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Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Information received from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Tebtebba Foundation

Summary

The present document is a summary of the *report of the International Technical Workshop on Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples*, held in Baguio City, Philippines, from 17 to 19 November 2008.

* E/C.19/2009/1.



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I. Introduction

1. In a series of regional and thematic workshops held in 2006 and 2007, indigenous peoples' organizations working with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹ identified core thematic areas for the development of indicators.
2. In 2007, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity organized an International Expert Seminar on Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals. Pursuant to this meeting, a set of indicators was proposed for adoption by the Convention on Biological Diversity. Also, the International Labour Organization (ILO) was requested to collaborate on the development of an indicator on traditional occupations.
3. The International Technical Workshop on Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples was organized as a follow-up to the regional, thematic and international workshops. It aimed to bring together key experts from among indigenous peoples, United Nations organizations, researchers and Governments to share experiences, identify datasets, derive lessons and elaborate methodologies and tools to guide further work on indicators at national, regional and local levels.
4. The Technical Workshop was organized by Tebtebba Foundation and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity Working Group on Indicators and co-sponsored by the ILO programme for the promotion of Convention No. 169 and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, with financial support from the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional. It was held at Camp John Hay, Baguio City, Philippines, from 17 to 19 November 2008.
5. Participants in the Workshop included indigenous peoples' representatives from Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Nepal, the Philippines, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact; technical experts; representatives of sponsoring international organizations (ILO, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues); and officials of the Governments of Nepal and the Philippines. For a list of the participants, see annex I.

II. The Workshop

6. Joji Carino welcomed the participants on behalf of Tebtebba Foundation and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity Working Group on Indicators. The opening prayer was performed by Vicky Mackay, founder of the Center for Ibaloi Heritage and Loakan History.
7. Representatives of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, ILO, the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity explained their interest in the development of indicators relevant to indigenous peoples. Key issues that they raised included monitoring of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,² indicators on

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

² General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

traditional occupations, and indicators on traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

8. Presentations by the technical experts addressed data collection and analysis at the national level; and development of indicators for specific aspects of traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples' well-being, including traditional occupations, customary sustainable use of land and resources, food security, gender, and rights to ancestral domain. The presentations are listed in annex II.

III. Outcomes of the group discussion

9. The participants were divided into two working groups, one set up to discuss indicators for indigenous peoples' well-being and the other to focus on indicators on traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

Indigenous peoples' well-being

10. The group that had discussed this issue made the following recommendations on the collection of data in national censuses:

- Identification of indigenous persons in the census should be by self-ascription
- Mother tongue is a useful additional identifier
- Data should be disaggregated for each indigenous group within a country, as the situation and social status of the different indigenous groups can vary considerably
- Grouping in an indigenous category is also helpful (for example, in Canada, respondents are asked whether they belong to an aboriginal group)
- When determining the boundaries of census districts, artificial fragmentation of indigenous peoples' territories should be avoided
- Local enumerators should be used, so as to build trust and improve accuracy
- Members of census coordination boards at different levels (municipal, district, regional, etc.) should include indigenous persons
- Training for enumerators should include not only technical matters, but also gender-sensitivity and sensitivity to indigenous communities
- The census questionnaire should be translated into indigenous languages
- Every effort should be made to include small population groups

11. The group also outlined the steps needed to develop a monitoring framework for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

- Cluster the rights to be monitored under the five headings within the framework of the United Nations Declaration
- Develop a monitoring framework with structural, process and outcome indicators. The 12 thematic areas identified in the regional and thematic workshops should be taken into account when developing outcome indicators

- Identify sources of data, which could include civil society shadow reports, and observatories for ILO Convention No. 169 (Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries); civil society reporting on indigenous peoples' rights should be encouraged
- Ensure a process for consulting indigenous peoples on the framework
- At national level:
 - Identify the institution in government responsible for implementing the United Nations Declaration and ILO Convention No. 169
 - Identify a constitutional body or independent officer of government to monitor the United Nations Declaration and ILO Convention No. 169; mechanisms for monitoring at country level could be a national human rights commission or a specific commission on indigenous peoples

Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices

12. The discussion focused on two indicators to be proposed for adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010. Further indicators may be proposed for the post-2010 monitoring framework. It was noted that immediate action on indicators was needed, because the Working Group on Article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which addresses traditional knowledge, would be meeting in August 2009.

13. The Workshop group recommended the following:

- The two indicators to be proposed to the Conference of the Parties for adoption should be (a) status and trends of land use in indigenous peoples' territories and (b) status and trends of traditional occupations
- The indicators on traditional occupations should focus on occupations where knowledge of traditional culture and practices may influence the way the work is performed
- A strong gender perspective should be ensured in developing both indicators
- A reference group comprising members of the discussion group should guide further work on these indicators
- ILO, the Convention secretariat and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity should collaborate on finding a consultant to be charged with refining the description of occupations
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) should be asked to collect data on status and trends in land (and water) use in indigenous peoples' territories
- The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity should be asked to reactivate its work on indicators

IV. Highlights of the plenary discussion

14. Reports from the Workshop groups were discussed in a plenary session, which broadly supported the recommendations made and identified the next steps required.

15. It was noted that traditional occupations might be an entry point for addressing issues affecting indigenous peoples in Africa, who defined themselves by their occupations (hunter-gatherers and pastoralists).

