



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 March 2009

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Eighth session

New York, 18-29 May 2009

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum:
indigenous women**

Analysis prepared by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: indigenous women

Summary

The present report provides an analysis on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues regarding indigenous women. The report is based on information and data supplied by Member States, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international institutions, indigenous peoples' organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant parties.

* E/C.19/2009/1.



I. Introduction

1. Indigenous women face significant challenges to the full enjoyment of their human rights. Indigenous women experience multiple forms of discrimination, often lack access to education, health care and ancestral lands, face disproportionately high rates of poverty and are subjected to violence, such as domestic violence and sexual abuse, including in the contexts of trafficking and armed conflict. As the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has stated, globalization presents additional challenges in many parts of the world. The roles of indigenous women have eroded due to the compounding factors of loss of natural resources and depletion of the ecosystems, their transformation into cash economies, changes in local, social and decision-making structures, and their lack of political status within States.¹

2. Indigenous women have sought to address such issues at the local, national and international levels. At the United Nations, indigenous women have been advocates and leaders since the very first year of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, in 1982 in Geneva. Indigenous women were active participants and contributors during the more than two decades of negotiations regarding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 2007 (resolution 61/295). The human rights of indigenous women are protected by all of the provisions of the Declaration, which calls, in article 22, for particular attention to be paid to their rights and special needs, and calls upon States to take measures to ensure that indigenous women enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

3. Today, at the Permanent Forum, indigenous women participate in great numbers, have their own caucus and have a strong voice. Since its first session, the Permanent Forum has paid special attention to indigenous women. The special theme of the third session of the Permanent Forum was indigenous women. During its seven sessions, the Permanent Forum has adopted 76 recommendations² directly referring to the situation of indigenous women.

4. The present report is not a depiction of the current state of indigenous women's issues around the world nor the overall work of the Permanent Forum or its secretariat with regard to indigenous women.³ Rather it is a review of the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Permanent Forum throughout its seven sessions, as presented in written reports to the Permanent Forum by the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, States and indigenous peoples' organizations.

5. The report also reflects the analysis undertaken by the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum, Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum in their report to the Permanent Forum at its fifth session, entitled "Analysis and state of implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its first to third sessions".⁴ It also reflects the analysis of a former member of the Permanent Forum, Otilia Lux de Cotí, and the International Forum of

¹ E/C.19/2004/23, para. 3.

² This figure does not include introductory paragraphs in which the Permanent Forum has addressed indigenous women's issues.

³ Additional activities with regard to indigenous women are outlined in the report of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/C.19/2009/3/Add.4).

⁴ E/C.19/2006/9.

Indigenous Women in their report to the sixth session, entitled “Análisis y seguimiento de las recomendaciones sobre mujeres indígenas del Foro Permanente de las Naciones Unidas para las cuestiones indígenas en sus cinco periodos de sesiones”.⁵

II. Overview of recommendations of the Permanent Forum

6. The recommendations of the Permanent Forum regarding indigenous women have reflected its broad thematic mandate, addressing a wide range of issues, including education, culture, health, human rights, environment and development, conflict and political participation. Recommendations on these and other topics have been addressed to States, United Nations agencies and bodies, indigenous peoples and civil society. As described by the above-mentioned studies, the recommendations on all thematic areas have tended to focus on several major goals. These are outlined below, together with examples of relevant recommendations and ways that they have been implemented.

A. Increased and effective participation of indigenous women in global, regional and national processes

7. These recommendations focus on enhancing the participation of indigenous women in processes and mechanisms of the United Nations, regional bodies and States.

