

Executive summary:

Please provide an overview of actions taken to implement the System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This summary will form the basis of the compilation report of UN activities to implement the SWAP and the Declaration. [Word limit: 600]

During the reporting period, DPPA has continued to support the work of the UN system to implement the System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) on the Rights of Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In this regard, the department has proactively sought engagements with the three UN legal frameworks promoting indigenous rights within the UN system (the Special Rapporteur, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues) to discuss challenges to the implementation of the UN Declaration and the SWAP, and to exchange views on country specific situations. DPPA has also increased exchanges on indigenous issues with relevant Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York.

DPPA, who is a member of the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) on indigenous issues, has also engaged regularly with the IASG to share information and provide input on matters related to conflict prevention and indigenous issues. In particular, the department attended the annual IASG meeting held in September, in Geneva. The meeting was an opportunity for the department and other members of the IASG, to strategically engage with DCO to improve implementation and accountability of the SWAP across all RC/Os and UNCTs in the context of the UN reform.

At Headquarters, the Americas Division, in its capacity as DPPA's focal point on indigenous issues, organized a brownbag seminar on indigenous languages and conflict prevention on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The event was instrumental to reflect on the importance of mediators that spoke an indigenous language (or translators also trained as cultural mediators) to manage conflicts among indigenous communities, even if they spoke a mainstream language. Language represented a complex system of knowledge, instrumental to build trust and understanding among the parties. Participants underscored that there was a need to re-design initiatives preserving indigenous languages to target both indigenous and non-indigenous communities to ensure a wholistic approach to multiculturalism.

The Americas Division also followed closely requests made by the Government of Chile to the UNCT to participate as observers in consultations processes related to the introduction of curricula on indigenous peoples' language and culture in elementary education and legislation regarding land tenure. The Division also helped establish contact with the UN Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues for the provision of expert advice on specific issues to the UN Resident Coordinator.

The Americas Division also has been following closely the situation of indigenous women in the region. To this end, AD Director and team met with Ms. Tarcila Rivera indigenous expert/Member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to exchange views about indigenous peoples in the region, with emphasis on challenges facing indigenous women. In addition, in July, the Division participated in a side event on the role of indigenous peoples in the implementation of SDG 16, organised by DESA at Headquarters.