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INDIGENOUS ISSUES

**Implementation of the programme of activities for the International
Decade of the World's Indigenous People**

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Submitted in accordance with Commission resolution 2002/63

Executive summary

The present report provides information relating to the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and supplements the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/57/395). It gives information on the Indigenous Fellowship Programme, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, activities that have been organized by the Office of the High Commissioner since September 2002, and the two Trust Funds relating to indigenous peoples.

Introduction

1. In its resolution 2002/63, the Commission on Human Rights requested the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, as Coordinator for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, to submit an updated annual report reviewing activities within the United Nations system under the programme of activities for the Decade to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-ninth session under the agenda item entitled "Indigenous issues". The present report provides information made available since the submission of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/57/395).

Indigenous Fellowship Programme

2. The 2002 Indigenous Fellowship Programme, implemented by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), ran from 15 April to 13 September 2002. The 2002 programme included an additional activity that allowed the fellows to participate in the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held in New York in May and to receive briefings from the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank. As in previous years, the programme consisted of an intensive course on human rights, visits to non-governmental organizations and training modules with several different United Nations agencies. The fellows also received briefings from Permanent Forum members and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people. As part of the practical work experience in the United Nations system, the five fellows, from Canada, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela, assisted the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and attended meetings of the treaty bodies. As is the usual practice, the fellows concluded their training by presenting a research paper and carrying out an evaluation of the programme to assist the Office in making improvements.

3. In cooperation with the University of Deusto in Bilbao, Spain, the Indigenous Fellowship Programme also provided training for five indigenous fellows from Latin America. The five fellows, from Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru, spent three months at the University of Deusto where they received human rights training followed by five weeks of practical experience at OHCHR. The outgoing High Commissioner, Mary Robinson, presented certificates to the Geneva-based and Deusto fellows before she left.

4. In 2002, OHCHR provided training for three French-speaking indigenous persons from Africa. The three fellows came from Rwanda and Niger. The training programme was undertaken in cooperation with the University of Bourgogne in Dijon, France, and lasted one month. This pilot project has been evaluated and it has been decided to run a second pilot programme in 2003 for a period of two months and to review the activity at the end of 2003.

Working group established in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/32

5. The eighth session of the working group of the Commission on Human Rights to consider the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples will be held in

Geneva from 2 to 13 December 2002. At the eighth session the working group will consider the following clusters of articles: (a) 3, 31 and 36; (b) 25-30; (c) 7, 8 and 11. Prior to the eighth session, and in accordance with paragraph 6 of Commission resolution 2002/64, interested States participated in an informal intersessional meeting held from 16 to 19 September 2002 to consider the above-mentioned articles. The report of the eighth session of the working group will be contained in document E/CN.4/2003/92.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

6. The report of the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held at United Nations Headquarters from 13 to 24 May 2002, is contained in document E/2002/43 (Part I)-E/CN.19/2002/3 (Part I) and Add.1 and E/2002/43 (Part II)-E/CN.19/2002/3 (Part II). The Economic and Social Council recommended that a secretariat unit for the Permanent Forum be established within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters, that a voluntary fund be established for the purpose of funding the implementation of recommendations, and that a pre-sessional meeting of the members of the Forum be held from 7 to 9 May 2003. The second session of the Permanent Forum will take place in New York from 12 to 23 May 2003.

Other activities

7. From 11 to 15 November 2002, OHCHR organized, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, a workshop for Pygmy communities of the central African region on the Dja Reserve, Cameroon. The holding of the workshop was recommended by the Advisory Group for the Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and implements recommendation B.3 (x) addressed to OHCHR by the Permanent Forum (see E/2002/43 (Part I)-E/CN.19/2002/3 (Part I)). Participants included Pygmy representatives from the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, the Central African Republic, Rwanda, Burundi and Cameroon, Ms. Njuma Ekundanayo, member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and Mr. Zephyrin Kalimba, indigenous member of the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples/Communities in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The workshop offered a space for dialogue on the theme "Human rights, development and cultural diversity" and the participating United Nations organizations provided training. The workshop was considered as a first step in developing inter-agency action in cooperation with the Pygmy communities in the region and it was recommended that further activities be undertaken in 2003.

