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I. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

SUB-REGIONAL SEMINAR ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN CENTRAL AFRICA

A sub-regional seminar on the rights of indigenous peoples was organized jointly by the ILO and the OHCHR in Yaoundé from 26 to 28 May 2010. The seminar convened government and indigenous participants from Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gabon, Rwanda and Chad. The seminar was opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cameroon with the participation of the Director of the Sub-regional Office of the ILO and the Director of the Sub-regional Office of the OHCHR.

The seminar provided an opportunity for participants to familiarize themselves with international instruments and mechanisms, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ILO Conventions and supervisory bodies, work of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, recommendations of the African Commission Working Group on indigenous communities/populations, as well as recent national developments in the sub-region concerning indigenous peoples.

Some of the key conclusions drawn are: increased openness for discussing indigenous peoples' issues among governments in the sub-region; ongoing discussion about the term "indigenous peoples" and its implications; the need for continued support to awareness-raising combined with the need to engage with the specific processes at the country-level and advance the right to consultation and participation of indigenous peoples; the need to further build the capacity of indigenous peoples' organizations in the sub-region.

Full report of the seminar will be available shortly @ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/seminar.htm>.

ISOLATED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

OHCHR IPMS undertook a mission to Paraguay and Brazil from 17 to 26 May 2010 to carry out consultations on guidelines for the protection of indigenous peoples in isolation or initial contact in the Amazon region and Gran Chaco.

The consultation in Paraguay was held at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs with representation from relevant governmental departments, the Indigenous Institute of Paraguay, indigenous organizations, the national human rights institution, the UN system and civil society and included several academics and experts.

The consultation in Brazil was held at the Israel Pinheiro Conference Centre outside Brasilia. The meeting was organized by FUNAI, the National Indian Foundation with participation mainly from within its own organization, some outside experts, academics and NGOs.

3RD EMRIP SESSION (12-16 JULY 2010)

The 3rd Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) will take place from 12 to 16 July 2010 in Geneva.

Over 500 registered participants will get acquainted with the EMRIP Progress report on the study on indigenous peoples and the right to participation in decision-making, which encompasses the international human rights framework, indigenous peoples' internal decision-making, and participation in decision-making mechanisms linked to State and non-State institutions and processes affecting the indigenous.

Main agenda items are the progress report and a general discussion on the use of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the international, regional and national levels to advance the rights of indigenous peoples. Briefings and side events will also take place throughout the session.

More information @ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/ExpertMechanism>

ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Country Visits

Special Rapporteur on human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Mr. James Anaya, visited Guatemala between 14 and 18 June 2010. The purpose of the visit was to analyze the implementation of international norms regarding consultation with indigenous peoples in the country, in particular in relation to natural resource extraction, and with a special emphasis on the situation of the Marlin Mine in the municipalities of Sipacapa and San Miguel Ixtahuacán.

Public Statements

SR called for dialogue and understanding between political actors and indigenous organizations in Ecuador. (8 June 2010)

SR launched an advance version of his report on Australia and emphasized that "Having suffered a history of oppression and racial discrimination, including dispossession of lands and social and cultural upheaval, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples endure severe disadvantage compared with non-indigenous Australians." (June 2010)

SR signed a joint statement on the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. (21 May 2010)

SR noted with satisfaction the adoption of the "Law on the right to previous consultation of indigenous and tribal peoples as defined by the ILO Convention 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries" by the Congress of the Republic of Peru. (19 May 2010)

SR also welcomed the agreement in principle of the European Nordic governments to restart negotiations on a Nordic Sami convention with the participation of Sami leaders. (16 April 2010)

More information @ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/rapporteur/>

II. MINORITIES

6TH INTER-AGENCY GROUP ON MINORITIES (IAGM) MEETING

OHCHR Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section hosted the 6th meeting of the Inter-Agency Group on Minorities on 18 May 2010.

