

**INFORMAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE MOST APPROPRIATE MECHANISMS TO
CONTINUE THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS**

Geneva, 6-7 December 2007

Proposal for a Group of Experts on Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights under the Human Rights
Council submitted by the Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the United Nations
and other International Organizations in Geneva

The views expressed in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the OHCHR or the United Nations.

**PROPOSAL FOR A GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' HUMAN
RIGHTS UNDER THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
(unofficial translation)**

I. Introduction

Whereas in Resolution 60/251 the General Assembly decided that the Council should “*assume, review and, where necessary, improve and rationalize all mandates, mechanisms, functions and responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights in order to maintain a system of special procedures, expert advice and a complaint procedure*”

Recalling that the Human Rights Council institution-building text dated 18 June 2007 stated that “*the Council will decide on the most appropriate mechanisms to continue the work of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations...*”,

And that the Human Rights Council decided on 28 September 2007 through resolution 6/16 to request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to convene an informal meeting to exchange views on the most appropriate mechanism to continue the work of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations,

The informal meeting is convened on 6 and 7 December, with the goal of promoting the creation of an expert Group on indigenous peoples' human Rights under the aegis of the Human Rights Council.

To achieve this goal, we introduce this proposal that has already been commented on and agreed upon by a number of member States and indigenous peoples' organizations:

II. Name:

Group of experts on indigenous peoples' human rights (indigenous name to be decided)

III. Mandate:

- a) to review and undertake studies and focused research on human Rights issues as they relate to indigenous peoples, in order to promote dialogue and exchange of experiences between States and indigenous peoples.
- b) to promote the use of human rights mechanisms for the defence of the rights of indigenous peoples.
- c) to review, elaborate and follow up on best practices and appropriate guidelines for the full and effective enjoyment of human rights by indigenous peoples.
- d) to contribute to cooperation with other United Nations organs to ensure the realization of the objectives of the second Decade of the World's Indigenous People

IV. Composition:

This group shall be composed of six experts on human rights of whom at least three should be indigenous peoples' experts, in order to guarantee representativity and equal opportunity between States and indigenous peoples.

V. Appointment

- The human rights experts shall be nominated by States taking into account geographical distribution and gender equity,
- Indigenous peoples' representatives shall be elected directly by the indigenous peoples.

The Group of Experts shall be defined by the Human Rights Council taking into account the equal representativity defined in paragraph IV.

VI. Duration of appointment:

The Experts shall be appointed for a term of four years, renewable once only.

VII. Rules of procedure of the sessions:

- The Group of Experts will be held for 5 days annually which may be extended under exceptional circumstances following prior authorization by the Human Rights Council.
- The rules of procedure shall be those of the Human Rights Council.

VIII. Participation:

- Participation in annual sessions will be open to States, indigenous peoples' organizations, international organizations, non-governmental organizations in the same way as for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

IX. Steps to follow:

- a) In the informal meeting held in December: to channel different proposals from States, Indigenous Peoples and Non-governmental Organizations.
- b) To prepare a matrix with proposals to begin to work on reaching consensus between States and indigenous peoples.
- c) To elaborate a draft resolution to be presented in the HRC meeting of March 2008.
- d) To present a resolution to the Human Rights Council
- e) To begin the work of the Group of Experts on indigenous peoples' human rights.
