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Ongoing priorities and themes

Information received from the United Nations system

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Executive summary

The Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) originated in 1993 in response to an expressed need within the United Nations system for training in modern techniques of negotiation and mediation. UNITAR has been conducting training for United Nations staff and diplomats on conflict prevention and peacebuilding since 1993 and for representatives of indigenous peoples since 2000.

The UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives was developed based on the requests of indigenous peoples' representatives from around the world at consultations in Geneva, and on the recommendations of United Nations Special Rapporteurs, to provide advanced training in conflict analysis and negotiation to them.

The main objectives of UNITAR training are: to strengthen participants' capacities to analyse conflict; to identify the needs, fears, concerns and aspirations of all the parties to a conflict; and based upon this and during engagement in dialogue with partners, to formulate mutually beneficial options to address problems. The focus

* E/C.19/2005/1.

is on the process of analysing and dealing with conflict in a constructive manner. With strengthened tools of conflict analysis, negotiation and relationship-building, indigenous representatives are further equipped to engage in dialogue on issues in order to address the priorities of their communities and to improve the lives of their peoples. The training aims to strengthen indigenous representatives' abilities to negotiate to improve the situations of their peoples in all of the areas under the mandate of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: health, education, culture, environment, economic and social development, and human rights.

Participants examine rights-based and interest-based negotiation models and engage in negotiation simulations reflecting issues faced by their communities. Case studies are presented and presentations made on land and resource issues, on inclusive models for participation and consultation, and on constructive dialogue processes, as well as in other areas.

Senior indigenous experts, including members of the Forum, as well as other specialists, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, and representatives of regional organizations are invited to serve as resource persons for the training programme.

The international training programme is conducted annually at the time of the session of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations held at the United Nations at Geneva. A regional training programme is conducted in a different part of the world each year. Regional training programmes have been held to date in Mexico for indigenous peoples of the Americas, in Thailand for indigenous peoples' representatives of Asia and the Pacific, and in the United Republic of Tanzania for indigenous peoples' representatives of Africa. The 2005 regional training programme is planned for indigenous peoples' representatives of the Great Lakes region and Western, Central and Northern Africa. The training will be conducted in French.

UNITAR has been involved in the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues since its formation, and has participated in each session of the Forum.

The programme has received funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, the Agency for Development and Cooperation of Switzerland, and the Ford Foundation.

UNITAR receives no funding from the regular United Nations budget and must raise all of the funding for its programmes and staff from Governments and foundations.

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I. Response to recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

A. Indigenous women

- 1. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research strives to integrate the human rights, including the reproductive health rights, and special concerns and needs of indigenous women into its programmes and policies, and to report regularly thereon to the Forum.**

1. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) actively seeks referrals of indigenous women for each training programme. Women constitute 40 per cent of training participants with the aim of building on their capacity to analyse sources of conflict, identify the interests and concerns of the various parties involved and affected, and engage in dialogue and negotiation to improve the condition of life for their communities in all sectors to the Participants Forum session of the training, which is normally chaired by an indigenous woman, representatives working in different sectors, and reflecting a gender and regional balance, are invited to make presentations on initiatives they are undertaking in the areas of environment, development, education, gender, culture, promotion of human rights, peacebuilding, and dialogue with Governments and the private sector on land and resource issues in order to share strategies and remaining challenges.

2. Senior indigenous women are actively sought to serve as resource persons for the training programme for the purpose of sharing their strategies, experiences, challenges and insights on a whole range of issues of concern to indigenous women, and to indigenous men and youth. Indigenous women who have served as resource persons for the UNITAR training programme include the former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador who is now a member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a Counsellor in the Greenland Home Rule Government, the Minister of Culture and Sports of Guatemala who serves as a member of the Permanent Forum, a previous member of the Permanent Forum from the Asia and Pacific region, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Autonomous Regions of Nicaragua, the Chairperson of an indigenous alliance in the Philippines, an Education Officer from the Ministry of Education of Kenya who is also women's representative for an indigenous non-governmental organization, and a member of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

3. Other women who have served as resource persons for UNITAR training include the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources, the Secretary of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and other representatives of United Nations organizations. UNITAR will continue to identify and invite top female resource persons and participants who contribute substantively to the excellence of the programme.

