



## *Handbook of Advocacy for Indigenous Peoples*

**Created by: Shamiran Mako  
For**

**Human Rights Without Frontiers Int.**

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This handbook is to be used as a research/reference guide for individuals or organizations interested in advocating indigenous and other minority issues through international institutions, such as the United Nations and other civil society groups and NGOs specializing in human rights discourse. This handbook was developed with the help of the Assyrian Academic Society by making the internship with Human Rights Without Frontiers possible.

## **UN Affiliate Bodies:**

- **UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples (WGIP) 1982**
  - The Working Group was launched following resolution 1982/34 of the Economic and Social Council. It is a subsidiary organ of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and meets annually in Geneva, usually during the last week of July.
  - Consists of independent experts of the Sub-Commission who are representatives of the various geopolitical regions of the world.
  - One of the most effective and relevant arena for advocacy of indigenous issues pertaining to status recognition.
  - Serves two purposes:
    - To review developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples;
    - To give attention to the evolution of international standards concerning indigenous rights.

### **Contact Information:**

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<http://www.unhchr.ch/indigenous/main.html>

<http://www.unhchr.ch/indigenous/documents.htm#intdecade>

- **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2000**
  - Resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in April of 2000, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the resolution to establish the Forum.
  - The purpose of the Permanent Forum is to serve as an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council, with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues relating to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.
  - The Forum will focus on the following:
    - Provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Council, as well as to programs, funds and agencies of the UN through the Council;

- Raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues within the UN system; and
- Prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues.

**Contact Information:**

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<http://www.unhchr.ch/indigenous/documents.htm#intdecade>

- **Inter-regional Programme to Support Self-Reliance of Indigenous and Tribal Communities through Cooperatives and other Self-Help Organizations (INDISCO Programme)**
  - ILO-INDISCO programme assists indigenous and tribal peoples in designing and implementing their own development projects pertaining to: employment and income generation, advancing the status of indigenous women, managing the environment and natural resources, preserving indigenous culture and strengthening local organizations.
  - Encourages self-help and community programs that take particular cultures into consideration in creating more practical and appropriate programs.
  - Various projects worldwide have helped indigenous and tribal populations with such issues as rural employment, literacy training and curriculum development in tribal languages, land and natural resource management, including ancestral domain management and so forth.

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**Web Links:** <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/indileaflet8.doc>

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/ent/coop/indisco.htm>

➤ **United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004)**

- Recommended by the World Conference on Human Rights and proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1993.
- Dedicated to strengthening international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health.
- Theme of the Decade is “Indigenous People: Partnership in Action”
- The General Assembly acknowledges the importance of the development of indigenous people and its impact onto the socio-economic, cultural and environmental advancements of the countries they reside in.
- List of programs and activities:
  - Protection of the rights of indigenous people while empowering them to make choices that enable them to retain their cultural identity;
  - Educating both indigenous and non-indigenous societies on the situation, cultures, languages, rights and aspirations of indigenous people;
  - Implementation of the recommendations pertaining to indigenous people adopted at the international conferences of the 1990s;
  - Completion and adoption of the UN declaration on the rights of indigenous people;
  - Special attention by the UN system to development activities which would benefit indigenous populations;
  - Creation of a UN fellowship program to assist indigenous people wishing to gain experience in the area of human rights, as well as other program of the UN system;
  - Establishment of an adequately staffed and resourced UN unit on indigenous people, and requesting governments to second qualified indigenous people to assist in UN work for the Decade;
  - Worldwide observance of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People on 9 August each year.

**Contact Information:****Indigenous Project Team**

High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights

Palais des Nations

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Switzerland

**Telefax:** 41 22 917 0212

**Web Links:** <http://www.un.org/rights/indigenous/background1.htm>

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu6/2/fs9.htm#annexii>

<http://www.unhchr.ch/indigenous/decade.htm>

<http://www.unhchr.ch/indigenous/e2004-82.doc>

<http://www.unhchr.ch/indigenous/documents.htm#intdecade>

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/indileaflet7.doc>

- **United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**
  - Aims to ensure the practical implementation of universally recognized human rights norms. It is committed to strengthening the United Nations human rights programme and providing the United Nations treaty monitoring bodies and special mechanisms established by the Commission on Human Rights with the highest quality support.
  - The official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities. OHCHR is committed to working with other parts of the United Nations to integrate human rights standards throughout the work of the Organization.
  - Action taken to address issues pertaining to indigenous peoples:
    - International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;
    - Appointment of Special Rapporteur in 2001 on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people;
    - Establishment of open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the Draft Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

