

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
DIVISION FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

SECRETARIAT OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

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26 April 2007

Information Note for Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations on the Sixth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Special Theme: Land, Territories and Resources

This is our last substantive communication with you before we welcome you to New York for the sixth session, which starts on 14 May 2007. The attachment to this letter provides an outline of matters pertaining to the session.

This year, six “satellite meetings” are feeding into the Forum’s session providing possible recommendations from which the Forum may draw, in addition to papers from the Forum members themselves, the agencies and indigenous organizations.

We feel that now that the Forum has triggered considerable activity in the inter-governmental system, the ultimate challenge is to make a real difference in the lives of indigenous peoples. Monitoring is an important step. Strategic papers prepared by Forum members including, Mr. Tamang, Mr Boychenko, Ms Tauli-Corpuz, Mr. Littlechild as well as a concept paper by Mr Dodson provide very overviews in both monitoring and possible ideas for the future.

As you see from the programme of work (attached for easy reference), this year the Forum decided to hold three specific dialogue sessions during its formal meetings: one with UN agencies (Monday, 14 May PM), one with indigenous peoples (Tuesday 15 May AM) and one with governments (Tuesday, 15 May PM). Further discussion with any of the constituencies will continue on Wednesday, 16 May pm.

We take this opportunity to draw your attention to the preparatory meeting of the Indigenous Caucus on the weekend before the Permanent Forum, 12 – 13 May 2007, 9:00 a.m. - 4 p.m. As in previous years, the meeting will take place on the 2nd floor of the Church Center for the United Nations at 777 UN Plaza (corner of East 44th Street and 1st Avenue), across the street from the main entrance to the United Nations.

One important note – all registrations for Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations and Academics, who are attending the Forum for the first time, closed on 25th April 2007. Those organizations who have participated in the UNPFII sessions in the past can continue to pre-register for another week. Please be advised you must be pre-registered in order to attend the Forum. You must also bring your confirmation letter and photo ID to the Registration desk. The Registration Desk will be open Friday 11 May between 10am to 3.45pm and Saturday 12 May between 12 noon to 4pm and Monday 14th May between 8am to 3.45pm. During the session, the Registration desk will be open between 9am and 4pm but closed during lunch.

Warm regards,

Elsa, Annika, Beatrice, Broddi, Ekaterina, Juan, Liwen, Mirian, Oksana, Sonia, Sylvie

General information to assist delegations traveling to
The Sixth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

1. Dates, times and location of the Session

The Sixth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held from Monday, 14 May to Friday, 25 May 2007, in Room 2, United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The provisional agenda, a provisional programme of work and other relevant documents are available now in all official UN languages through the web site of the Secretariat at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpffi/>

2. Medical clearance/insurance

Participants are requested to arrange at their own expense for insurance coverage including life, health and other forms deemed appropriate.

3. Travel arrangements to New York.

Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements including return fares to their homes.

4. Transportation into Manhattan from JFK, La Guardia and Newark airports

From John F. Kennedy International Airport (taxi or airport bus):

- **By taxi:** There is a flat (non-metered) fare of \$45 from JFK to anyplace in Manhattan. To this fare may be added the cost of a toll for the bridge or tunnel into Manhattan, depending on the route taken by the driver (the cost of the toll is \$5.00). The rate is per car, not per person, and does not include tip (customarily 10– 15%).
- **By bus:** There are frequent departures by the New York Airport Service bus from outside each terminal at JFK. It costs \$15 one-way, and takes about 60 minutes to reach Grand Central Terminal, at 42nd Street and Park Avenue. Many hotels are within walking distance, yet those unfamiliar with New York city are advised to take a taxi to their hotel.
- **By train:** The Long Island Railroad goes between Penn Station (34th Street and 7th Avenue) and Jamaica Station, which services JFK. Fares are \$5-7. There is an AirTrain which runs between JFK and Jamaica Station, which costs \$5, making the total price \$10-12. Taking the train is the most economical and reliable way to travel between Manhattan and JFK.

From La Guardia Airport (taxi or airport bus):

- **By taxi:** Fares from La Guardia are determined by meter, which the driver should set when the trip begins. The fare to midtown Manhattan will be approximately \$25-30. To this fare may be added the cost of a toll for the bridge or tunnel into Manhattan, depending on the route taken by the driver (the cost of the toll is \$5.00). The rate is per car, not per person, and does not include tip (customarily 10 - 15%).
- **By bus:** Bus departures are frequent from outside each terminal at La Guardia. It costs \$15 one-way, and takes about 30 minutes to reach Grand Central Terminal, at 42nd Street and Park Avenue. Many hotels are within walking distance, yet those unfamiliar with New York city are advised to take a taxi to their hotel.