The IAGM work is focused on maintaining coordinated progress in the field of minority rights throughout the UN System. The 6th meeting brought together several OHCHR staff members and representatives of UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, ILO and IPU. The meeting, inter alia, examined the work of the 2nd Session of the Forum on Minority Issues dealing with minorities and effective political participation, the work of the Independent Expert on minority issues and discussed mainstreaming of the Minority Declaration. IPU presented its project 'Promoting Inclusive Parliaments: The representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in parliament', UNICEF elaborated on its ongoing process aimed at identifying possible ways to mainstream minority rights in a more systematic manner, OHCHR Indigenous and Minority Fellowship Programme was presented, and the participants also discussed follow-up to the recently adopted Human Rights Council resolution (HRC 13/12) on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

The participants also discussed 'Marginalized Minorities in Development Programming: a UNDP Resource Guide and Toolkit' which is intended to assist in responding to minority issues in development processes. The Resource Guide, prepared in co-operation with OHCHR and available online at <http://tinyurl.com/UNDP-resource-guide>, has been completed and its roll-out is being planned.

REPORT ON THE RIGHTS OF MINORITIES AT THE HRC

The High Commissioner's report on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities will be presented at the 15th Session of the Human Rights Council. It outlines relevant developments of the UN human rights bodies and mechanisms, as well as activities undertaken by the OHCHR at Headquarters and in the field that contribute to the promotion of and respect for the provisions of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE PERMANENT FORUM

The Economic and Social Council on 28 April 2010 filled vacancies in 18 of its subsidiary bodies, including in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The new members include three former OHCHR indigenous fellows (underlined).

New Permanent Forum members elected by ECOSOC (nominated by Governments) are: Alvaro Esteban Pop Ac (Guatemala), Mirian Masaquiza (Ecuador), Megan Davis (Australia), Eva Rita Katarina Biaudet (Finland), Simon William M'Viboudoulou (Congo), Paimaneh Hasteh (Iran), Helen Kaljuläte (Estonia) and Andrey A. Niki-forov (Russian Federation).

New members appointed by the ECOSOC president (nominated by indigenous peoples' organizations) are: Mirna Cunningham Kain (Nicaragua), Saul Vicente Vazquez (Mexico), Anna Naikanchina (Russian Federation), Edward John (Canada), Raja Devashish Roy (Bangladesh), Dalee Sambo Dorrough (USA), Valmaine Toki (New Zealand), Paul Kanyinke Sena (Kenya).

More information @ <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/>

WORK OF THE INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON MINORITY ISSUES

Country Visits

5-16 July 2010: The Independent Expert on minority issues, Ms. Gay McDougall, will conduct a visit to Viet Nam to hold consultations on minority issues and to examine the human rights situation of the country's numerous minority groups.

Public Statements

The Independent Expert on minority issues, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance expressed their alarm and deep concern about ethnic tensions that have erupted into violence in the south of Kyrgyzstan. (15 June 2010)

The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, the Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, the Independent Expert on minority issues expressed serious concern over laws recently enacted by the state of Arizona, United States of America that affect minorities, indigenous people and immigrants and potentially subject them to discriminatory treatment. (10 May 2010)

The attacks against Ahmadis in Pakistan were strongly condemned by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, the Independent Expert on minority issues and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. (28 April 2010)

More information @ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/minorities/expert/index.htm>

III. ACTIVITIES OF COMMON INTEREST

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES:

Indigenous; Minority; Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

INDIGENOUS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The Spanish-language Indigenous Fellowship Programme takes place at OHCHR Geneva from 28 June until 23 July. The following eight indigenous fellows from Latin America have started their training programme at OHCHR:

Mr. Leonides QUIRÓZ, Panama (Wounaan)
Ms. Angelina PARADA BARRIENTO, Paraguay (Guarani)
Ms. Linda Manaka INFANTE SURUTA, Venezuela (Baniva)
Mr. Olvin Leonel MUÑOZ GÓMEZ, Honduras (Lenca)
Mr. Berio SANCHEZ SANCHEZ, Bolivia (Weenhayek)
Ms. Feve Eunice CABNAL COC, Guatemala (Maya Q'eqchi)
Mr. Esli YAMPIS YAGKUAG, Peru (Awajun)
Ms. Sonia CHIRI CORONADO, Bolivia (Quechua)

Other linguistic versions of the 2010 Indigenous Fellowships will take place as follows:

- French-language indigenous fellowship: 25 October - 19 November (OHCHR Geneva, Switzerland).
- Russian-language indigenous fellowship: 18 October - 12 November (Peoples Friendship University of Russian, Moscow, Russian Federation); 15 November - 10 December (OHCHR Geneva, Switzerland).

