

INDIGENOUS MEDIA, EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS VOICES

MESSAGE FROM UNDP ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS

PEOPLES -

09 AUGUST 2012

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is commemorated to celebrate

indigenous peoples and to recognize their efforts in advancing the rights enshrined in the

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP) remains committed to support those efforts within the

context of human development.

Indigenous Media, Empowering Indigenous Voices

Enabling access to opportunities and empowering people and communities are at the core

of UNDP's work. UNDP continues to support an enabling environment where human rights

are promoted and respected and where human development is central to every government's policies and standards: an environment where indigenous peoples are empowered and develop their full potential to lead dignified lives, in societies where their voices are heard and valued.

UNDP works to make national governance systems more effective in addressing discrimination and structural inequalities that can disproportionately affect indigenous peoples. No doubt much remains to be done and this year's theme of *empowering*

Indigenous Voices will contribute to the broad based dialogue on the role of governance

and accountability, amidst a range of national and global consultations in the post 2015

development framework. These consultations are designed to ensure active engagement.

Without meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in national, regional and global

processes, sustainable development cannot be realized.

Media has a key role to play in promoting the rights of indigenous peoples. Factual and

impartial reporting on the rights and issues of indigenous peoples is critical for raising

awareness of indigenous peoples among the general public and decision makers. For

example in Ecuador, the UNDP's Global Programme for Electoral Support (GPECS)

supported the establishment of the Indigenous Reporters' Regional Network for Elections,

a network made up of Indigenous media organisations and indigenous reporters interested

in covering the electoral cycle to promote intercultural citizenship and democracy as well

as the IP "media hubs" created through 'Conversations with the Earth - Indigenous Voices

on Climate Change' initiative (www.conversationsearth.org).

The first ever **World Conference on Indigenous Peoples** to be held in 2014 will be another opportunity for engagement along with member states, the UN system, and other non-state actors to share perspectives and good practices on how to realize the objectives of the UNDRIP and reflect on progress made in confronting major challenges such as poverty and climate change.

Today, when we are commemorate International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples,

UNDP urges the importance of robust engagement and collaboration between different

partners for the advancement of indigenous peoples' rights.

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