From Newark International Airport (taxi, airport bus or train):

- **By taxi:** Fares from Newark to Manhattan are non-metered and determined by the airport taxi dispatcher before the trip begins based on the specific destination. The fare to midtown Manhattan will be approximately 40-45\$. To the fare may be added the cost of a toll for the bridge or tunnel into Manhattan, depending on the route taken by the driver (the cost of the toll is \$6.00). The rate is per car, not per person, and does not include tip (customarily 10– 15%). Only use taxis at authorized taxi stands.
- **By bus:** Olympia Airport Express bus goes to the Port Authority Bus Terminal at 42nd Street and Eighth Avenue, or to the vicinity of Grand Central Terminal, at 41st Street and Lexington Avenue. The fare for Olympia Airport express (Newark-Manhattan) is \$22 round trip, \$15 one way. Many hotels are within walking distance, yet those unfamiliar with New York city are advised to take a taxi to their hotel.
- **By train:** The Newark AirTrain runs frequently from the airport terminals to Newark International Airport Station from which connections on New Jersey Transit trains to New York Penn Station are available. A one-way ticket from the airport to New York is approximately 11\$ and the trip takes about 45 minutes in total. Due to problems of traffic congestion, particularly during peak hours, this is often the most reliable connection to New York city. From New York Penn Station, which is located at 7th avenue and 33rd street, it is advised to take a taxi to the hotel.

5. Accommodation

Delegates are requested to make their own arrangements for accommodation in New York. Please consult our web site for information on accommodation available in New York, as supplied by the NGO community http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_sixth.html

Further information regarding budget travel in New York City is available from: <http://gonyc.about.com/od/budgettravel/>

6. Passport and Visa

Each participant must have a valid passport to enter the United States. Please contact the nearest United States Embassy or Consulate to determine whether a visa is required for you to enter the United States. Should justification for the trip to New York be required, you may use the letter confirming the participation of your organization at the meeting. This letter, issued by Mr. Yao Ngoran, Chief of the DESA NGO Unit (in response to your pre-registration application) and signed by the Chief of the Secretariat (Ms. Elsa Stamatopoulou) can be used as a supplementary document in this process.

7. Registering to make an oral intervention

For all delegations wishing to speak, you are able to register on the speakers lists under each agenda item and sub-item. You must include your name and organization and the item that you would like to speak under. Each organization can only speak once under each agenda item/sub-item. Priority will given to Caucus and Group statements and a time limit is set by the Forum at the beginning of the Session.

8. Children

Please note that if you wish to bring children or young people under the age of 18 years of age, into the United Nations Headquarters building to attend the Sixth Session, you must notify Sylvie Pailler at the Secretariat of the UNPFII by 8 May 2007, who will in turn, notify UN Security. Please email Ms. Pailler at pailler@un.org with the full names and ages of the children or young people and include the name of their chaperone. All young people under the age of 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult during their time in the building.

9. Meeting secretariat

For further information or questions concerning the Sixth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, please contact:

The Secretariat for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA
United Nations Headquarters
Room DC2-1772
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel. + 1 917 367-5100
Fax. + 1 917 367 5102

Email: IndigenousPermanentForum@un.org
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpffi>

1. Major inputs to the Sixth Session are the following six “satellite meeting:

- The report of the International Expert Meeting on the Convention on Biological Diversity's regime on access and benefit-sharing and indigenous peoples.
- The report of the annual session of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, focusing on the theme “development with identity”. The IASG's annual meeting in 2006 was hosted by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at its headquarters in Rome. The IASG has reached a membership of 30 intergovernmental entities.
- The reports of three regional meetings on Indigenous Peoples and Indicators of Well-being organized as per recommendation of the Forum (Africa, Asia, Latin America). Last year a similar meeting captured the experiences of indigenous peoples from developed countries. All these reports will eventually be synthesized into one paper and will present proposals on a comprehensive set of indicators regarding indigenous peoples' well-being. Once the indicators have been discussed by the UNPFII, they will be presented to the UN system. This process has been unique as it has involved participatory indicator-setting processes. The project on indicators is organized by SPFII and has been made possible through the contribution of IFAD. (It should also be noted that the Canadian Government sponsored the 2006 meeting regarding indigenous peoples in developed countries).
- The report of the International Workshop on Urban Indigenous Issues (held in Santiago end of March 2007). The meeting was co-organized by UN-HABITAT, ECLAC, OHCHR, SPFII, in cooperation with IOM following a recommendation of the Forum (funding for the meeting was made possible by the Canadian Government).

2. Focus on implementation

The Forum will focus a part of its session this year to the implementation of its recommendations of previous sessions, especially those it adopted regarding indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2005 and 2006.

Various reports will feed into this evaluation:

- The reports submitted by the UN system to the Forum (some 30 reports feed into the session describing the work of agencies during the year).
- A paper prepared by two members of the Forum on evaluating the follow up of recommendations of the 2005 session.
- A database (kept updated by the SPFII) on the implementation of recommendations of the 2006 session (also posted on the SPFII website, www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii).
- A desk review of 10 MDG country reports prepared by SPFII
- A desk review of 10 CCAs/UNDAFs prepared by SPFII
- A desk review pf 10 UN Resident Coordinator reports prepared by SPFII
- Working papers by UNPFII Special Rapporteurs on palm oil development, commercial tree plantations and mono-crop and on their impacts on indigenous peoples' land tenure and resources management systems.
- A working paper by the UNPFII Special Rapporteur on the implementation of the Forum's human rights mandate without duplicating the work of other human rights bodies and mechanisms.
- A working paper by two UNPFII members on a questionnaire that would improve reporting to the Forum by the agencies.