More information @ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/fellowship.htm>

MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The Arabic-language Minority Fellowship Programme will take place at OHCHR Geneva from 22 November to 17 December. The deadline for applications is 30 July 2010.

More information @ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/minorities/fellowprog.htm>

UN VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON THE CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

IPMS is also organizing a Fellowship of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. The deadline for applications is 15 July 2010.

More information @ <http://www2.ohchr.org/EN/issues/Slavery/Pages/SlaveryFundMain.aspx>.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE (CCPR)

Human Rights Committee issued on 21 May 2010 the Follow-up Progress Report on Individual Communications.

It can be found @ <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G10/426/02/PDF/G1042602.pdf?OpenElement>

COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE AND OPCAT SUBCOMMITTEE

The 44th session of the Committee Against Torture took place in Geneva between 26 April and 14 May 2010. During the session State reports of the following countries have been considered: Austria, Cameroon, France, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen.

More information @ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/cats44.htm>

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture conducted a visit to Lebanon between 24 May and 2 June 2010.

The report of the visit will be available @ http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/opcat/spt_visits.htm

SR EXPOSES THE NEED FOR AWARENESS TRAINING OF THE JUDICIARY

The Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Ms. Gabriela Carina Knauth de Albuquerque e Silva, submitted her report at the 14th session of the HRC. In the report she also touches upon minority and indigenous issues, especially the need for awareness training of the judiciary.

More information @ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/judiciary/docs/A.HRC.14.26.pdf>

THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION

The SR on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression in his second annual report specifically mentions minorities and indigenous peoples.

Available @ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/14session/A.HRC.14.23.pdf>

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (CESCR)

CESCR held its 44th Session in Geneva between 3 and 21 May 2010. During the session it considered State reports from Algeria, Colombia, Mauritius, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan. CESCR Pre-Sessional Working Group met between 25 and 28 May and considered State reports from Sri Lanka, Yemen, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Republic of Moldova.

More @ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/cescrs44.htm>

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINA- TION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINA- TION LETTERS

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination sent under its Early-Warning Measures and Urgent Procedures on 31 May 2010 a letter to Australia regarding the access to legal aid available from the Aboriginal Legal Rights movement.

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/docs/early_warning/Australia31052010.pdf

Under its follow-up procedure the Committee sent a number of letters in March 2010. Letters to Canada, Moldova, Sweden, and Togo also touch upon indigenous peoples and/or minorities.

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/followup-procedure.htm>

INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON EXTREME POVERTY ANNUAL REPORT

The 2010 annual report of the independent expert on extreme poverty addresses the role that social protection systems play in reducing extreme poverty and contributing to the realization of human rights of older persons.

It mentions that outreach must be specifically designed to overcome illiteracy and linguistic barriers that may impair the access of older people from minorities, indigenous or migrant communities (e.g. by making information available in languages used by minorities and indigenous peoples).

More information @ http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/14session/A.HRC.14.31_en.pdf

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' HEALTH

The SR on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health visited Guatemala from 12 to 18 May 2010. His preliminary reflections on the visit also address Indigenous peoples' health.

Available @ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10123&LangID=E>

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CRC)

The Committee on the Rights of the Child held its 54th session between 25 May and 11 June 2010 in Geneva during which it considered the following countries: Argentina, Belgium, FYR of Macedonia, Grenada, Japan, Nigeria, and Tunisia. Concluding observations and recommendations regarding minorities and/or indigenous peoples were addressed to Argentina, FYR of Macedonia, Japan, and Nigeria.

In the same session, the CRC also considered the following countries under the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography: Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, FYR of Macedonia, Japan, and Serbia. Concluding observations and recommendations on the rights of indigenous and Afrodescendant children were addressed to Colombia, and regarding the Roma children to FYR of Macedonia and Serbia.

The following countries were considered under the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict Argentina, Colombia, Japan, FYR of Macedonia, and Serbia. Concluding observations and recommendations regarding the rights of indigenous and Afrodescendant communities were addressed to Colombia.