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- **Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights**
  - Subordinate body to the United Nations Human Rights Commission

- Known as “expert” body: that is, it is composed of individuals, not governments, and it is supposed to function as the Commission’s “think tank”.
- Sub-Commission has its own subordinate bodies which include:
  - *Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP)*
  - *Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

**Contact Information:**

Commission/Sub-Commission Team (1503 Procedure)

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**Web Links:** <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/indileaflet3.doc>

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/2/sc.htm>

<http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/NewsRoom?OpenFrameSet>

➤ **Special Rapporteur**

- Appointed by the Commission on Human Rights in 2001, primary purpose being to document the situation of human rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples in response to the growing concern regarding the discrimination encountered by indigenous populations worldwide.
- Current Special Rapporteur to the Commission is, Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen from Mexico
- The Commission’s expert is expected to: “gather, request, receive and exchange information and communications from all relevant sources, including Governments, indigenous people themselves and their communities and organizations, on violations of their human rights and fundamental freedoms...”

**Contact Information:**

**(The Special Rapporteur or Working group concerned)**

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Or

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**Appeal forms to the Special Rapporteur can be found below:**

<http://www.unhcr.ch/indigenous/infosheet.doc>

<http://www.unhcr.ch/indigenous/rapporteur.htm>

**Web Links to missions and reports:**

[http://www.unhcr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/E.CN.4.2003.90.Add.2.En?Opendocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/E.CN.4.2003.90.Add.2.En?Opendocument) (Mission to Guatemala)

[http://www.unhcr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/E.CN.4.2003.90.Add.3.En?Opendocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/E.CN.4.2003.90.Add.3.En?Opendocument) (Mission to Philippines)

- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**
  - Takes into account proposals for programs made by indigenous people that advocate their cultural identity and that also facilitate accession to full citizenship rights in Member States.
  - Addresses the needs of indigenous peoples to promote a greater view of civilization, culture and tradition to ensure the survival and respect for diversity in cultures and peoples worldwide.
  - *Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems Project*
    - Involves the Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Communication & Information and Education Sectors.
    - Focuses on the interface between local and indigenous knowledge and the *Millennium Development Goals* of poverty eradication and environmental sustainability.
    - Addresses the different ways that indigenous knowledge, practices and worldviews are drawn into development and resource management processes.
    - Considers the implications this may have for building equity in governance enhancing cultural pluralism and sustaining biodiversity.

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**International Alliance of the Indigenous-Tribal Peoples (IAIP)**

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**Web Links:**

[http://portal.unesco.org/culture/admin/ev.php?URL\\_ID=2946&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201&reload=1064527586](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/admin/ev.php?URL_ID=2946&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201&reload=1064527586)

[http://portal.unesco.org/sc\\_nat/ev.php?URL\\_ID=1945&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201](http://portal.unesco.org/sc_nat/ev.php?URL_ID=1945&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201)

<http://www.iaip.gn.apc.org/>

[www.unesco.org/whc](http://www.unesco.org/whc)

➤ **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**

- A UN specialized agency that promotes the protection of intellectual property worldwide.
- Defines intellectual property as literary, artistic and scientific works, inventions in all fields of human endeavor, scientific discoveries, and all other intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary or artistic fields.
- *The Global Intellectual Property Issues Division* in particular, is responsible for issues regarding indigenous peoples. It conducts researcher pertaining to intellectual property and its relation to the importance of preserving traditional knowledge, expressions of folklore and genetic resources of indigenous peoples.
- Has established an Inter-governmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, which permits indigenous organizations that have been granted special permission to partake in their discussions.

