

Maninder S. Gill
Director
Social, Urban, Rural & Resilience Global Practice

December 19, 2016

Mr. Wu Hongbo
Under-Secretary-General
United Nations
Office of the Under-Secretary General
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Hongbo,

Re: Invitation for the WBG to contribute to the 16th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) on April 24 - May 5, 2017.

As in prior years, the World Bank is planning to have an active participation at the 16th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from April 24 to May 5, 2017 in New York City. The World Bank seeks to position excluded and marginalized sectors of society, such as Indigenous Peoples, at the center of the development agenda. This includes:

- Strengthening the policy and institutional frameworks affecting Indigenous Peoples
- Supporting Indigenous Peoples' priorities and views of self-development, through capacity development in line with cultural values and traditional knowledge;
- Demonstrating the important role that Indigenous Peoples can play in the management of fragile ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience; and economic development, and;
- Disseminating experience and lessons learned from Indigenous development initiatives to national governments and the international donor community.
- The World Bank is working actively with Indigenous Peoples worldwide on a number of issues directly affecting them.

On August 4, 2016, the Board of Directors of the Bank approved the new Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) which includes a new updated standard on Indigenous Peoples (ESS7) that has incorporated provisions requested by the Indigenous Peoples through a 3-year global dialogue held worldwide between 2013 and 2015. The new ESF is likely to be in effect from January 2018, after an 18-month period of training and preparation.

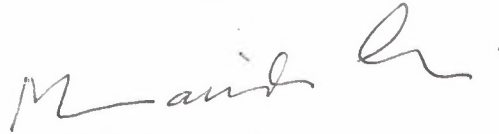
During the 16th session of the UNPFII, the Bank plans to have a number of side events to engage directly with Indigenous Peoples representatives with the following objectives:

- Present good practices and case studies of how the Bank is working with IP's in various countries and obtain feedback and suggestions from IP's;
- Share the results of some analytical work and studies on IP's that have been carried out in different parts of the world;
- Provide an opportunity for IP's to give us feedback on Bank operations at the regional and country levels.

Attached for your information you will find a summary of the World Bank's activities during this year's 15th session of the UNPFII in NYC.

The Bank's delegation will be led by Mr. Luis Felipe Duchicela, Global Adviser for Indigenous Peoples, who will be joined by a number of colleagues from the various Global Practices and regions of the Bank.

Sincerely,



Maninder S. Gill
Director
Social, Urban, Rural, and Resilience
Global Practice

Copied:

Ede Jorge Ijjasz-Vasquez, Senior Director, Urban, Rural & Social Development Global Practice, The World Bank.

Luis Felipe Duchicela, Global Adviser for Indigenous Peoples, Urban, Rural & Social Development Global Programs, The World Bank.

Senait Nigiru Assefa, Practice Manager, Urban, Rural & Social Development Global Programs, The World Bank.