8. The Permanent Forum has called for increased and improved participation by indigenous women in activities related to a broad range of themes, including the following:

(a) Legal processes, including through the creation of mechanisms to enable indigenous women to take advantage of available juridical instruments such as free legal aid services and by encouraging the appointment of qualified indigenous women to decision-making positions in the areas of administration and public service;⁶ and the creation of indigenous ombudsmen offices, ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous women;⁷

(b) Governance and decision-making structures at all levels by ensuring equal access of indigenous women to decision-making and governmental bodies, political parties, judiciary and trade unions;⁸

(c) Economic and social development, including the development processes such as the common country assessment, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and poverty reduction strategy papers;⁹ formulation and decision-making processes regarding sustainable development initiatives;¹⁰ and implementation, follow-up work and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action

⁵ E/C.19/2007/CRP.4.

⁶ E/C.19/2004/23, para. 42.

⁷ E/C.19/2005/9, para. 78.

⁸ E/C.19/2004/23, para. 14.

⁹ E/C.19/2005/9, para. 18.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 113.

and the Millennium Development Goals.¹¹ The Permanent Forum has also called upon States to develop specific measures that enhance indigenous women's participation in their own development processes;¹²

(d) Human rights processes such as reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other relevant human rights bodies;¹³ and the development, implementation and evaluation of United Nations and intergovernmental human rights policies and programmes;¹⁴

(e) Dialogue on climate change;¹⁵

(f) Health education programmes for indigenous women and men.¹⁶

9. The Permanent Forum has also called upon States to adopt policies and to strengthen existing funds for financing and supporting indigenous women's participation, as well as strengthening their own participation and social development options in all initiatives that promote their cultural identities.¹⁷

B. Shifts in paradigms and approaches to development and in the formulation of conceptual frameworks, policies and guidelines, and setting up projects to reflect those shifts

10. Recommendations in this category call for the inclusion of indigenous women's issues, views, perspectives and experiences in programmes and policies that have an impact on them. Such recommendations have addressed a broad range of issues, including the following:

(a) Violence against women, by including indigenous women in high-level United Nations studies on violence,¹⁸ and calling for States to combat violence against women, including forced prostitution and trafficking of women and girls as well as domestic violence;¹⁹ and calling for consultations with indigenous women to address violence and trafficking;²⁰

(b) Migration, through the inclusion of the situation of migrant indigenous women in relevant studies;²¹ and the promotion of programmes between countries of origin and destination to ensure continuity in indigenous children's relationships with their migrant parents and the protection of migrant children;²²

(c) Reproductive health, including the incorporation of a cultural perspective into health policies, programmes and reproductive health services of all relevant United Nations entities with the aim of providing indigenous women with quality

¹¹ Ibid., para. 112.

¹² E/C.19/2004/23, para. 57.

¹³ E/C.19/2005/9, para. 114.

¹⁴ E/C.19/2004/23, para. 47.

¹⁵ E/C.19/2008/13, para. 30.

¹⁶ E/C.19/2004/23, para. 89.

¹⁷ Ibid., para. 63.

¹⁸ E/C.19/2006/11, para. 55.

¹⁹ E/C.19/2005/9, para. 117.

²⁰ E/C.10/2007/12, para. 105.

²¹ Ibid., para. 114.

²² Ibid., para. 113.

health care, including emergency obstetric care, voluntary family planning and skilled attendance at birth;²³ allocation of State budgets to implement quality services to reduce maternal mortality and ensure indigenous women's access to reproductive health services;²⁴ and convening a workshop on indigenous health;²⁵

(d) Human rights, through the integration of the human rights, reproductive health rights and special concerns and needs of indigenous women in programmes and policies of relevant United Nations agencies;²⁶ the implementation of international human rights instruments regarding indigenous women; and the integration of those instruments into national public policies for indigenous women (including legal frameworks, budget allocations and specific programmes and projects addressing indigenous women's issues);²⁷

(e) Culture, by urging States to clearly identify and define the issues and needs of indigenous women, taking into account regional and local cultural differences;²⁷

(f) Allocation and access to resources, including access to funding from public budgets;²⁸ access to markets and capital to enable indigenous women to turn their traditional skills into sustainable forms of income generation;²⁹ and access to capital and microfinance programmes;³⁰

(g) Education, through the provision of community education services that will support indigenous peoples to develop the skills to manage the development of their communities and to participate in educational decision-making.³¹

C. Capacity-building and awareness-raising for indigenous peoples, personnel and governing bodies of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds and also Government officials and politicians

11. These recommendations call for the United Nations and States to make available resources for building the capacities of indigenous women, including awareness of human rights, how to use national, regional and international mechanisms to protect their rights and how to effectively participate in government and intergovernmental processes and mechanisms. Recommendations have identified the need for capacity-building in a variety of areas and suggested a number of approaches.