16. It was also noted that the indicators on traditional knowledge needed to be tested in different countries, with indigenous communities helping to develop methodologies, before they could be adopted for the Convention on Biological Diversity monitoring framework.

17. Participants from the Institute for Human Development agreed to start work on creating a statistical database on indigenous peoples in different countries, which would draw on national data collections. Data are available in Canada, Australia, China, New Zealand, Latin America and the Arctic.

18. The participants agreed to continue the discussion by circulating a list of questions about different types of indicators; Tebtebba was asked to set up a LISTSERVE.

V. Recommendations

19. **To the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat:**

- **Locate resources to support work to develop and test indicators for traditional knowledge, innovations and practices**

20. **To the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:**

- **Develop a framework for monitoring the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**
- **Encourage States to implement the United Nations Declaration by commissioning an expert paper demonstrating that elements of the Declaration are legally binding under various international conventions**
- **Urge the United Nations Statistics Division to recommend that an indigenous identifier, based on self-ascription, be included in national censuses**
- **Request the Statistical Commission to adopt an indigenous identifier to be included in national censuses**
- **Feed data and discussion emerging from work on indicators into the report on the state of the world's indigenous peoples**

21. **To the International Labour Organization:**

- **Identify a consultant to help develop the indicator on traditional occupations and produce guidelines for testing it**

22. **To national Governments:**

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- **Report to the Permanent Forum on efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration and the obstacles encountered**
 - **Adopt an indigenous identifier, based on self-ascription, in the national census so as to enable disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples**
 - **Encourage the Statistical Commission to adopt an indigenous identifier for inclusion in national censuses**
23. **To the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity:**
- **The next global workshop to involve indigenous peoples in work on indicators should pay particular attention to gender and indigenous women**
 - **Compile a list of lessons learned through testing of monitoring tools**
 - **Establish a task force to work on adjusting the human development index so that it better reflects the well-being of indigenous peoples and takes account of indigenous concepts of well-being**
 - **Activate the regional focal points of the Working Group on Indicators, so as to provide a support network for indigenous peoples' organizations working on indicators**
 - **Produce a second volume of the resource book on indicators relevant to indigenous peoples**
24. **To indigenous peoples' organizations:**
- **Lobby the Statistical Commission to adopt an indigenous identifier to be included in national censuses**
 - **Contact organizations working on biodiversity to ensure that they are sensitive to indigenous peoples' issues**
 - **Establish national advisory groups to support indigenous peoples' organizations, provide a bridge between the indigenous movement and national and international bodies, and identify key collaborators**

Annex I

List of participants

Cambodia

Pheap Sochea, Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association

Cameroon

Ibrahim Amadou Njobdi, Lelewal-A Sustainable Development Initiative

Canada

Martin Cooke, Sociology Department and Department of Health Studies and Gerontology, University of Waterloo

Myrle Traverse Ballard, Canadian Indigenous Biodiversity Network/Southern Chiefs' Organization

India

Harishwar Dayal, Institute for Human Development

Dev Nathan, Institute for Human Development

Mexico

Patricia Fernandez Ham, consultant to the United Nations Development Fund for Women

Nepal

Sumitra Manandhan Gurung, National Coalition against Racial Discrimination

Mukta Lama, Social Action for Grass-roots Unity and Networking

Krishna Sundar Malla, National President, Newa Day Daboo (Newars National Federation)

Punya Bikram Paudel, Ministry of Local Development, Government of Nepal

Kumar Yonjon Tamang, Nepal Tamang Ghedung

Nicaragua

Dennis Mairena Arauz, Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Autonomy and Development

Philippines

Jose Agayo, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples

Joji Carino, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity Working Group on Indicators

Marvin Daul, Consortium of Christian Organizations in Rural Development

Leilene Marie Gallardo, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples

Olivia G. Gulla, National Statistics Office

Benjamin Navarro, National Statistics Board

Datu Vic Saway, Panagtagbo Mindanao

Thailand

Gam Awungshi Shimray, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Maurizio Ferrari, Environmental Governance Coordinator, Forest Peoples Programme

United Republic of Tanzania

Adam Kuleit Ole Mwarabu Lemareka, Parakuiyo Pastoralists Indigenous Community Development Organization

International organizations

John Scott, Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat

Birgitte Feiring, International Labour Organization

David Hunter, International Labour Organization

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Govind Kelkar, United Nations Development Fund for Women

Annex II

List of presentations

Measuring well-being of aboriginal peoples in Canada: the registered Indian and Inuit human development index and community well-being index

Martin Cooke

Inequality and indigenous peoples in India

Dev Nathan

Indicators relevant to indigenous peoples and disaggregated data: Nepal's experience

Mukta Lama

Options for indicators of traditional occupations based on the International Standard Classification of Occupations

David Hunter

Customary sustainable use (article 10 (c) of the Convention on Biological Diversity) project: indicators relevant for indigenous peoples

Maurizio Ferrari

Gender and indigenous peoples in the 2010 census in Latin America

Patricia Fernandez Ham

Food and nutritional security

Harishwar Dayal

Gender indicators: critiques and alternatives

Govind Kelkar

Measuring indigenous peoples' rights in the Philippines: the Metagora experience

Benjamin Navarro