



United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (UNIPP)

Delivering as One UN
*at the country level in partnership
with indigenous peoples
and governments*



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HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

“The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance. Ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them shall be established.”

“The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States, shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration.”

Articles 41 and 42, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



UNIPP: A global partnership for indigenous peoples' rights

Indigenous and tribal peoples constitute at least 5,000 distinct peoples with a population of more than 370 million, living in 70 different countries. They are part of the overall contribution of all peoples' to the diversity and richness of the world. Yet there is an urgent need to respect, promote and protect their inherent collective and individual rights that derive from their social, economic, cultural and political institutions, traditions and knowledge.

UNIPP is the first global partnership established by the United Nations to promote the rights of indigenous peoples at the country level. UNIPP brings together the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in a partnership with indigenous peoples, governments and other stakeholders to facilitate implementation of international standards on indigenous peoples, in particular the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ILO Convention No. 169).

The Partnership underscores the significant place of indigenous peoples as rights holders under international human rights law. UNIPP seeks to facilitate the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples, taking as a cornerstone the right to participate in decision-making, state duty to consult and the principle of free, prior and informed consent.



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Indigenous peoples' rights: An issue of social justice

“Indigenous people make an enormous contribution to our world, including through their spiritual relationship with the Earth. By helping indigenous peoples regain their rights, we will also protect our shared environment for the benefit of all.”

– UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon



UNIPP promotes the rights of indigenous peoples through the following key **guiding principles**:

- Ownership and coherence with the principles of indigenous peoples' self-determination, consultation, participation and free, prior and informed consent.
- Gender equality and special consideration to indigenous children and youth as appropriate.
- Partnerships founded on equality, trust, inclusion and mutual accountability of governments, UN agencies and indigenous peoples.
- Integration of human rights in development processes and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples.
- The “Delivering as One” approach, improving the effectiveness and impact of the United Nations Development System at the country level, and promoting greater coherence of the UNDS activities in support of national priorities.
- Special attention to indigenous peoples having no access to other capacity development measures and support frameworks.

Strategic focus areas

UNIPP provides a collaborative framework and platform for working on the following themes:

Legislative review & reform: develop capacities of State institutions to have indigenous peoples' rights included and recognized within the national legal system through constitutional, administrative and policy reforms.

Democratic governance & indigenous peoples' institutions: strengthening indigenous peoples' institutions and organizational capacity to fully participate in governance and policy processes at local and national levels.

Access to justice: recognition and strengthening of indigenous customary law and justice systems; and their inclusion within national legal systems.

Access to land & ancestral territories: developing and strengthening capacities for demarcation & titling of ancestral land & territories.

Natural resources & extractive industries: promoting a framework for conflict prevention, consultation, participation, benefit-sharing and dispute resolution with a special focus on conflict prevention initiatives around ancestral land and use of natural resources.

Access to education & health: promoting indigenous people rights to quality education that are relevant and pertinent to their situation and respect their histories, languages, traditions and their access to culturally sensitive & quality health services, including reproductive health.



UNIPP operationalization

UNIPP is governed and directed by a Policy Board comprising representatives of participating UN organizations and four indigenous experts representing different regions and nominated by the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the UN Expert Mechanism on Indigenous Peoples and the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples.

OHCHR serves as the Chair on behalf of the UN Participating organizations and an indigenous expert as co-Chair. The International Labour Organization currently hosts the Technical Secretariat of UNIPP. Administration of the UNIPP Multi-Partner Trust Fund is entrusted to the UNDP MPTF.

Timeline

- February 2010:** Adoption of UNIPP ToR
- May 2010:** Signing of UNIPP MoU by founding agencies
- May 2011:** UNIPP Launch in New York and first donor pledge by Denmark and Finland
- July 2011:** Adoption of UNIPP constitutional documents by its 1st Policy Board in Geneva
- Sept. 2011:** UNIPP 1st call for proposals
- October 2011:** Adoption of UNIPP Strategic Framework (2011-2015) and approval of proposals by UNIPP 2nd Policy Board meeting in New York
- 2012:** Starting of implementation of six pilot projects (Bolivia, Nicaragua, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Nepal and Southeast Asia).



Global support

“UNIPP is an important step in the efforts of indigenous peoples everywhere to fully realize their human rights. We look forward to our continued work with the UN so that the voiceless will be heard and that we can bring about dignity and respect for the diversity of our cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations.”

– Former Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), Mirna Cunningham

UN agencies should

“strengthen their collaborative framework and partnership for the promotion and implementation of indigenous peoples’ rights through joint country programmes...”

UNPFII Recommendation 39 at its Ninth session

“The EU and its Member States also welcome the establishment of the UN Indigenous Peoples’ Partnership, a unique innovation that brings together several UN agencies and contributes to the mainstreaming of the rights of indigenous peoples, as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in the UN system and activities. We encourage all stakeholders to support this important initiative.”

Statement by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on behalf of the European Union on the occasion of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous People on 9 August 2011

“The Human rights Council welcomes the establishment of the United Nations- Indigenous Peoples Partnership, and encourages the Partnership to carry out its mandate regarding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through the mobilization of resources, and in close cooperation and coordination with States, indigenous peoples, Human Rights Council mechanisms, United Nations bodies and agencies related to indigenous peoples, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders”

Resolution of the Human Rights Council, adopted on 26 September 2011, A/HRC/18/L.23



For more information, please contact

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visit the following website:

<http://mdtf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/IPPO0>
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/Pages/UNIPPartnership.aspx>
<http://www.ilo.org/indigenous/lang--en/index.htm>