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**Web Links:** <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/indileaflet12.doc>

<http://www.wipo.int/>

➤ **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**

- A UN program that promotes and supports programs for sustainable human development
- Works in partnership with governments, UN specialized agencies, civil society organizations and private-sector institutions to implement economic and social development programs.
- Contributed grants to developmental projects of indigenous peoples, with initiatives focusing on poverty eradication, environmental conservation, conflict prevention and resolution and cultural revitalization.
  - Supported the *Indigenous Knowledge Program (IKP)* and provided funding for 3 IKP projects formulated to recover and develop indigenous knowledge about the conservation of ecosystems and the rainforest.
  - Funded the *Asian Regional Programme: Highland Peoples Programme (HPP)* → focused on poverty reduction and established exchange mechanisms between highland peoples, governments and IPO's.
  - In 2000 Civil Society Organization (CSO) Advisory Committee to the Administrator, provides perspectives on civil society and indigenous issues throughout its 14 member Committee.

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<http://www.unhcr.ch/html/racism/indileaflet11.doc>

## **UN Legal Instruments**

Various United Nations legal instruments are available for the protection of minorities and indigenous peoples worldwide. Such mechanisms of protection are in various forms including **treaties, covenants, conventions, declarations and charters**. Although the binding force of such instruments is often impractical primarily, due to lack of a real implementation mechanism and power over sovereign states; nonetheless, they remain vital within the general framework of the international political arena and morality of states and the UN.

- ***Draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples***
  - Initiated by the **Working Group on Indigenous Populations** in 1985, motivated by the lack of international mechanisms that directly address the needs of indigenous peoples worldwide.
  - Allows participation of more than 100 indigenous people's organizations in the drafting process to ensure a coherent representation of the issues encountering indigenous peoples.
  - Remains in the working process.
  - *“Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and to full guarantees against genocide or any other act of violence, including the removal of indigenous children from their families and communities under any pretext”*. (Article 6)
  - The link to the draft Declaration can be found below

[http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/E.CN.4.SUB.2.RES.1994.45.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/E.CN.4.SUB.2.RES.1994.45.En?OpenDocument)

**Related web links:**

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/indileaflet5.doc>

- ***Universal Declaration of Human Rights***
  - Established for the protection of basic human rights of people worldwide following the horrific tragedies of WWII.
  - Sets universal guidelines and principles for the protection and fulfillment of the basic human rights of individuals for governments to adhere to.
  - Promotes the value of human life and dignity of people worldwide and the incorporation and implementation of basic human right by sovereign governments as basis for legitimacy.
  - *“Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”* (Article 2)
  - The link to the Declaration can be found below:

**Web Link:** <http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/eng.htm>

- ***International Labor Organization (ILO)***

- First international organization to address issues pertaining to indigenous peoples. The organization also ensures the protection and the implementation of necessary rights of indigenous and tribal peoples, its purpose is two-fold. Firstly, the promotion and supervision of two Conventions relating to indigenous and tribal peoples. Secondly, it provides technical assistance programs that further advance the social and economic status of indigenous and tribal peoples.
- ***Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 (No.107)***
  - Mechanism of the International Labor Organization (ILO)
  - First international instrument to set rights for indigenous and tribal populations.
  - Closed for ratification due to revisions (No.169) of its language and limitations but remains in force for the 18 countries that have ratified it.
  - **Ratifying Countries:** Angola, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Iraq, Malawi, Pakistan, Panama, Portugal, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.
  - The link to the Convention can be found below:

**Web Link:** <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/convde.pl?C107>

- ***Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No.169)***
  - In 1986, ILO initiated the revision of the 1957 (No.107) Convention due to its limitations and language.
  - In 1988 and 1989, ILO drafted the above Convention (169) which, as its predecessor, promotes the rights and protection of indigenous and tribal populations worldwide, with a more vital emphasis on the cultures, traditions and societies of such peoples.
  - Remains open for ratification and has been ratified by 17 countries since its establishment.
  - It is crucial to note that Convention (c.169) does not annul Convention (c.107) in that, the 1957 Convention remains in force and valid for the countries that have ratified. The only instance where Convention (c.107) is annulled is if the country ratifies Convention (c.169). In other words, countries may chose to replace the old 1957 Convention with the 1989 one.
  - **Ratifying Countries:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Cost Rica, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela.
  - The link to the Convention can be found below:

**Web Link:** <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/convde.pl?C169>

- ***International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966***
  - Ensures the freedom and protection of individuals from arbitrary power of states through the assurance of civil and political rights.