2. **Violent conflicts and militarization fundamentally affect the lives of indigenous women and their families and communities, causing violations of their human rights and displacement from their ancestral lands. Yet indigenous women do not see themselves as passive victims but have taken up the roles of mediators and peacebuilders.**

4. The UNITAR training programme invites indigenous women involved in peacebuilding initiatives to participate in the training by sharing their experiences and challenges with other representatives, and further enhancing the capacity of indigenous women in conflict analysis, negotiation and peacebuilding.

B. Education

The Forum should work with UNITAR to coordinate training for indigenous peoples within the United Nations system.

5. In May 2002, the UNITAR seminar for members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was organized in New York at the request of a number of Forum members. The seminar was planned to assist in their efforts to prepare for and implement the first, historic session of the Forum at United Nations Headquarters, and to facilitate work on their important mandate. The former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, and representatives of 16 United Nations organizations and departments held briefing and dialogue sessions with the Forum members during the seminar. UNITAR conducted a session on a problem-solving model for negotiation and decision-making. The seminar was supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada and the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.

6. The UNITAR international Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives, which takes place at the time of the session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, invites each year 30 participants from around the world, including the new Indigenous Fellows of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to participate in the training programme. The goal is to build on their knowledge of the United Nations system and mechanisms, and to strengthen their capacity to make a constructive contribution through dialogue and negotiation when they return to their communities. The training has been consistently described as one of the highlights of the Fellowship Programme.

7. UNITAR works actively with Forum members in the design of its training programmes for indigenous peoples and invites members to serve as resource persons for the purpose of addressing participants on the subject of the mandate and activities of the Forum, advising on the best ways to interact with the Forum, and consulting with participants on their respective areas of concern under the mandate of the Forum. Five Forum members have served as resource persons for UNITAR training programmes in the Americas and in the Asia-Pacific region. When a Forum member is not available to serve as a resource person for the training, a senior indigenous expert is invited to provide an overview of the mandate and goals of the Forum. Reports of the Forum on its sessions are provided to each training participant in their handbook of reference materials.

8. UNITAR looks forward to continued collaboration with the Forum on the capacity-building of indigenous representatives.

C. Human rights

UNITAR encourages and supports the training of indigenous women in human rights and the rule of law.

9. At each UNITAR training session, a senior indigenous lawyer and professor conducts several sessions on United Nations and regional mechanisms to promote dialogue and action on human rights and indigenous issues. In addition, materials developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on indigenous peoples and human rights are provided to each participant as part of their handbook of readings and reference material. At a number of training sessions, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people or a member of his staff addressed participants on his mandate and activities as well as the process for raising concerns and reporting rights violations. The Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources also presented a session on her mandate and activities to the international training programme. The Secretary of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations serving as a resource person for the regional training for Africa highlighted opportunities for creating spaces for dialogue in the United Nations system.

10. Staff members of regional organizations are also invited to speak on mandates, mechanisms and opportunities for engaging in the promotion and protection of indigenous rights at the regional level. Regional representatives from the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a Commissioner of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights of the African Union, and an indigenous member of the Commission's Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities have served as resource persons for the training sessions. Indigenous resource persons serving in government have addressed training participants on successes and challenges in the area of governance.

11. The negotiation training examines traditional negotiation, and the rights-based approach to negotiation and then introduces an interest-based model through which to analyse the concerns of the parties and foster engagement in dialogue in order to address conflicts in a mutually beneficial manner.

II. Other significant information on recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations and activities regarding indigenous issues within UNITAR

12. UNITAR was established in 1965 as an autonomous body within the United Nations with the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations through appropriate training and research. UNITAR is governed by a Board of Trustees and is headed by an Executive Director. The Institute is supported by voluntary contributions from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, foundations and other non-governmental sources.

13. The UNITAR Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy was initiated in 1993 to enhance the effectiveness of the efforts of the United Nations in conflict prevention and resolution. Since then, the Programme has expanded to provide a range of research and training activities involving mid- and senior-level United Nations staff, diplomats, indigenous peoples' representatives, and civil society and military personnel.