Monitoring is a crucial matter. Strategic papers are being prepared by Forum members on strengthening the Forum's methodologies and providing constructive ideas in that direction.

3. Kindly check our website regularly where we post the documents for the Sixth Session of the Forum in all official UN languages as soon as they become available.

4. High-level speakers expected during the session include the President of ECOSOC, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the special rapporteur on trafficking.

5. There will be two half-day discussions devoted to the **Asia Region and Urban Indigenous Peoples and Migration**.

6. There will be approximately sixty **Special Events** scheduled during the session. They will be organized by governments, agencies, indigenous organizations, NGOs, the secretariat and others. Special events mainly take place during the lunch period. The schedule of the special events are posted on our website http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_sixth.html

7. The opening of the annual **indigenous exhibit and a cultural event** and reception will take place on Tuesday, 15 May at 6:15 pm, with an impressive array of indigenous artists from around the world.

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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Sixth session

New York, 14-25 May 2007

Agenda item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Proposed organization of work

Note by the Secretariat

The proposed organization of work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its sixth session (see annex) has been prepared by the secretariat of the Forum following consultations with the members of the Forum.

Annex:

Proposed organization of work

Date/time Agenda item/programme

First week

Monday, 14 May

Morning

(11 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Item 1

Item 2

Item 3

Opening of the session

Election of officers

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Special theme: “Territories, lands and natural resources”

- Report of the annual international expert group meeting on the Convention on Biological Diversity international regime on access and benefit-sharing and indigenous peoples’ human rights
- Inter-Agency Support Group technical paper on lands, territories and natural resources

Afternoon Item 3 (*Continued*)

(3-6 p.m.)

Dialogue with agencies

Tuesday, 15 May

Morning

(10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Item 3 (*Continued*)

Dialogue with indigenous peoples

Afternoon

(3-6 p.m.)

Item 3 (*Continued*)

Dialogue with Governments

Wednesday, 16 May

Morning

(10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Closed meeting

Afternoon

(3-6 p.m.)

Item 3 (*Continued*)

Outstanding statements

Thursday, 17 May

Morning

(10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Item 4	<p>Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas and on Millennium Development Goals</p> <p>(a) Economic and social development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working paper by the Forum's Special Rapporteurs on palm oil development, commercial tree plantations and mono-crop and on their impact on indigenous peoples' land tenure and resource management system <p>(b) Environment</p> <p>(c) Health</p> <p>(d) Education</p> <p>(e) Culture</p> <p>(f) Human rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working paper by the Forum's Special Rapporteur on the implementation of the Forum's human rights mandate without duplicating the work of other human rights bodies and mechanisms
Afternoon (3-6 p.m.)	Closed meeting
Friday, 18 May	
Morning (10-11 a.m.)	
(11 a.m.-1 p.m.)	<p>Item 4 (<i>Continued</i>)</p> <p>Item 5</p>
Afternoon (3-6 p.m.)	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Human rights: dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples</p>
Item 5 (<i>Continued</i>)	Discussion
Second week	
Monday, 21 May	
Morning (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)	
(1 p.m.-3 p.m.)	<p>Item 6</p> <p>Half-day discussion on Asia</p>
Afternoon (3-6 p.m.)	
Item 7	<p>Half-day discussion on urban indigenous peoples and migration</p>
Tuesday, 22 May	
Morning (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)	
(1 p.m.-3 p.m.)	<p>Closed meeting</p>
Afternoon (3-6 p.m.)	
Item 8	<p>Ongoing priorities and themes and follow-up: "data collection and disaggregation (2004)"</p>
Item 4 (g)	<p>Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People</p>
Wednesday, 23 May	
Morning (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)	
(1 p.m.-3 p.m.)	<p>Closed meeting</p>
Afternoon (3-6 p.m.)	
Item 9	<p>Future work of the Forum, including emerging issues</p> <p>Discussion</p>

- Working paper by the Forum's Special Rapporteur on recommendations of the previous sessions aimed at rationalization, clustering and avoiding duplication of recommendations and on methods of work
- Working paper by the Forum's Special Rapporteur on proposals on a questionnaire designed to enhance organizations' reporting to the Forum
- Working paper by the Forum's Special Rapporteur on a study on customary laws pertaining to indigenous traditional knowledge and on to what extent such customary laws should be reflected in international and national standards addressing traditional knowledge

Thursday, 24 May

Morning

(10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Item 9

(Continued)

Afternoon

(3-6 p.m.)

Item 10

Provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Forum

Friday, 25 May

Morning

(10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Item 11

Adoption of the report of the Forum on its sixth session
Plenary

Afternoon

(3-6 p.m.)

Item 11 *(Continued)*

Discussion

Closing of the session