More information @ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/crc54.htm>

ROMA AND ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER

The Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, Catarina de Albuquerque, conducted a visit to Slovenia from 24 to 28 May 2010. In her concluding statement she, inter alia, referred to the situation of the Roma minority.

More information @ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10072&LangID=E>

TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, John Ruggie, submitted his report at the 14th session of the HRC. In the report he also touches upon indigenous issues pertaining to company-based grievance mechanism used by Carbones del Cerrejon in Colombia.

More information @ http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/trans_corporations/docs/A-HRC-14-27.pdf

17TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SPECIAL PROCEDURES

The 17th annual meeting of the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council took place in Geneva (28 June-2 July 2010).

More information @ http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/annual_meetings/17th.htm

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND THE UPR

At its 14th regular session (31 May - 18 June 2010), the Human Rights Council adopted the reports of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on 16 countries: Angola, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Gambia, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Qatar, San Marino, Slovenia. Conclusions and recommendations to countries regarding the rights of indigenous peoples (I) or minorities (M) were addressed to Bosnia and Herzegovina (M), Egypt (M), El Salvador (I, M), Fiji (I, M), Iraq (I, M), Islamic Republic of Iran (M), Italy (M), Kazakhstan (M), Nicaragua (I), and Slovenia (M).

The 8th UPR session took place between 3 and 14 May 2010. The countries reviewed were: Armenia, Belarus, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Spain, Sweden, and Turkey. Conclusions and recommendations to countries regarding the rights of indigenous peoples (I) or minorities (M) were addressed to Armenia (M), Belarus (M), Guyana (I,M), Kenya (I,M), Kuwait (M), Kyrgyzstan (M), Lao People's Democratic Republic (I, M), Spain (M), Sweden (I,M), and Turkey (M).

The 9th session of the UPR Working Group is scheduled to take place from 1 to 12 November 2010. The following countries will be reviewed: Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Maldives, Marshal Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia, Andorra, Bulgaria, Croatia, Honduras, Jamaica, Mongolia, Panama and United States of America.

The 10th session of the UPR Working Group is scheduled to take place from 24 January to 4 February 2011.

You can get more information on the Universal Periodic Review process @ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>

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IV. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

IE and SR UPCOMING VISITS

5-16 July 2010: The Independent Expert on minority issues, Ms. Gay McDougall, will conduct a visit to Viet Nam to hold consultations on minority issues and to examine the human rights situation of the country's numerous minority groups.

19-23 July 2010: The Special Rapporteur on human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Mr. James Anaya, will visit New Zealand.

OTHER EVENTS

12-30 July 2010. The 46th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) will take place in New York. During the session State reports of the following countries will be considered: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Turkey.

12-16 July 2010: 3rd annual session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Issues will take place in Geneva.

12-30 July 2010: The 99th Session of the Human Rights Committee will take place in Geneva. During the session State reports of the following countries will be considered: Cameroon, Colombia, Estonia and Israel.

2-27 August 2010: The 77th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will take place in Geneva. During the session State reports of the following countries will be examined: Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Iran, Morocco, Republic of Slovenia, Romania and Uzbekistan.

30 August-8 September 2010: The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture will undertake a visit to Bolivia.

2 September: The 29th Meeting of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to elect members to replace nine members whose term expires on 31 December 2010 will take place in New York.

13-15 September 2010: The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture will undertake a follow-up visit to Paraguay.

13 September-1 October 2010: The 15th regular session of the HRC will take place in Geneva. It will, inter alia, include a report on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, EMRIP and the HC will also report on the activities to advance the rights of indigenous peoples.

13 September-1 October 2010: The 55th session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child will take place in Geneva. During the session State reports of the following countries will be considered: Angola, Burundi, Guatemala, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan. The committee will also consider (under the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography) reports from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, and (under the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict) reports from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Sudan.

October 2010: The United Nations Independent Expert on Minority Issues, Ms Gay McDougall, will report on minority rights and conflict prevention to the General Assembly at its 65th session in New York.

4-22 October: The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will hold its 47th session. During the session State reports of the following countries will be considered: Bahamas, Burkina Faso, Chad, Czech Republic, Malta, Tunisia and Uganda.

28 October 2010: The 3rd meeting of States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment will be held in Geneva.