



**Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Mr. Chairperson, Members of the Permanent Forum, Representatives of Indigenous Organizations, Representatives of Governments and Inter-agency Colleagues:

At the World Bank, we feel honored to join you for this historic first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and are here to listen, learn and contribute in a variety of ways. I am joined by a number of Bank colleagues, including our Special Representative to the United Nations, Mr. Doryan, and will be here throughout the Permanent Forum Session. As you heard from High Commissioner Mary Robinson in yesterday's inaugural session, the Bank is one among many institutions in the Inter-agency Support Group for the Permanent Forum. In addition, we are co-sponsoring and participating in a number of parallel side events and I look forward to discussions on various issues. We are fully engaged in this important Forum.

Why does the World Bank consider the Forum significant?

At the Bank today, we view the role of indigenous peoples in two ways. First, we recognize the urgent and unique concerns of the indigenous communities of the world and the need for urgent response to your problems of poverty, disease, lack of access to basic social services, and marginalization. Second, we also fully acknowledge the fundamental value of the indigenous world view – the indigenous cosmo-vision - and believe that elements of your world view must be recognized, understood, and valued in order to bring about effective economic, social and cultural development. In this sense, we believe that the Forum can serve as a fundamental “front-burner” venue through which the indigenous peoples not only find needed support but also can actively help shape the future of economic and social development worldwide. We will do what we can to support you in this regard.

The Forum is in line with the evolution of our thinking about effective development. Today, our understanding of what makes development effective is no longer centered solely in macroeconomics and the acquisition of financial and economic assets; we have evolved to recognize that economic development is only effective if it is based on a more human-centered holistic understanding which includes human, natural and social assets.

Our strategy, policies, and work programs are now based on this evolved model through the Comprehensive Development Framework principles: working with our client governments and shareholders to create development which is holistic, long-term, participatory and results-oriented, and owned by the country in which it takes place. In addition, as we move actively toward the Johannesburg Summit, we are working to better integrate the economic, social and environmental aspects of development in our assistance to countries, and this includes the involvement of civil society at all levels, respect for the environment, and transparent, corruption-free governance for all people.

Our work with indigenous peoples, based on our long-standing and evolving policies, is centered around four types of assistance: financing projects which directly benefit indigenous peoples; helping build capacity and strengthen national and indigenous institutions; engaging the government in policy dialogue regarding indigenous peoples'

needs and concerns; and building a knowledge base on development issues shared by all stakeholders.

Our IP development approaches is multi-faceted:

- Development projects in each of the Bank's six regions, including 56 projects now in East Asia and the Pacific, 56 projects in South Asia, 110 projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, and growing numbers of projects in Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa;
- Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility and other partners;
- Small Grants Program;
- Partnerships for IP Development; and
- Building an IP knowledge base.

We look forward to our continued work with the Forum, and again, we are very honored to be here among you today.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.