

UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues, Sixth Session, May 14 - 25 2007

Agenda Item 4 (f) Culture

Joint Statement, by International Indian Treaty Council, Indigenous Information Network and CHIRPAC, et al, on the 2nd Global Consultation on the Right to Food, Food Security and Food Sovereignty for Indigenous Peoples and "Cultural Indicators for Food Security, Food Sovereignty and Sustainable Development"

Andrés
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Thank you Madame Chair. At the last two sessions of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, during the discussion of the Millennium Development Goals reflecting Indigenous Peoples' own perspectives about Development reflecting their own cultures, work views and realities, we have reported on our work in conjunction with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization to develop and define "Cultural Indicators for Food Security, Food Sovereignty and the Right to Food.

This work has been carried out based on the recognition by Indigenous peoples as well by the UN FAO that cultural perspectives, frameworks and indicators were the "missing pillar" in international policies related to sustainable development including food security and the right to food.

We also express our appreciation to the UNPFII for their invitation to us to report on the progress of this work, which contains the input of hundreds of Indigenous traditional food producers, knowledge holders and rights advocates from around the world over the past five years, at two of the regional seminars organized by the Permanent Forum to address the MDG's and indicators of well-being for Indigenous Peoples. These took place in March and September of 2006 in Ottawa Canada and Bilwi Nicaragua.

I am very happy and gratified to be able to report to this session of the UNPF II that the **"Cultural Indicators for Food Security, Food Sovereignty and Sustainable Development"** were completed at the 2nd Global Consultation on the Right to Food, Food Security and Food Sovereignty for Indigenous Peoples which took place September 7 - 9, 2006. The Global consultation was hosted by the Consejo Regional Autónomo (Autonomous Regional Council) in Bilwi, Puerto Cabezas, Región Autónoma del Atlántico Norte, Nicaragua and was coordinated by the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) in partnership with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization/SARD Initiative and el Centro para la Autonomía y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas, Nicaragua (CADPI). 20 Indigenous experts from 6 regions (North America, Latin America, Africa, Asia, Pacific and Arctic) as well as representatives of the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNPD) participated.

The Cultural Indicators are organized into structural, process and results indicators in the key categories identified by Indigenous Peoples. They are intended to be used as a framework and tool by UN Agencies and bodies, development institutions, NGO's and Indigenous communities to address a range of factors impacting the traditional food systems and cultural relationships to traditional food related practices of Indigenous peoples, as well as programs, initiatives and projects for their restoration, protection and continuation on the local/community, regional, national and international levels. We are in the process of working with Indigenous Peoples and local communities to initiate a project for field testing of the indicators, and we will be happy to report on the results at the UNPF7th session.

A more extensive written summary of the Consultation is available as a written document for this session submitted by the IITC [Ec.19/2007/7Add.2], and is also reference in the written report Submitted by the UN FAO [E/C.19/2007/3].

A set of Underlying Principles were identified a basis for Cultural Indicators for Food Sovereignty, beginning with an affirmation of the definition of food Sovereignty as a prerequisite for Food Security for Indigenous Peoples as defined in the Declaration of Atitlan as follows:

“Food Sovereignty is the right of Peoples to define their own policies and strategies for the sustainable production, distribution, and consumption of food, with respect for their own cultures and their own systems of managing natural resources and rural areas, and is considered to be a precondition for Food Security”

In addition, participants affirmed that food Sovereignty for Indigenous Peoples

1. Based on the Rights of Self Determination, Free, Prior and Informed Consent and full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples at all stages.
2. Based on and inextricably linked to Indigenous Peoples' right to lands, territories and natural resources.
3. Based on implementing real partnership efforts between Indigenous Peoples, key UN agencies (in particular, FAO, UNDP, UNPFII, WHO), States, NGO's, agencies, etc. as underscored in the 1st and 2nd UN Declarations for the International Decades.
4. Based on recognition of the common concerns and perspectives among all Indigenous Peoples as well as respect for the unique, distinct situations and needs of each Indigenous Peoples and each region.
5. Based on the recognition that the Right to Food, Food Security and Subsistence are fundamental inherent human rights of Indigenous Peoples and all Peoples, as is the right of Indigenous Peoples to set their own priorities for their development.

Two sets of indicators were developed at the request of UN FAO and by agreement of the participants. One contained a framework for indicators under each of 11 cross-cutting thematic areas developed by consensus of the participants, based on previous input as well contributions of the participants attending the 2nd Global Consultations. The second consolidated this broader list into 5 thematic areas

to facilitate use and applicability by UN, development and funding agencies, which are presented in the paper presented by UN FAO at this session:.

These are: (read from the FAO paper)

The full set of indicators in both the full and consolidated formats are available in the final conclusions and recommendations from the 2nd Global Consultation, on IITC's web site www.treatycouncil.org or can be provided upon request.

Thank You, for all our relations.