



**Interventions at the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

***7-18 May 2012***

**ITEM 4(A) IMPLEMENTATION OF UNDRIP**

***World Heritage Convention***

Chairman and members of the Permanent Forum,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At its tenth session, the Permanent Forum made several recommendations relating to UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and its advisory bodies ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN.

At the 34th session in Brasilia, 2010 and the 35th session at UNESCO Headquarters 2011, of the World Heritage Committee, representatives of the UN Permanent Forum were present as observers and provided official statements to the session. Other relevant observers also made statements, including a representative of the International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA). Furthermore, the 35th session of the Committee prepared a draft vision and

strategic action plan for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention and noted in Decision **35 COM 12D** point 10) specifically:

*"[The Committee] acknowledges the statements made by the Representative of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) at its 34th and 35th sessions, held in Brasilia (Brazil, 2010) and Paris (UNESCO Headquarters, 2011), respectively, and notes that UNESCO is in the process of preparing a policy with regard to its programs on indigenous peoples; further notes that these considerations should be included in the theme of the 40th anniversary, "World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities".*

Furthermore Decision **35 COM 12E** adopted in 2011 on management of World Heritage properties requests States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to *"Involve indigenous peoples and local communities in decision making, monitoring and evaluation of the state of conservation of the properties and their Outstanding Universal Value and link the direct community benefits to protection outcomes,"* and to *"Respect the rights of indigenous peoples when nominating, managing and reporting on World Heritage sites in indigenous peoples' territories."*

The Committee also recognized indigenous peoples in a total of 26 decisions concerning the state of conservation of properties and new inscriptions on the World Heritage List, as well as in the overall Periodic Report for the African Region:

*"[The Committee] recognises the valuable role played by local communities, including indigenous peoples, in the management of cultural and natural heritage properties in Africa and also requests that research programmes on African World Heritage properties should also focus*

UNESCO also recognizes and advocates the key role of culture in sustainable development and sustainable tourism, as well as the nexus between biological diversity and cultural diversity. As a follow-up to the conference co-organized by UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in June 2010 which focused on integrating biological and cultural diversity into development cooperation strategies and programmes, staff from the UNESCO New York office are closely cooperating with the CBD secretariat to, amongst other things, implement the draft Joint Programme, which was welcomed by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in Brasilia in July 2010. A follow-up meeting was organized between CBD and UNESCO at the UNESCO Office New York, inviting representatives of other organizations in April 2012.

The World Heritage Centre published a number of issues of the World Heritage Review relevant for indigenous peoples (e.g. World Heritage Forests, No 61, Living with Water, No 59). Moreover, a specific issue on World Heritage and indigenous peoples has been published as World Heritage Review No.62 to draw the attention of the international community to this important topic. It is available on-line in English, French and Spanish. In addition, World Heritage papers series number 31 has been published on "Community development through World Heritage" including articles on indigenous peoples and the human-rights approach.

Thank you

*on the involvement of the local communities in their implementation and derivation of direct benefits.” (Decision **35 COM 10A** point 13)*

As for previous sessions, the UN Permanent Forum will be invited as an observer to the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (St. Petersburg, 24 June to 5 July 2012).

In response to the report of the 10th session of UNPFII (paragraph 41) and in addition to the statutory meetings under the 1972 World Heritage Convention, meetings were held with the Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM) and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to improve processes related to the state of conservation and evaluation of new nominations with regard to indigenous peoples' issues.

A half day workshop was held in November 2011 on Human Rights and World Heritage organized by ICOMOS during the ICOMOS General Assembly at UNESCO Headquarters which adopted Resolution 17 GA 30 on 'human-rights based approaches to heritage management' which concerns cultural heritage in general.

In November 2011, ICCROM's General Assembly approved a programme on the subject of "People-centred approaches to Conservation: Living Heritage". This programme will be relevant to both indigenous and non-indigenous people alike. IUCN is currently carrying out a study "IUCN, World Heritage and Evaluation Processes related to Communities and Rights" which will be presented to the 36<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee (June/July 2012) and the IUCN World Conservation Congress (September 2012).