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Addressee: OHCHR, ILO, UNESCO

Paragraph #84 Session #5 (2006)

Full Text

The Permanent Forum recommends that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, ILO and UNESCO convene an expert workshop in cooperation with the Permanent Forum on the situation of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation in order to develop strategies and programmes for the protection of their rights and territories and report to the Permanent Forum thereon at its next session.

Comments

OHCHR reports that a Regional Seminar on Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and in Initial Contact of the Amazonian Basin and El Chaco was jointly organized by OHCHR, the Vice-Ministry of Lands of the Government of Bolivia, the International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs and the Confederacy of Indigenous Peoples of Bolivia and was funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, the Danish International Development Agency and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation. The seminar was held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 20 to 22 November 2006. The Santa Cruz appeal, which was agreed on by all participants in the meeting (representatives of Governments and indigenous organizations, international organizations and experts), is included in the annex to this report. In addition, the full report of this seminar contained in document E/C.19/2007/CRP.1, which includes a list of participants and the programme, will be submitted to the Permanent Forum.

ILO reports that an international seminar on indigenous peoples living in isolation or experiencing initial contact in the Amazon and Gran Chaco region was organized by the OHCHR, the Vice-Ministry of Lands in Bolivia, the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs and the Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Bolivia from 20 to 22 November 2006. An ILO specialist participated in the workshop and made a presentation of the Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (Convention No. 169) and its relation to indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation.

UNESCO commissioned a study entitled *Los últimos pueblos indígenas aislados en América Latina* (Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Perú, Venezuela) co-published in Spanish by UNESCO and the Casa de las Américas (2006). The study covered the general, geographical, territorial, legal and institutional situation in the six Latin-American countries with known isolated indigenous populations, specifically in two sub-regions, the Amazon Basin and the Gran Chaco. The conclusions of these case studies may inform the development of future strategies and programmes for the protection of the rights, cultures and territories of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation. (b) UNESCO furthermore provided input to the preparation of the Regional Seminar on indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and in initial contact with the Amazonian Basin and El Chaco organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) from 20 to 22 November 2006 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. It notably distributed the publication on indigenous peoples in isolation, mentioned above.

Area of Work

Human rights