III. Main activities of UNITAR: Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives

14. Based on the requests of indigenous peoples' representatives at consultations in Geneva, and on the recommendations of Special Rapporteurs, this project was developed in 2000 to provide advanced training in conflict analysis and negotiation to representatives of indigenous peoples. The focus is on a problem-solving approach to strengthening participants' capacity to more effectively negotiate so as to have their needs met, while also promoting constructive relationships between members of their communities and those in the dominant community. Participants engage in identifying sources of conflict, and examine traditional negotiation, and rights-based negotiation approaches. Participants are then trained in interest-based negotiation and practise this method in a number of simulations. This approach seeks to find a win-win solution to conflict situations by helping the parties become more effective at exploring one another's needs, aspirations, fears and concerns, and working from these to create innovative solutions that can address the interests of all concerned.

15. Senior indigenous experts, including members of the Forum, as well as other specialists, United Nations Special Rapporteurs, and representatives of regional organizations are invited to present cases and serve as resource persons for the training programme.

16. Each training programme concludes with a "Dialogue on a common vision for peace" providing participants with the opportunity to highlight key lessons from the training and their mutual exchange, and to articulate next steps towards building a common vision for peace. Feedback from participants from each region indicates that they are applying these strategies and enhanced skills in their communities and in dialogue with Governments and other partners at the local level and in international forums.

17. The international Training Programme is conducted annually at the time of the session of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations held at the United Nations Office at Geneva. International Training Programmes have been held in 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2004. The next international Training Programme for 30 indigenous representatives from around the world is planned for July 2005. The Training Programme is conducted in English.

18. In addition, a regional training programme is organized in a different part of the world each year. The first regional programme was held in Mexico in 2001 for indigenous peoples' representatives from North, Central and South America. The programme was conducted in Spanish and English. In April 2003, the UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives of Asia and the Pacific was organized in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The programme involved 30 representatives, including 13 women, from the Asia and Pacific region. The 2004 regional training programme for indigenous peoples' representatives of Africa was organized in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in December for 30 indigenous representatives from across the continent. The next regional training programme is planned for the latter part of 2005 for French-speaking indigenous representatives from the Great Lakes region, and Central, Northern and Western Africa.

19. As mentioned above, in May 2002, the UNITAR seminar for members of the Forum was organized in New York at the request of a number of Forum members. The seminar was planned to assist them in their efforts to prepare for and implement the first, historic session of the Forum at United Nations Headquarters, and to facilitate work on their important mandate.

20. The UNITAR training programme has received funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, the Agency for Development and Cooperation of Switzerland, and the Ford Foundation. UNITAR receives no funding from the regular United Nations budget and must raise all of the funding for its programmes and staff from Governments and foundations.

IV. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the fourth session of the Forum: "Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples"

21. The UNITAR training focuses on strengthening negotiation skills so that indigenous peoples may more effectively negotiate in development and other processes that affect them. Senior indigenous experts, who serve as resource persons for the UNITAR international and regional training programmes, present case studies on conflict and negotiation processes related to development and resource issues, as these are key conflictual issues faced by indigenous peoples and States. United Nations Special Rapporteurs and a World Bank staff member are also invited to address the group on a range of development issues, policies and programmes relating to land and resources. A list of the Millennium Development Goals and reports thereon, as well as United Nations reports on processes of dialogue over natural resources, are provided to each participant as reference materials in their training handbook.

22. The programme also examines mechanisms and processes that promote participation of diverse groups in order to counter marginalization and exclusion. Participants then engage in negotiation simulations focusing on resource issues and inclusive political participation processes in order to build on their capacity to satisfactorily negotiate on behalf of their organizations and communities and to develop mutually beneficial, sustainable options.

23. As stated by the Secretary-General in his address, on 10 May 2004, to the third session of the Forum, if the twenty-first century is to be the “Age of prevention”, **indigenous peoples must be actively involved in decisions that affect them. As marginalization and exclusion from political and economic processes lead to alienation and poverty and constitute some of the root causes of conflict, enhancing capacity and opportunities for the meaningful participation of indigenous women and men in decision-making and political processes constitute some concrete mechanisms for the prevention of violent conflict. This includes consultative approaches that also enhance understanding of the needs, perspectives, experiences and diverse cultures of indigenous peoples which can assist in the formulation of appropriate policies and programmes that best address their needs in a sustainable manner.**
