The International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples is commemorated to celebrate indigenous peoples and to recognize their efforts in advancing the rights enshrined in the
UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) remains committed to support those efforts within the context of human development.

Indigenous Media, Empowering Indigenous Voices

Enabling access to opportunities and empowering people and communities are at the core of UNDP’s work. UNDP continues to support an enabling environment where human rights
are promoted and respected and where human development is central to every government’s policies and standards: an environment where indigenous peoples are empowered and develop their full potential to lead dignified lives, in societies where their voices are heard and valued.

UNDP works to make national governance systems more effective in addressing discrimination and structural inequalities that can disproportionately affect indigenous peoples. No doubt much remains to be done and this year’s theme of empowering
Indigenous Voices will contribute to the broad based dialogue on the role of governance and accountability, amidst a range of national and global consultations in the post 2015 development framework. These consultations are designed to ensure active engagement.

Without meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in national, regional and global processes, sustainable development cannot be realized.

Media has a key role to play in promoting the rights of indigenous peoples. Factual and impartial reporting on the rights and issues of indigenous peoples is critical for raising
awareness of indigenous peoples among the general public and decision makers. For example in Ecuador, the UNDP’s Global Programme for Electoral Support (GPECS) supported the establishment of the Indigenous Reporters’ Regional Network for Elections, a network made up of Indigenous media organisations and indigenous reporters interested in covering the electoral cycle to promote intercultural citizenship and democracy as well as the IP "media hubs" created through 'Conversations with the Earth - Indigenous Voices on Climate Change' initiative (www.conversationsearth.org).
The first ever World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to be held in 2014 will be another opportunity for engagement along with member states, the UN system, and other non-state actors to share perspectives and good practices on how to realize the objectives of the UNDRIP and reflect on progress made in confronting major challenges such as poverty and climate change.
Today, when we are commemorate International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples,

UNDP urges the importance of robust engagement and collaboration between different partners for the advancement of indigenous peoples’ rights.