12. The Permanent Forum has called for the training for indigenous women on a number of issues, including the following:

- (a) Leadership skills;³²
- (b) Human rights and the rule of law;³³

²³ E/C.19/2006/11, para. 48.

²⁴ E/C.19/2005/9, para. 118 and E/C.19/2006/11, para. 49.

²⁵ E/C.19/2003/22, para. 64.

²⁶ E/C.19/2004/23, para. 5.

²⁷ Ibid., para. 14.

²⁸ Ibid., para. 57.

²⁹ Ibid., para. 31.

³⁰ Ibid., para. 61.

³¹ Ibid., para. 19.

³² E/C.19/2005/9, para. 116.

(c) National, regional and international economic institutions;³⁴

(d) Administration and management of indigenous health-care programmes.³⁵

13. The Permanent Forum has also:

(a) Urged States to ensure that the concerns and priorities of indigenous women are taken into account by increasing the capacity of indigenous women for decision-making and political participation, and by ensuring that adequate numbers of indigenous women are placed in positions of political leadership as well as in governance and public administration;³⁶

(b) Called for technical cooperation and capacity-building programmes involving indigenous women by relevant United Nations agencies;³⁷ and the provision of technical assistance to Governments to establish mechanisms to protect the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women;³⁸

(c) Called for the development of relationships with universities and other institutions of learning to undertake research that assist indigenous women's organizations in identifying and effectively utilizing available education resources and programmes, and promoting capacity-building through fellowships and grants;³⁹

(d) Called for the allocation of funds for capacity-building in cooperation with the Permanent Forum and for special outreach to indigenous women,⁴⁰ and for the establishment of State funds for indigenous women to support capacity-building activities.⁴¹

D. Information and knowledge generation, management and dissemination

14. Such recommendations relate to the generation of information and knowledge on situations and issues of indigenous women and studies, policies and programmes of intergovernmental bodies and Governments. They cover such activities as workshops, data collection and disaggregation, research projects, analytical work, establishing websites and databases, publications and the use of the media to disseminate information on indigenous issues.

15. The Permanent Forum has called upon all United Nations entities to integrate the special needs and concerns of indigenous women into their programmes and policies by compiling and integrating disaggregated data (both qualitative and quantitative in nature and taking into account local and regional cultural/social/economic differences) on indigenous women's issues in their own annual reports.⁴²

³³ E/C.19/2004/23, para. 43.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 59.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 89.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 14.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 9.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 43.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 15.

⁴⁰ E/C.19/2003/22, para. 108.

⁴¹ E/C.19/2005/9, para. 115.

⁴² E/C.19/2004/23, para. 8.

It has recommended data collection and the holding of workshops on a variety of topics, including the following:

- (a) Urbanization and migration, with an emphasis on indigenous women and youth;⁴³
- (b) Family separations caused by migration, and the psychological impact on men, children and women left behind;⁴⁴
- (c) Violence against indigenous women and girls, particularly sexual violence and violence in the context of armed conflict;⁴⁵
- (d) Incarceration rates of indigenous women;⁴⁶
- (e) Protection of vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, especially taking into account the vulnerabilities of indigenous women and children;⁴⁷
- (f) Indigenous women, traditional knowledge and the Convention on Biological Diversity;⁴⁸
- (g) Health services, informed by indigenous concepts and an understanding of health, wellness, healing, illness, disease, sexuality and birthing.⁴⁹