- Ensures protection of indigenous rights through minority status of such populations within member States.
- *“In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language”* (Article 27)
- The link to the Covenant can be found below:

**Web Link:** [http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/a\\_ccpr.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/a_ccpr.htm)

➤ ***International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 1966***

- Advocates the protection of basics rights of individuals in relation to economic and social status within member States.
- Promulgates the right to adequate living standards, social security of persons, labor laws, education, fair wages and technical and scientific assistance for citizens.
- Promotes the basic economic, social and cultural rights of all individuals within member States.
- *“The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for the conservation, the development and the diffusion of science and culture..”* (Article 15, Sc.2)
- The link to the Covenant can be found below:

**Web Link:** [http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/a\\_cescr.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/a_cescr.htm)

➤ ***Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992***

- Formulated following a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.
- Sets principles pertaining to the environment and natural resources in relation to state action in preserving such entities.
- Protection of the global environment and ecosystems within the actions of sovereign states.
- Acknowledges the special relationship that indigenous peoples have to their land, environment and resources.
- *“Indigenous people and their communities and other local communities have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognize and duly support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development.”* (Principle 22)
- The link to the Declaration can be found below:

**Web Link:**

<http://www.unep.org/Documents/Default.asp?DocumentID=78&ArticleID=1163>

➤ ***Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 1993,***

- Adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on June 25<sup>th</sup> 1993.
- Advocates the assertion and obligation of States to adhere to human rights laws through incorporating them in their legal mechanisms.
- Reinstates the necessity for states to promulgate human rights guidelines and indigenous rights as set by international institutions within their national framework.
- *“The World Conference on Human Rights recognizes the inherent dignity and the unique contribution of indigenous people to the development and plurality of society and strongly reaffirms the commitment of the international community to their economic, social and cultural well-being and their enjoyment of the fruits of sustainable development...”* (Part 20)
- The link to the Declaration can be found below:

**Web Link:**

[http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/A.CONF.157.23.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/A.CONF.157.23.En?OpenDocument)

➤ ***Cairo Program of Action, 1994***

- Established during the *International Conference on Population and Development* in Cairo in September 1994.
- Emphasizes the linkage found between populations and development with particular attention regarding education, especially for girls, reduction of infant and child mortality rates.
- Also tackles issues pertaining to population, environment and consumption patterns, internal and international migration, prevention and control of HIV.
- Acknowledges the special status of indigenous peoples within the realm of state policy making.
- *“Indigenous people have a distinct and important perspective on population and development relationships, frequently quite different from those of the populations with whom they interrelate within national borders. The specific needs of indigenous people, including primary health care and reproductive health services, should be recognized...”* (Chapter VI, D).
- Link to the Program can be found below.

**Web Link:** <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/populatin/icpd.htm>

➤ ***Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, 2000***

- Organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations.
- Established following the World Summit for Social Development held in March of 1995 in Copenhagen.
- The main objectives of the summit were to tackle poverty and improving employment opportunities and programs for social integration.
- The Summit was followed by the adoption of the Declaration that provides a basis for the elimination and improvement of the current

world poverty situation, including a special status allotted for indigenous peoples as stated in its *Commitments*, Sc. 4-(f):

- *“Recognize and respect the right of indigenous people to maintain and develop their identity, culture and interests, support their aspirations for social justice and provide an environment that enables them to participate in the social, economic and political life of their country;”*
- The link to the Declaration can be found below:

**Web Link:** <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/wssd/index.html>

➤ ***Fourth Conference on Women, Beijing Declaration, 1995***

- Established following a conference held in Beijing regarding the status of women worldwide by the UN and world governments.
- The rationale for the Declaration is to advance equality, development and peace for all women worldwide, including indigenous women as indicated in Article 32:
  - *“ efforts to ensure equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women and girls who face multiple barriers to their empowerment and advancement because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion, or disability, or because they are indigenous people;”*
- The link to the Declaration can be found below:

