



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UNITAR Contribution to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Seventh Session's Recommendations and Priorities

Executive Summary

THE UN INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITAR) PROGRAMME IN PEACEMAKING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

The Programme in Peacemaking and Conflict Prevention (formerly the Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy) of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research was developed in 1993 to respond to an expressed need within the UN system for training in modern techniques of negotiation and mediation. UNITAR has been conducting training for mid and senior level diplomats from around the world, and for regional organization and United Nations staff on conflict prevention and resolution since 1993, and for representatives of indigenous peoples since 2000.

The UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives was created based on the requests of indigenous peoples' representatives from around the world at consultations in Geneva, and based on the recommendations of UN Special Rapporteurs, to provide advanced training in conflict analysis and negotiation to representatives of indigenous peoples.

With strengthened tools of conflict analysis, negotiation and relationship-building, indigenous representatives are further equipped to engage in dialogue on issues to address the priorities of their communities. The training aims to strengthen indigenous representatives' abilities to negotiate to improve the situations of their peoples in all of the areas under the mandate of the

Postal Address: UNITAR - Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10 - Switzerland
Street Address: International Environment House 11-13 Chemin des Anémones CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva
T +41 22 917 8455 F +41 22 917 8047 www.unitar.org

Institut des Nations Unies pour la Formation et la Recherche
Instituto de las Naciones Unidas para Formación Profesional e Investigaciones



Permanent Forum: health, education, culture, environment, economic and social development, and human rights.

Economic and Social Development

The UNITAR training programme focuses on strengthening negotiation skills so that indigenous peoples' may more effectively negotiate in development and other processes that affect their peoples.

As conflict over land and resource issues, and marginalization from political and economic processes are two of the most challenging areas indigenous peoples continue to face, the majority of cases and negotiation simulations in the training focus on these issues. The training programme reviews both rights-based and problem-solving negotiation processes to strengthen the capacity of indigenous representatives to analyze root causes of conflict and engage in constructive dialogue with Governments, the private sector and other communities to resolve conflict in a mutually beneficial and sustainable manner.

The training programme invites UN Special Rapporteurs and Permanent Forum members and other senior indigenous experts to conduct sessions on successful negotiation processes on land and resource issues, among other areas. Specific land and resource situations are presented by indigenous experts from different regions high-lighting precedent-setting cases and remaining challenges. Initiatives to facilitate dialogue between indigenous representatives, Governments and the private sector are also highlighted.

Regional organization mechanisms and other dialogue processes are reviewed. Senior indigenous experts and UN system staff members present on UN and international conventions,



mechanisms and policies that promote and protect human rights and facilitate dialogue among concerned parties.

UNITAR contributes to Inter-Agency Support Group and UN efforts to promote the increased involvement of indigenous peoples in development processes at multiple levels.

Indigenous women

UNITAR actively seeks the participation and contribution of indigenous women for each training programme both as resource persons and as participants. Women compose 40% of training participants with the aim of building on their capacity to analyze sources of conflict, identify the interests and concerns of the various parties involved, and engage in dialogue and negotiation to improve the condition of life for their communities in all sectors. The Participants' Forum session of the training is normally chaired by an indigenous woman. This highly-appreciated session invites representatives working in different sectors, and reflecting a gender and regional balance, to present on initiatives they are undertaking in such areas as: environment, development, education, gender, culture, promotion of human rights, peacebuilding, and dialogue with Governments and the private sector on land and resource issues, in order to share their strategies and remaining challenges.

The UNITAR training programme invites indigenous women involved in peacebuilding initiatives to participate in the training to share their experiences and challenges with other representatives, and to further enhance the capacity of indigenous women in conflict analysis, negotiation, and peacebuilding. At the regional training for indigenous representatives of the Pacific, a senior indigenous participant presented on women building peace in Bougainville highlighting challenges faced and strategies women devised for addressing them.



Senior indigenous women are invited to serve as resource persons for the training programme to share their strategies, experiences, challenges and insights on a whole range of issues of concern to indigenous women, and to indigenous men and youth. Indigenous women who have served as resource persons for the UNITAR training programme include: a former Government Minister from Vanuatu, a Maori senior university lecturer from New Zealand, the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, a Counsellor in the Greenland Home Rule Government, the Minister of Culture and Sports of Guatemala, the previous Permanent Forum member from the Pacific, a Member of Parliament from Burundi, the Vice-Chancellor for a University of an Autonomous Region in Nicaragua, the Chairperson of an indigenous alliance in the Philippines, an Education Officer from the Ministry of Education of Kenya who is also women's representative for an indigenous NGO, and an expert member of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Other women who have served as resource persons for UNITAR trainings include the UN Special Rapporteur on the permanent sovereignty of indigenous peoples over natural resources, a previous Secretary of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and other UN agency representatives. UNITAR will continue to identify and invite top female resource persons and participants who contribute substantively to the excellence of the programme.

Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

As noted in General Assembly resolution A/RES/59/174 establishing the Second Decade, indigenous peoples continue to face “precarious economic and social situations” and persistent “grave violations of their human rights.” The UNITAR training programme continues to focus on



building indigenous capacity for the protection and promotion of their human rights and the constructive resolution of conflicts in the development, social, economic, health, human rights, environment, and cultural areas.

In the Second Decade, indigenous representatives will be engaged in dialogue and negotiation on more issues of concern than in the First Decade. Intellectual property and traditional knowledge and resources, growing environmental pressures, and strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in a manner beneficial to indigenous communities, are just some of the areas of keen interest that can benefit from further indigenous participation.

These areas, as well as the economic and social marginalization many indigenous peoples continue to face will necessitate constructive approaches to promote and protect their rights, and the further development of mechanisms to engage indigenous peoples in processes and decisions that affect them. With the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, its implementation to improve the quality of life in indigenous communities will continue to be a priority area for attention and further capacity development.

The UNITAR training programme is designed to increase the effectiveness of indigenous representatives to engage in dialogue on decisions that affect them and to contribute to the constructive resolution of problems facing their communities in partnership with other concerned parties.

Indigenous experts and former participants are consulted in the design and planning of each UNITAR training to ensure that the programme is addressing key concerns and evolving issues faced by indigenous peoples. Their advice is sought on cases to include from respective regions, recommendations for top resource persons as well as on participants and organizations that could best benefit from and contribute to the programme.



UNITAR has been involved in the UN Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues since its formation, and has participated in each session of the Permanent Forum.

Human Rights

At each UNITAR international and regional training programme on conflict prevention for indigenous peoples' representatives, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (and formerly the Draft Declaration) is disseminated to all participants. The training focuses on strengthening representatives' capacities to analyze root causes of conflict, to engage in dialogue/build constructive relations, and negotiate with partners in their own priority areas to improve the quality of life in their communities and nations. Rights-based and interest-based forms of negotiation are reviewed and representatives engage in negotiation simulations related to political and economic participation. Strengthening these skills will continue to be a focus of the programme in order to contribute to the implementation and realization of the UN Declaration.

To further contribute to the dissemination of information and capacity-development efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights, at each UNITAR training programme, a senior indigenous lawyer and professor conducts several sessions on United Nations and regional mechanisms to promote dialogue and action on human rights and indigenous issues. As well, chapters of the guide developed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on indigenous peoples and human rights are provided to each participant as part of their handbook of readings and reference material.

The former UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples or his staff member addressed participants in a number of UNITAR training programmes on his mandate and activities as well as the process for raising concerns and rights violations. The current UN Special Rapporteur, who has taught previously in all eleven UNITAR



international and regional training programmes, will continue to contribute to the training programmes, now in his function as Special Rapporteur, to discuss his mandate and activities, and to engage with participants from various regions. The UN Special Rapporteur on the permanent sovereignty of indigenous peoples over natural resources has also presented sessions on her mandate and activities to the international training programme. The reports of both Special Rapporteurs are provided in the participant handbook of readings distributed at each training session.

The former Secretary of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations served as a resource person for both regional trainings in Africa and for the international training highlighting opportunities for creating spaces for dialogue in the UN system and outlining a rights-based approach to development.

Staff members of regional organizations are also invited to speak on mandates, mechanisms and opportunities for engaging in the promotion and protection of indigenous rights at the regional level. Regional representatives from the OAS, the OSCE, two Commissioners from the African Union's African Commission on Human and People's Rights including the Chair of the Working Group, as well as two indigenous expert members of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities have served as resource persons for the training. Indigenous resource persons serving in government have addressed training participants on successes and challenges in the area of governance.

Extensive documentation including UN reports, guidelines and studies are made available to participants to strengthen their knowledge of conventions and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of their rights.