16. The Permanent Forum has recommended the dissemination of research and information regarding indigenous women in the following ways:

- (a) Increasing the outreach and information flow to and from the academic community, including indigenous educational institutions, on indigenous women's issues;⁵⁰
- (b) Increasing media outreach (e.g., through newsletters, radio, website and publications in journals on indigenous issues);⁵¹
- (c) At the local level and in indigenous languages.⁵²

III. Assessment of implementation

17. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum has assessed the implementation of Permanent Forum recommendations on the basis of reports submitted to the Permanent Forum by the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and States. The assessment is reflected in the Permanent Forum's

⁴³ E/C.19/2008/13, para. 108.

⁴⁴ E/C.19/2007/12, para. 113.

⁴⁵ E/C.19/2004/23, para. 13 and E/C.19/2006/11, para. 47.

⁴⁶ E/C.19/2005/9, para. 67.

⁴⁷ E/C.19/2004/23, para. 51.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 11.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 89.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 8.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, para. 15.

⁵² *Ibid.*, para. 43.

recommendations database,⁵³ which as of February 2009, includes information regarding the second to the sixth sessions.⁵⁴

18. Based on information submitted, the implementation of each recommendation has been determined to be “ongoing”, in instances where reports have indicated activity; “completed”, in instances where the activity or goal recommended has reportedly been achieved; or “not initiated or reporting not received” when the Permanent Forum has received no information about the status of a particular information or has received information indicating that no action has been taken. As indicated by the table below, 6 per cent of recommendations regarding the situation of indigenous women have been fully implemented. Implementation is ongoing for 48 per cent of the recommendations, while action on the remaining 46 per cent of recommendations have not been either initiated or reported.

<i>Permanent Forum session</i>	<i>Number of recommendations regarding the situation of indigenous women</i>	<i>Implementation ongoing</i>	<i>Implementation completed</i>	<i>Implementation not initiated or reporting not received</i>
Second	8	0 (0 per cent)	0 (0 per cent)	8 (100 per cent)
Third	34	21 (62 per cent)	1 (3 per cent)	12 (35 per cent)
Fourth	12	4 (33 per cent)	2 (17 per cent)	6 (50 per cent)
Fifth	10	5 (50 per cent)	1 (10 per cent)	4 (40 per cent)
Sixth	3	2 (67 per cent)	0 (0 per cent)	1 (33 per cent)
Total	67	32 (48 per cent)	4 (6 per cent)	31 (46 per cent)

19. With regard to recommendations for which implementation has been completed or is ongoing, activities reported include the following.

Increased and effective participation of indigenous women in global, regional and national processes

20. A number of States have reported on the participation of indigenous women in political processes. For example, Canada has reported that a federal/provincial/territorial/aboriginal forum addressing issues of concern to aboriginal peoples includes the participation of aboriginal women’s organizations. Aboriginal women are also involved in the development of a report card on progress for aboriginal peoples.⁵⁵ The Government of Finland reported that, as a member of the Arctic Council, it has ensured the participation of the Sami people, including indigenous Sami women, on a permanent basis, in all phases of its activities.⁵⁶

21. United Nations agencies have reported on efforts to increase the participation of indigenous women in both governmental processes and United Nations meetings and activities. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has reported on its initiatives to strengthen the political participation of indigenous

⁵³ Available at www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/recommendations.htm.

⁵⁴ For this reason, although the Permanent Forum has adopted 76 recommendations directly referring to the situation of indigenous women, the statistics in the table below reflect only the 67 recommendations made during the second to sixth sessions.

⁵⁵ E/C.19/2005/5/Add.1.