**Web Link:** <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/declar.htm>

➤ ***The Habitat Agenda, 1996***

- A part of the UN-HABITAT mandate directed by the General Assembly in support of socially and environmentally sufficient towns and housing for people worldwide.
- The Agenda was adopted in 1996 following the Habitat II Conference in Turkey by 171 countries.
- The Agenda acknowledges the special circumstances of indigenous peoples in Articles 14 and 40, which state as follows:
  - *“In shelter and urban development and management policies, particular attention should be given to the needs and participation of indigenous people. These policies should fully respect their identity and culture and provide an appropriate environment that enables them to participate in political, social and economic life.”* (Article 14)
  - *“Protecting, within the national context, the legal traditional rights of indigenous people to land and other resources, as well as strengthening of land management.”* (Article 40, Sc. m)
- A direct link to the Agenda can be found below:

**Web Link:** [http://www.unhabitat.org/declarations/habitat\\_agenda.asp](http://www.unhabitat.org/declarations/habitat_agenda.asp)

➤ **Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1990**

- Enacted for the establishment of the rights of every child under eighteen years of age and to ensure the protection of children worldwide.
- Indicates the special status for children of indigenous origin and acknowledges their special circumstances as such in Articles 29 Sc. (d) and 30; which state as follows:
  - *“The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;”* (29, Sc. d)
  - *“In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practise his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.”* (30)
- A direct link to the Convention can be found below:

**Web Link:** <http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm>



## **Supplementary International Mechanisms**

Although the international mechanisms that address indigenous issues directly are limited, there are other conventions and declarations that seek to address issues pertaining to the assurance of the basic human rights to minorities or humanity as a whole. Advocates of indigenous issues may formulate such mechanisms in an indigenous framework when addressing relevant issues pertaining to indigenous peoples. Below is a list of examples to consider:

➤ ***International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965***

- *“Each State Party undertakes to engage in no act or practice of racial discrimination against persons, groups of persons or institutions and to ensure that all public authorities and public institutions, national and local, shall act in conformity with this obligation;”* Article 2(a)
- The link to the Convention can be found below:

**Web Link:** [http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/d\\_icerd.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/d_icerd.htm)

➤ ***Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948***

- *“In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such...”* Article 2
- A direct link to the Convention can be found below:

**Web Link:** [http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/p\\_genoci.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/p_genoci.htm)

➤ ***Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, 1992***

- *“Persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities (hereinafter referred to as persons belonging to minorities) have the right to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, and to use their own language, in private and in public, freely and without interference or any form of discrimination”* Article 2(a)
- A direct link to the Declaration can be found below:

**Web Links:** [http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/d\\_minori.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/d_minori.htm)  
<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2erc.htm>

➤ ***Nationality of Natural Persons in Relation to the Succession of States, 2000***

- Addresses issues pertaining to the right of national identity of all persons following the succession of one State over the previous one.
- Illustrates the need and right of individuals to maintain their nationality and their identity as affiliate with it within the realm of the new State and international mechanisms.
- *States concerned shall not deny persons concerned the right to retain or acquire a nationality or the right of option upon the succession of States by discriminating on any ground.”* (Article 15)

- A direct link to the Declaration can be found below:

**Web Link:** [http://www.un.org/law/ilc/reports/1999/english/chap4.htm#E\\_1](http://www.un.org/law/ilc/reports/1999/english/chap4.htm#E_1)

➤ ***Declaration on the Elimination of all forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief, 1981***

- Identifies the need for the security and assurance by States to permit religious beliefs of persons residing within its territories.
- The Declaration necessitates the obligation of States to take legal measures to ensure the protection of persons with a different religion or belief and for such persons to be free from discrimination and to be assured such rights through its legal and national framework
- Acknowledges the need for people's ability to practice their own religion or beliefs, so long as doing so does not threaten the safety and security of the general society.
- *"For the purposes of the present Declaration, the expression "intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief" means any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on religion or belief and having as its purpose or as its effect nullification or impairment of the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis."* (Article 2, Sc.2)
- The link to the Declaration may be found below:

**Web Link:** [http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/d\\_intole.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/d_intole.htm)

## **Funding for Projects that Address Indigenous Issues**

Perhaps one of the most challenging tasks in advocating indigenous issues is gaining funding for projects addressing indigenous peoples' issues. Below is a list of avenues that can be examined for organizations seeking funding for projects that address issues encountering indigenous peoples.