Inter-agency cooperation

8. On 19 July 2002, ILO hosted the second meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group established to assist the Permanent Forum. It was agreed at that meeting that the Inter-Agency Support Group would meet at six-month intervals and on other occasions as practical in order to further inter-agency approach on indigenous issues. The third session of the Group will be hosted by the World Bank in Washington on 6 and 7 February 2003 and the fourth session will be held in Geneva on 18 July 2003 and organized by the World Intellectual Property

Organization. In the intervening periods, United Nations organizations have maintained contacts with members of the Permanent Forum and during the informal consultation of members of the Permanent Forum held in Geneva from 27 to 29 November 2003, representatives of OHCHR, ILO and the World Health Organization participated in an exchange of views on the second session of the Forum.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

9. The latest reports on the Fund are contained in documents A/57/395, E/CN.4/2002/96 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2002/7, which contains the report of the Advisory Group on its seventh session. Information on the Fund is also available on the OHCHR web site at www.unhchr.ch/indigenous/decade.htm.

10. At its seventh session, the Group expressed the view that, in order to meet the requests for funding received in 2002, the Fund would need US\$ 1 million before its eighth session. As of 1 October 2002, deadline for the submission of applications, the total requests for funding for 2003 amounted to US\$ 4.5 million. In the Annual Appeal for 2003, the High Commissioner, taking into consideration the overall needs and priorities of his Office, appealed for new voluntary contributions amounting to US\$ 442,000.

11. As at 10 November 2002, according to information available at OHCHR, new contributions which will be available for 2003 were received from: Cyprus (US\$ 2,000 on 6 August 2002) and Greece (US\$ 3,000 on 1 November 2002). The following pledges were made at the 2002 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities: Algeria (US\$ 5,000) and Estonia (US\$ 9,426). Further, a contribution of US\$ 24,462 was received from Germany for the financial year 2002 on 9 October 2002.

12. The Commission in its resolution 2002/63 (para. 15), and the Sub-Commission in its resolution 2002/19 (para. 4), appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute to the Fund. As recommended by the Advisory Group and the Commission on Human Rights, the High Commissioner sent, on 9 September 2002, a letter to all Governments appealing to them to contribute to the Fund and drawing their attention to the relevant resolutions. At the invitation of the Bureau of the Commission, the Chairperson of the Advisory Group addressed the Commission at its fifty-eighth session and also appealed for new and regular contributions.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

13. The recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Fund at its fifteenth session held in April 2002 which were approved by the High Commissioner on behalf of the Secretary-General are included in the biennial report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Fund to the General Assembly (A/57/296) and in the note by the secretariat to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2002/6).

14. At its fifteenth session, the Board expressed the view that, in order to meet the requests for funding received in 2002, including the new mandate entrusted to the Fund on the Permanent Forum, the Fund would need US\$ 800,000 before the end of 2002.

15. As at 10 November 2002, according to information available at OHCHR, new contributions which will be available for 2003 were received from: Cyprus (US\$ 2,000 on 6 August 2002); Estonia (US\$ 8,330 on 18 March 2002); Finland (US\$ 33,996 on 24 October 2002); Greece (US\$ 6,300 on 1 November 2002); Holy See (US\$ 1,000 on 22 October 2002); Switzerland (US\$ 66,667 on 30 September 2002), as well as from a private donor from Japan (US\$ 123 on 7 May 2002 and US\$ 75 on 23 August 2002); Centre de documentation, de recherché et d'information des peuples autochtones (DoCip) (US\$ 329 on 6 August 2002); Japanese Worker's Committee for Human Rights (US\$ 164 on 23 August 2002); Shimin Gaikou Centre (US\$ 1,000 on 2 May 2002). The following pledges were made at the 2002 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities: Algeria (US\$ 5,000); Estonia (US\$ 9,426) and Venezuela (US\$ 5,000). The following pledges are still pending: Bolivia (US\$ 1,000 on 2 November 2001); Chile (US\$ 5,000 on 7 November 2001) and Venezuela (US\$ 5,000 on 7 November 2001).

16. The Commission, in its resolution 2002/63 (para. 7) and the Sub-Commission, in its resolution 2002/21 (para. 20), appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute to the Fund. The General Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, had before it at the time of writing of the present document a draft resolution that would again encourage and appeal to all Governments and organizations to contribute to the Fund, if possible with a substantial increase in the level of contributions.

17. At the invitation of the Bureau of the Commission, a member of the Board of Trustees addressed the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session and also appealed for new and regular contributions. As recommended by the Board of Trustees and the Commission, the High Commissioner sent, on 9 September 2002, a letter to all Governments appealing to them to contribute to the Fund and drawing their attention to the relevant resolutions.