⁵⁶ E/C.19/2005/5/Add.2.

women. In Bolivia, for example, UNIFEM and a national non-governmental organization supported the political lobbying of indigenous women to include the demands of indigenous women in southern Bolivia and in the province of Cochabamba. UNIFEM reported working closely with indigenous women to strengthen their advocacy skills and noted that the new Constitution in Bolivia includes responses to the demands of indigenous women. Similarly, UNIFEM reported playing an active role, through the provision of technical assistance, in facilitating the participation of indigenous women in inter-agency meetings and forums, both regionally and globally.⁵⁷

22. UNIFEM has also reported on its efforts to ensure the protection of indigenous women's rights and their access to justice through working with indigenous communities and indigenous women strengthening their capacity to protect women's human rights in formal and ancestral justice systems. The preliminary phase of the UNIFEM regional programme on working against ethnic and gender-based discrimination for the effective exercise of Latin American indigenous women's rights has supported three pilot initiatives to improve indigenous women's access to justice. The strategy is based on strengthening traditional indigenous justice systems by promoting women's rights within authorities from a culturally appropriate perspective, and accompanying them with promoters of good treatment, both men and women, who follow the victims through the process and give advice to the authorities.⁵⁸

Shifts in paradigms and approaches to development and in the formulation of conceptual frameworks, policies and guidelines, and setting up projects to reflect those shifts (integration of a different perspective in programmes)

23. States and United Nations agencies have reported a number of efforts to integrate the needs and perspectives of indigenous women into their programmes.

24. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported many examples of its efforts to fully incorporate cultural perspectives in health policies, programmes and reproductive health services aimed at providing indigenous women with quality health care, including emergency obstetric care, voluntary family planning and skilled attendance at childbirth. These include activities to improve sexual and reproductive health of indigenous peoples in Bolivia through laws on education reform and working to improve the reproductive health of indigenous populations in Guatemala.⁵⁹ UNICEF has also reported on its efforts in this regard, which include entering into an agreement with other partners to ensure that indigenous mothers and children are systematically protected in their right to safe delivery and childbirth, in line with their cultural traditions in Ecuador and supporting the reinforcement of access to maternity services in Peru for mothers in rural communities by adapting the practices used at health centres to the cultural patterns of indigenous peoples.⁶⁰

25. In response to the Permanent Forum's call upon States to allocate budgets to implement quality services to reduce maternal mortality and ensure indigenous women's access to reproductive health services, the Government of Spain reported

⁵⁷ E/C.19/2008/4/Add.2.

⁵⁸ Information received from UNIFEM in 2009.

⁵⁹ E/C.19/2009/3.

⁶⁰ E/C.19/2008/4/Add.10.

that it supports, and plans to support, initiatives relating to the sexual and reproductive health of indigenous women and girls, primarily in Panama, Argentina and Bolivia.⁶¹

Capacity-building and awareness-raising for indigenous peoples, personnel and governing bodies of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds and also government officials and politicians

26. United Nations agencies and States have reported a number of capacity-building efforts with regard to indigenous women. For example, in 2006, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided technical assistance to local indigenous women's organizations in Colombia as well as within the department of Narino to include gender focus in strengthening youth organizations. A total of 650 men and women were engaged in a collective reflection on gender equity, which had a positive impact in reducing violence and increasing indigenous women's participation in managing local organizations.⁶⁰ In Bolivia, UNFPA supported a project that provided literacy skills in Quechua and Spanish to train participants in sexual and reproductive health. Between 1999 and 2007, the project reached more than 137,000 people, of whom 79 per cent were women.⁵⁹ UNFPA and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) have initiated a project to promote maternal health with a focus on strengthening indigenous women's organizations and systems of health care in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru.⁶² UNFPA has also supported the strengthening of indigenous women's organizations in Ecuador.⁶³

27. As part of its endeavour to strengthen indigenous women's organizations, UNIFEM supported the participation of indigenous women to the International Forum of Indigenous Women, held in Lima in April 2008. More than 250 indigenous women from 20 countries in the Americas participated in the Forum. The objective was to create a space where indigenous women could share experiences with representatives of international organizations and social movements. As a result, a coordination committee was formed to advance the participation of indigenous women in international processes.⁵⁸