- **United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations**
  - Established by the General Assembly for the purpose of assisting indigenous organizations in attending and participating in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1985.
  - The fund also assists indigenous organizations in attending the deliberations on the *Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and in attending deliberations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
  - The funding is provided by the voluntary contributions of governments, NGO's and other private or public entities.
  - Funding is administered by the Secretary General in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the United Nations with the advice of the Board of Trustees consisting of 5 members with experience on indigenous issues.
  - The funding is provided with the following considerations:
    - Indigenous organizations and communities who are considered as such by the Board Of Trustees;
    - Who would otherwise be unable to attend such deliberations without the assistance of the Fund;
    - Who would increase awareness and knowledge of the working groups in addressing indigenous issues and problems encountering indigenous populations in a broader geographical representation.

### **Contact Information:**

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 PW 2-041  
 Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
 United Nations  
 CH-1211 Geneva 10  
 Switzerland  
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**Fax:** (41-22) 917-9066  
**Email:** [eortado-rosich@ohchr.org](mailto:eortado-rosich@ohchr.org) or [eortado-rosich@ohchr.org](mailto:eortado-rosich@ohchr.org)

**Web Links:** <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/9/vfindige.htm>  
<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu6/2/indigenous.pdf>

- **Inter-regional Programme to Support Self-Reliance of Indigenous and Tribal Communities through Cooperatives and other Self-Help Organizations (INDISCO Programme)**
  - ILO-INDISCO programme assists indigenous and tribal peoples in designing and implementing their own development projects pertaining to: employment and income generation, advancing the status of indigenous women, managing the environment and natural resources, preserving indigenous culture and strengthening local organizations.
  - Funding for project proposals are provided by various groups and donors, including the ILO.

### **Contact Information**

#### **International Labour Office**

4, route des Morillons  
CH-1211 Geneva 22  
Switzerland

**Tel:** (+41-22) 799-6111

**Fax:** (+41-22) 798-8685

**Email:** [ilo@ilo.org](mailto:ilo@ilo.org)

#### **Web Links:**

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/ent/coop/indisco.htm>

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/indileaflet8.doc>

- **Indigenous Peoples Partnership Programme (IPPP)**
  - Established in 2002 by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).
  - The objective of the program is to create a greater link between the aboriginal entities in Canada and indigenous peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean.
  - The program is a responsive fund provided by CIDA with a budget of \$10 million over a four-year period, to create and implement successful programs from Canadian Aboriginal peoples to Indigenous Peoples in Latin American and the Caribbean to help alleviate poverty in the region.
  - Proposals for projects may be submitted throughout the year, those eligible for funding are forwarded to the IPPP Review Committee
  - Examples of projects include:
    - Capacity development of Indigenous entities;
    - Training for Indigenous Peoples;
    - Activities that encourage partnership between Indigenous Peoples and their governments.

### **Contact Information**

#### **IPPP Manager**

c/o **Inter-American Program (BHTF)**

Americas Branch, CIDA

200 Promenade du Portage

Hull, Québec K1A 0G4  
Canada

**Fax:** (819) 953-1516

**Email:** [PPPA\\_IPPP@acdi-cida.gc.ca](mailto:PPPA_IPPP@acdi-cida.gc.ca)

**Web Link:** <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/ippp#1>

➤ **The Indigenous Knowledge Programme**

- An initiative by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the Indigenous Peoples (IP) section.
- A global program partially funded by UNDP but executed by local and non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples organizations and community-based organizations.
- Currently managed out of the **International Development Resource Centre (IDRC)** in Canada.
- Funding under the IKP can be attained through the following *Small Grants Programmes*:
  - **Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme;**
  - **Capacity 21;**
  - **Partners in Development Programme.**
- Currently manages three projects:
  - **The Borneo IKP Project;**
  - **Putan Project for Communal Forest Conservation Project;**
  - **Yana Yacu Sacha IKP Project.**

**Contact Information**

Alejandra Pero

**UNDP Indigenous Peoples Focal Point**

**Civil Society Organizations and Participation Programme/SEPED**

One United Nations Plaza

Room DC-2058

New York, NY 10017

**Tel:** (212) 906-5316

**Fax:** (212) 906-5313

**Email:** [alejandra.pero@undp.org](mailto:alejandra.pero@undp.org)

**Web Link:** <http://www.undp.org/csopp/CSO/NewFiles/ipundpbackgrnd.html>

➤ **International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP)**

- Independent organization that seeks to attain funding for projects and small grants through various organizations such as the World Bank and independent donors.
- Their primary goal for such funding activities is to improve and increase developmental programs for indigenous peoples.

