



United Nations-Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (UNIPP)

What is UNIPP?

The United Nations-Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (UNIPP) is a commitment to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular Article 41, which calls upon the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system “...*to contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance.*”

UNIPP also aims to address recommendations by the UN Permanent Forum over the years that stress the importance of greater coordination and joint action by UN organisations at the local level to support the effective implementation of indigenous peoples' rights. In particular, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) has recommended that the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) “*strengthen their collaborative framework and partnership for the promotion and implementation of indigenous peoples' rights through joint country programmes...*”

As an initiative between the International Labour Organization (ILO), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Development Program (UNDP), and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) (hereinafter referred to as “Participating UN Organizations”), UNIPP aims to facilitate the implementation of international standards on indigenous peoples, in particular the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ILO Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (ILO 169). These two instruments provide a solid framework for realising the rights of indigenous peoples, and UNIPP seeks to move these rights and aspirations towards concrete change on the ground. As a UN collaborative framework, the primary goal of UNIPP is to focus on developing national capacities to promote effective dialogue and partnership to fulfill these rights at the country level. To realize UNIPP's objectives, the Participating UN Organizations mentioned above have decided to establish a **UNIPP Multi-Donor Trust Fund**. The UNIPP Trust Fund will be the first global inter-agency initiative with such a programmatic focus and is open to the participation of any other UN-system agency or organization interested in contributing to its goals.

What is unique about UNIPP?

UNIPP constitutes an alliance and provides a platform for actors to pursue greater impact in promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples at the country level. It has a core grounding in human rights principles which align with indigenous peoples' vision of self-determination, consultation, participation, and free, prior, and informed consent, as these are key for establishing meaningful partnerships.

UNIPP Trust Fund will mobilize and manage resources for the realization of indigenous peoples' rights, and support innovative and effective global, regional and country level programmes and projects. UNIPP will be governed and directed by a Policy Board comprised of representatives from participating UN organizations, and indigenous representatives and experts who are identified in consultation with the UN mechanisms on indigenous peoples' issues. The UNDP Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office (MDTF Office) is the Administrative Agent of UNIPP Trust Fund and serves as an ex-officio member of the Policy Board.

Based on direction given by UNIPP's Policy Board, Participating UN Organizations will be invited to develop joint programme documents in consultation with States, indigenous peoples and their organizations.

What will UNIPP Support (2011 to 2015)?

Some of the key thematic areas of intervention through UNIPP will include:

- **Legislative review and reform:** develop the capacities of State institutions to include and recognize indigenous peoples' rights within national legal systems, including through constitutional reforms, incorporation at administrative levels, and through indigenous-specific legislation in areas such as non-discrimination.
- **Democratic governance and indigenous peoples' institutions:** strengthen indigenous peoples' institutions and organizational capacities to fully participate in governance and policy processes.
- **Access to justice:** recognize and strengthen indigenous customary law and justice systems; and their inclusion within national legal systems.
- **Access to land and ancestral territories:** develop and strengthen capacities for land titling, demarcation and use of ancestral territories, including local capacity development initiatives and those aimed at securing greater recognition of indigenous lands.
- **Natural resources and extractive industries:** promote conflict prevention, based on consultation, participation, benefit-sharing and dispute resolution. This area will have a special focus on conflict prevention initiatives around ancestral land and use of natural resources, in particular the need to develop capacity of indigenous communities in negotiation skills and dispute resolution in line with international legal instruments.

How can one contribute to UNIPP?

The International Labour Organisation currently serves as the Interim Technical Secretariat of UNIPP. Administration of UNIPP Trust Fund is entrusted to the UNDP MDTF Office. As the Administrative Agent, the MDTF Office is the administrative interface between donors and participating UN Organizations. The Administrative Agent will conclude the standard agreements with donors interested to contribute to UNIPP Trust Fund. For further details of UNIPP stakeholders, and the Administrative Agent please visit the UNIPP website at: <http://mdtf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/IPP00>

Contact details

Mr. Albert K. Barume
PRO 169 Coordinator
Senior Specialist on Indigenous & Tribal Peoples' Issues
International Labour Standards Department
International Labour Organisation
Email: barume@ilo.org
Ph : +41-22-799-6859

Ms. Beatriz Fernandez
Policy Specialist, Indigenous Peoples Rights
Democratic Governance Group
Bureau for Development Policy
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
Email: beatriz.fernandez@undp.org
Ph: +1-212-906-5019

Ms. Olga Aleshina
Portfolio Manager
UNDP MDTF Office (Administrative Agent)
Email: olga.aleshina@undp.org
Ph : +1 212 906 6155

Ms. Beatrice Duncan
Program Specialist (Human Rights)
Gender and Rights Unit
Division of Policy and Practice
UNICEF
Email: bduncan@unicef.org
Ph : +1-212-326-7246

Mr. Sushil Raj
Human Rights Officer
Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section
Rule of Law, Equality & Non-Discrimination Branch
Research and Right to Development Division
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Email: sraj@ohchr.org
Ph: +41-22-928-9347