28. Mexico has reported its development of the Indigenous Women's Productive Organization Programme, which seeks to provide substantial and ongoing support to building the skills and capacities of indigenous women living in extreme poverty in order to help them improve their living conditions through productive organization projects.⁶⁴

Information and knowledge generation, management and dissemination

29. Research and data collection has been undertaken in several of the areas recommended by the Permanent Forum. In some cases, the research is being conducted to bring increased awareness and understanding of indigenous women's issues. For example, in the case of migration, UNICEF organized a panel on international migration and indigenous peoples in Ecuador in October 2007. As a result of this meeting, in-depth studies will be developed on the consequences of

⁶¹ E/C.19/2007/4.

⁶² Information received from ECLAC in 2009.

⁶³ E/C.19/2009/3/Add.1.

⁶⁴ E/C.19/2008/5/Add.2.

migration on children and women. In Peru, UNICEF is supporting a study on the impact of urban migration of indigenous people in Lima.⁶⁵ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported its support for the production of a series of case studies documenting the role of indigenous peoples in preventing and resolving conflict and resulting in a publication entitled *Beyond the Silencing of the Guns*.⁶⁶ The International Labour Organization (ILO) has conducted specific case studies to increase understanding of the reality of child labour in indigenous communities from an intercultural and gender perspective.⁶⁷ ECLAC has worked with the Pan American Health Organization to research health and ethnic diversity in Latin America. The resulting study offers a regional view of the health situation of indigenous women.⁶² The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) has prepared a study focusing on tools to reduce maternal and child mortality among indigenous women in Latin America.⁶⁰ UNIFEM supported four studies on the rights of indigenous women in the Caribbean undertaken over a five-month period in Belize, Dominica, Guyana and Suriname. The studies reviewed existing literature, examined the economic, social, cultural and legal status of indigenous women and recent trends in the indigenous women's movement. The consultants undertaking the studies were either indigenous women (Belize, Suriname) or women closely associated with indigenous communities (Dominica, Guyana).

30. In some cases, information is produced to contribute to the capacity-building of indigenous women. For example, UNICEF reports that in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, it strengthened and promoted a strategy for the care for women victims of violence in Zulia through the publication of awareness-raising material.⁶⁸

31. A number of agencies have also reported on their promotion of disaggregated data collection that includes indigenous women. UNIFEM has reported working towards raising the awareness and capacities of representatives from national statistics offices, national women's machineries, indigenous organizations and United Nations agencies from over 18 countries to develop and use gender statistics. For example, in Paraguay, UNIFEM supported the production of sex-disaggregated indicators on poverty, race and ethnicity in order to highlight the situation of Guaraní-speaking women.⁵⁷ ECLAC reported organizing a workshop in Colombia in 2008 to promote the disaggregation of data on health, in order to better identify the situation of indigenous peoples and women in the region.⁶²

32. With regard to dissemination, UNIFEM reported that, in Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, it financed a project on a regional radio network, to train community radio journalists on the prevention of violence against women. As a result, 55 journalists (about half of them women) from 30 community radio stations increased their capacity in producing radio programmes addressing the issues of violence against women from an ethnic perspective; six radio spots and eight sociodramas in different languages were produced; and 20 radio stations participated in a regional competition.⁵⁷

IV. Facilitating factors

⁶⁵ E/C.19/2008/4/Add.1.

⁶⁶ E/C.19/2005/4/Add.4.

⁶⁷ E/C.19/2005/4/Add.5.

⁶⁸ E/C.19/2007/3/Add.10.