**Contact Information**

**International Funders for Indigneous Peoples**

**First Nations Development Institute**

2300 Fall Hill Ave. Suite 412

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

**Tel:** (540) 371-5615 ext.14

**Fax:** (540) 371-3505

**Email:** [ifip@firstnations.org](mailto:ifip@firstnations.org)

**Web Link:** <http://www.firstpeoples.org/ifip.html>

## **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's)**

Other avenues for addressing issues faced by indigenous peoples include non-governmental organizations (NGO's). NGO's often tackle issues that governments, including the international institutions like the United Nations feel constrained in addressing or merely choose not to address. Advocating indigenous issues within NGO's can have various positive outcomes such as raising awareness about a particular group of people, gaining accesses to governmental and international institutions and their affiliate organizations, getting acquainted with other indigenous groups to have a broader understanding of the common struggles encountering indigenous peoples worldwide and finally they provide an avenue and framework for advocacy when governments and international institutions fail to do so. Below is a list of NGO's or indigenous or organizations that address and advocate indigenous issues worldwide.

### ➤ **International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)**

- An independent international membership organization staffed with specialists on indigenous issues.
- Publishes books, periodicals, and a yearbook on indigenous issues.
- Works and collaborates with indigenous organizations worldwide to address issues pertaining to indigenous peoples.
- *“Supports indigenous peoples' struggle for human rights, self-determination, right to territory, control of land and resources, cultural integrity, and the right to development.”*

#### **Contact Information:**

Secretariat:

Classensgade 11 E

DK 2100 Copenhagen

Denmark

**Phone:** (+45) 35-27-05-00

**Fax:** (+45) 35-27-05-07

**Email:** [iwgia@iwgia.org](mailto:iwgia@iwgia.org)

**Web Link:** <http://www.iwgia.org/sw617.asp>

### ➤ **Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO)**

- Works to foster the needs of unrepresented peoples, including indigenous peoples that seek basic fundamental rights.
- It is a democratic and membership organization.
- *“UNPO is dedicated to the five principles enshrined in its Charter: Non-violence, Human Rights, Self-determination and democracy, Environmental Protection, and Tolerance.”*

#### **Contact Information**

P.O. Box 85878

2508 CN The Hague

The Netherlands

**Phone:** +31 (0) 70-36-46-504

**Fax:** +31 (0) 70-36-46-608

**Email:** [unpo@unpo.org](mailto:unpo@unpo.org)

**Web Link:** [http://www.unpo.org/news\\_detail.php?arg=01&par=153](http://www.unpo.org/news_detail.php?arg=01&par=153)

➤ **Indigenous Peoples Documentation Centre (IPDC)**

- A service organization that supports indigenous representatives working at the UN.
- Aids indigenous representatives working at the UN with regards letter drafting, photocopying, and documentation of reports, periodicals and books dealing with indigenous issues.
- The Services are offered free of charge for indigenous organizations and NGO's.
- *“To constitute a liaison centre between the international organisations and indigenous organisations through the collection, classification and dissemination of the documentation of international and indigenous organisations.”*

**Contact Information**

14 Avenue de Trembley  
CH-1209  
Geneva

**Phone:** (+41) 22-740-34-33

**Fax:** (+41) 22-740-34-54

**Email:** [docip@docip.org](mailto:docip@docip.org)

**Web Link:** [http://www.docip.org/anglais/docip\\_en.html#offi](http://www.docip.org/anglais/docip_en.html#offi)

➤ **International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)**

- Promotes the implementation and practice of international and regional laws in the securing human rights worldwide.
- Established in 1984 by various members of non-governmental organizations in Geneva and provides information pertaining to international legal institutions and their policies.
- Produces **“Human Rights Monitor”**-an archive of all UN hearings and meetings pertaining to human rights.
- *“ISHR does not generally campaign on country or individual cases but through its work helps human rights defenders take more effective action to protect and promote human rights in their own countries, regionally and internationally.”*

**Contact Information**

International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)  
Case/P.O. Box 16  
CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

