level.

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

The DPI focal point is Martina Donlon, Information Officer in the Palestine, Decolonization and Human Rights Section; Strategic Communications Division: donlon@un.org / +1 212 963 6816

9) *Please provide a list of conferences and other meetings organized or supported by your agency on indigenous issues for 2013 and 2014.*

Press conferences with indigenous representatives, moderated by DPI:

6 March 2013
20 May 2013
23 May 2013
28 May 2013
30 May 2013
21 October 2013

Planned:

12 May 2014
15 May 2014
19 May 2014
22 May 2014
October 2014

International Expert Group Meetings (DPI arranged media interviews):

29 – 31 January 2013
15 – 17 January 2014

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (special events supported by DPI):

9 August 2013
9 August 2014 (planned)

World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (DPI leading the communications strategy)

22-23 September 2014