33. Some factors that have facilitated implementation of Permanent Forum's recommendations are:

(a) The support and advocacy of indigenous women's movements and organizations;

(b) The adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, together with the support it has received from many Governments;

(c) The work of the Inter-Agency Support Group, through which focal points from more than 30 member agencies share information and meet to strategize, cooperate and coordinate their activities;

(d) The Inter-Agency Task Force on Indigenous Women, which was convened from 2004 to 2007, provided participating agencies with an opportunity to promote the special concerns of indigenous women within the work of the United Nations system. During the first year, 2004/05, the Task Force conducted a general survey of work of the United Nations system with indigenous women. During the second year, 2005/06, the Task Force devoted its efforts to collecting case studies from the work of the United Nations system with indigenous women, entitled *Indigenous Women and the United Nations System: Good Practices and Lessons Learned*.⁶⁹ The publication was launched in May 2007 during the sixth session of the Permanent Forum;

(e) United Nations agencies have reported that, at the country level, facilitating factors and challenges encountered in their work on indigenous issues vary greatly across countries and are influenced by national priorities and political opportunities. In some countries, political conditions provide important opportunities for advancing indigenous women's rights and promoting the incorporation of an intercultural perspective into public policies and services for indigenous women;

(f) At the country and regional levels, partnerships are developed with key governmental and civil society partners and indigenous networks;

(g) United Nations agencies have reported that working closely with the Permanent Forum can also facilitate the implementation of recommendations. For example, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has reported working actively with Permanent Forum members and other indigenous experts in the design of its international and regional training programmes for indigenous peoples;⁷⁰

(h) Some United Nations bodies and agencies are already implementing programmes specifically targeted for indigenous peoples and some have issued policies on indigenous peoples. The recommendations of the Permanent Forum have provided further justification for continuing, expanding or replicating such activities.

V. Challenges

⁶⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.I.9.

⁷⁰ Information received from UNITAR.

34. Constraints or obstacles to the implementation of Permanent Forum recommendations include the following:

(a) Some recommendations remain unimplemented because they require financial resources that are not within the budget of agencies, programmes and funds. United Nations bodies also often lack the money or personnel to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, particularly those calling for studies or research to be undertaken. One United Nations department noted that, with additional resources, more documents could, for example, be translated and printed in all official languages of the United Nations as well as in indigenous languages, and outreach activities could be enhanced;⁷¹

(b) States have also reported insufficient budgetary resources to address all issues;

(c) At the country level, implementation of Permanent Forum recommendations may be challenged by a lack of awareness regarding indigenous issues among United Nations country team staff, senior management officials or governing bodies;

(d) In some countries, challenges have been related to ongoing political sensitivities around indigenous peoples' issues. For instance, in some countries, the publication of data on the situation of indigenous peoples continues to be highly sensitive. Moreover, in some instances, national Governments may favour implementation of Permanent Forum recommendations, but may face resistance from local governments or economic power groups within their countries. In some instances, implementation of recommendations is also challenged by situations of internal violence and conflict;

(e) Some recommendations are vague and do not focus adequately on tangible results that can easily be monitored.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

35. In the course of its seven sessions, the Permanent Forum has identified a broad range of approaches to improving the situation of indigenous women. A number of important programmes and activities have been undertaken to meet some of the Permanent Forum recommendations, while implementation of the remaining 46 per cent of relevant recommendations has not been reported or initiated.

36. It is likely that the Permanent Forum has not received complete written information regarding the state of implementation of its recommendations. The source of information for the present report and for the UNPFII recommendations database are the voluntary written submissions provided by United Nations agencies and by States.

37. To gather additional information regarding implementation of Permanent Forum recommendations, the Permanent Forum should review oral interventions delivered during sessions of the Permanent Forum and add to the database references made to the implementation of recommendations regarding indigenous women. In addition, as the majority of information received by the

⁷¹ Information received from the Department of Public Information.

Permanent Forum addresses situations in Central and South America and the Caribbean, the Permanent Forum should encourage reporting regarding other regions in order to better assess the state of implementation in those areas. Reports should clearly tie activities undertaken to the Permanent Forum recommendations to which they correspond. Indigenous women's organizations should also be invited to engage in their own monitoring of the implementation of Permanent Forum recommendations to the United Nations system and others at the local and country levels, as well as the regional level and inform the Permanent Forum if they deem appropriate.
