

**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)**  
**Tenth session, July 10-14 2017**

**A.I. 6: Ten years of Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of  
Indigenous Peoples: Good Practices and Lessons Learned**

**Statement delivered by UNDP on behalf of the UN Indigenous Peoples Partnership  
(UNIPP)**

Mr. Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished members of EMRIP,  
Indigenous representatives,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honor to address EMRIP's Tenth Session on behalf of the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (UNIPP). We want to use this opportunity to inform the Expert Mechanism about recent developments in the Partnership's work.

Launched during the 10th session of the UN Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in May 2011, UNIPP is a unique collaborative effort that brings together UN entities, governments, indigenous peoples' organizations and the broader civil society for the realization of indigenous peoples' rights as recognized by two mutually reinforcing instruments: the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ILO's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Convention (ILO Convention No. 169).

UNIPP pursues its objective through a strong emphasis on inter-disciplinary, multi-agency joint programming as well as a focus on enhancing capacities, facilitating dialogue and building partnerships. While operating mostly at the country level, the Partnership also undertakes regional and global level work and seeks to promote the integration of global and country level efforts related to indigenous peoples' rights.

Set up in response to a recommendation from the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UNIPP has received the backing of the UN Secretary General, the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council. Furthermore, UNIPP is acknowledged as an important mechanism to promote indigenous peoples' rights in the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. Similarly, the UN System Wide Action Plan on Indigenous Peoples (SWAP) specifically mentions UNIPP as a key mechanism to promote UN coherence and joint programming at the country level.

Six UN entities are currently participating in UNIPP: the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and



the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). UNIPP is open to other UN entities wishing to engage in systematic coordination on indigenous issues at country level and looks forward to progressively broadening its membership.

UNIPP's strength lies in the breadth of the expertise and networks that can be mobilized by its partners, combined with the leadership role and strong participation of indigenous peoples themselves. During its first phase (2011-2016), the Partnership brought together more than 100 partners and initiated 110 activities in six countries: the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Nepal, Bolivia and Nicaragua. In addition, UNIPP supported a regional project in South-East Asia. Together, the countries covered are home to approximately 100 million indigenous peoples.

Illustrative examples of results achieved with UNIPP's support include: the adoption, in the Republic of Congo, of the first African law on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous populations; the facilitation of dialogue on extractive industries and indigenous peoples' access to land in South-East Asia; and support to legislation on free, prior and informed consent in Bolivia.

As the first 5-year cycle of UNIPP came to an end on 31 December 2016, a new phase of the Partnership (UNIPP 2.0) was launched on 1 January 2017. UNIPP 2.0 builds on and consolidates the momentum of the previous programmes implemented by UNIPP while applying, at the same time, the knowledge and experience gained during the first phase in order to increase impact and reach around the world.

Furthermore, the design of UNIPP 2.0 reflects changes in the development landscape, including the adoption of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the international community's renewed commitment to addressing climate change, as embodied in the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Mr. Chair, distinguished members of the Expert Mechanism,

As UNIPP is based both on the spirit of consultation, participation as well as the combined expertise and experience of its partners, the Partnership would like to reiterate its full support for EMRIP, including its new amended mandate. We look forward to developing our dialogue with the Expert Mechanism and stand ready to share best practices and lessons learned on how to best assist Member States in achieving the ends of UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169.

We would also like to take this opportunity to call on the continued support of Member States to sustain and expand the scope and impact of UNIPP, which we truly believe, can contribute to make a substantial difference in the lives of indigenous children, women and men and to society at large.

Thank you for your attention, Mr. Chair.