**Phone:** (+41) 22-733-51-23

**Fax:** (+41) 22-733-08-26

**Email:** [c.sidoti@ishr-sidh.ch](mailto:c.sidoti@ishr-sidh.ch)

**Web Link:** <http://www.ishr.ch/index.htm>



➤ **Center for World Indigenous Studies (CWIS)**

- A non-profit organization dedicated to provide better understand of the world's indigenous populations and enhance the relationship between indigenous peoples worldwide.
- *“Is an independent, non-profit research and education organization dedicated to wider understanding and appreciation of the ideas and knowledge of indigenous peoples and the social, economic and political realities of indigenous nations.”*
- Provides, through various publications and research mechanisms regarding up-to-date issues facing indigenous peoples worldwide with through forums, education programs and world papers on such issues.

**Contact Information**

1001 Cooper Point Road SW Suite 140  
Olympia, WA 98502-1107  
U.S.A.

**Phone:** (+1) 360-486-1044

**Fax:** (+253) 276-0084

**Email:** [usaoffice@cwis.org](mailto:usaoffice@cwis.org)

**Web Link:** <http://www.cwis.org/index.htm>

➤ **Minority Rights Group International (MRGI)**

- Works to promote the rights of minorities worldwide as an NGO with Consultative Status.
- Raises awareness through MGR publications, reports, Training Manuals, Briefing Papers and Workshop Reports that cover a range of issues pertaining to minorities, including indigenous peoples.
- *“Works to secure the rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples worldwide, and to promote cooperation and understanding between communities.”*

**Contact Information**

**Minority Rights Group International**

54 Commercial Street  
London E1 6LT, UK

**Tel:** +44 (0) 20 7422-4200

**Fax:** +44 (0) 20 422-4201

**Email:** [minority.rights@mrghmail.org](mailto:minority.rights@mrghmail.org)

**Web Link:** <http://www.minorityrights.org/>

## **Additional information**

### ➤ **Consultative Status**

- It is a status attained through the UN Economic and Social Council which provides access for NGO's and indigenous peoples organizations to attend and contribute to various international and intergovernmental conferences and meetings pertaining to indigenous issues.
- Three types of Consultative Status:
  - **General Consultative:** Reserved for large international NGO's who address issues relevant to ECOSOC's agenda.
  - **Special Consultative:** Reserved for those NGO's that address a few limited fields of ECOSOC's agenda.
  - **Roster Status:** For NGO's that do not qualify for Consultative Status with the ECOSOC or for ones that have special status with other UN bodies such as the ILO, FAO, WHO etc. The status is given to such organization if ECOSOC believes they contribute in addressing certain issues within ECOSOC's framework and can only participate upon invitation.
- To submit an application for Consultative Status, an NGO contact in writing the NGO section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) for an application packet.

### **Contact Information**

NGO Section of DESA

Room DC1-1480

United Nations

New York, NY 100117

USA

**Tel:** (+1 212) 963-8652 or 963-4842

**Fax:** (+1 212)963-9248

**Email:** Ms. Hanifa Mezoui (Chief) [mezoui@un.org](mailto:mezoui@un.org) or [desangosection@un.org](mailto:desangosection@un.org)

**Web Links:** <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/>

<http://www.unsystem.org/ngls/english/factsheets/ecosoc.htm>

**In addition, below is a list of indigenous peoples organizations worldwide as provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:**

**Web Link:** <http://www.unhchr.ch/indigenous/indigenoulist.doc>

## **Important Dates and Schedule of Events**

Below is a web list of tentative dates and schedule of events of certain organizations that address indigenous issues. The following list maybe subject to change depending on the calendar of meetings of the organizations that address issues pertaining to indigenous populations.

- **Indigenous Peoples 2004 Calendar of Meetings:**
  - <http://www.unhchr.ch/indigenous/calendar.htm>
- **International Calendar of United Nations and Intergovernmental International Meetings Pertinent to Indigenous Peoples:**
  - <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/calendar.htm>
- **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Agenda of Seminars:**
  - <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/seminar.htm>
- **World Heritage Calendar, UNESCO:**
  - <http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=83>
- **World Intellectual Property Organization, list of conferences, meetings and seminars:**
  - <http://www.wipo.int/news/en/conferences.html>
- **United Nations Development Programme, list of events and conferences:**
  - <http://www.undp.org/events/>