Challenges

As UNITAR receives no funds from the regular UN budget, funds for all programmes and staff salaries must be raised for each training programme through requests to governments and foundations.

Facilitating Factors

Since the establishment of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UNITAR has worked actively with Permanent Forum members and other indigenous experts in the design of its international and regional training programmes for indigenous peoples. The Institute invites members to serve as resource persons to address participants on the mandate and activities of the Permanent Forum, advise on the best ways to interact with the Forum, and consult with participants on their respective areas of concern under the mandate of the Permanent Forum. Eight Permanent Forum members, including the Chairperson, have served as resource persons for UNITAR training programmes in the Americas, in the Asia-Pacific region, in Africa, in the Pacific and in the international programme. Reports of the Permanent Forum Sessions are provided to each training participant in their handbook of reference materials.

As well, UNITAR was asked to organize a seminar for Permanent Forum Members in advance of the first session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2002. The session involved UN staff from 16 agencies, funds, programmes and departments, the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the previous Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples.

UNITAR looks forward to continued collaboration with the Permanent Forum and other indigenous experts on capacity-development efforts involving indigenous representatives.



Programmes regarding indigenous issues within the Institute

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was established in 1965 as an autonomous body within the United Nations with the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations through appropriate training and research. UNITAR is governed by a Board of Trustees and is headed by an Executive Director. The Institute is supported by voluntary contributions from governments, inter-governmental organizations, foundations, and other non-governmental sources.

The UNITAR Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy was initiated in 1993 to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nation's efforts in conflict prevention and resolution. Since then, the programme has expanded to provide a range of training programmes involving mid and senior-level UN staff, diplomats, indigenous peoples' representatives, regional organization staff and civil society representatives.

The UNITAR international Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives has been conducted at the time of the former UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held at the United Nations in Geneva (2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006). Five regional training programmes have also been organized to date: in Mexico for indigenous representatives of North, Central and South America (2001); in Thailand for indigenous representatives of the Asia-Pacific (2003); in Tanzania for English-speaking indigenous peoples' representatives of Africa (2004); in Morocco (2006) for French-speaking indigenous representatives of the Great Lakes, Central, North and West Africa; and in Australia (2007) for indigenous peoples' representatives of the Pacific. As well, UNITAR contributed to the regional training on conflict resolution and peacebuilding organized by five



former participants for 100 indigenous and tribal representatives of Northeast India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar held in Assam, India in 2007. UNITAR also conducts an annual briefing programme on negotiation for the United Nations Indigenous and Minority Fellows hosted by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Indigenous representatives taking part in the UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding engage in identifying sources of conflict, and examine traditional negotiation, and rights-based negotiation approaches. Participants are then trained in interest-based negotiation and practice this method in a number of simulations. This approach seeks to find a win-win solution to conflict situations by helping parties become more effective at exploring one another's needs, aspirations, fears and concerns, and working from these to create innovative solutions which can address the interests of all concerned.

Senior indigenous experts, including members of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UN Special Rapporteurs, as well as representatives of regional organizations, and other specialists, are invited to serve as resource persons for the training programme.

A participant handbook is prepared for each programme which includes papers by indigenous experts, information on international and regional human rights mechanisms, chapters from the *United Nations Guide for Indigenous Peoples*, and other relevant articles. Reports of the UN Special Rapporteurs focusing on indigenous issues, related UN resolutions, information on the Millennium Development Goals, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, are included in the materials provided to each participant as reference materials in their handbook.

Each training programme concludes with a "Dialogue on a Common Vision for Peace" providing participants the opportunity to highlight key lessons from the training and their mutual exchange, and to articulate next steps towards building a common vision for peace and



development. Feedback from participants from each region indicates they are applying these strategies and enhanced skills in their communities and in dialogue with Governments and other partners at the local level and in international fora.

The 2009 Regional Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives is planned for the Pacific region. UNITAR is grateful for the support from the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden which is making this much-requested regional training programme possible.

Focal point on indigenous issues in UNITAR

Ms. Trisha Riedy
Manager and Senior Trainer
Programme in Peacemaking and Conflict Prevention
UN Institute for Training and Research
Palais des Nations
1210 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-917-8577
Fax: +41-22-917-8047
Email: trisha.riedy@unitar.org

Planned UNITAR training programmes regarding indigenous issues in 2009-2010

- UNITAR 2009 Regional Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives of the Pacific

Funds permitting:

- UNITAR 2010 Regional Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives (region to be finalized)