

15.2.99 pm

- provide advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the UN Secretary General, Coordinator for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and other parts of the UN system;
- provide coordination within the UN system of activities related to indigenous peoples;
- many UN organs are currently undertaking or planning to consult with indigenous groups, such as the Commission on Human Rights, ILO, WHO, WIPO, Convention on Biological Diversity, but there are no guidelines, referrals, central repository of lessons learned, etc. This new body could provide indigenous input and expertise to ensure that these many processes are coordinated and reinforcing;
- in the same way as the WGIP, provide a forum for technical discussions and exchange of views by indigenous peoples. This could include the dissemination of information on the conditions and needs of indigenous peoples.
- provide expertise and technical support to interested governments and the UN system, including the UN Secretary General, Coordinator for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, specialised agencies, functional and regional commissions, treaty bodies, World Bank group, etc.
- organize seminars and expert groups workshops on behalf of UN organs concerning indigenous issues, meetings of indigenous peoples at various locations worldwide in cooperation with states and UN system. Organize meetings, seminars, reports and development of action plans in support of the Decade on specific themes.
- assist Secretary-General and HCHR to prepare their annual reports on themes related to indigenous peoples, as well as administer and promote existing WGIP and Decade funds. Provide direction to the Indigenous Unit of OHCHR and be responsible for capacity-building efforts of the UN, for example, youth internships and fellowship program. Assist DPI with building database, public education and information programs on indigenous issues.