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Paragraph #117 Session #5 (2006)

Full Text

The Permanent Forum urges the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to focus and coordinate their strategies and programmes in order to deal with the problems faced by indigenous peoples in Africa relevant to the mandate of the Permanent Forum on such issues as economic and social development, education, health, human rights, culture and the environment.

Comments

ILO: The Project to Promote ILO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples has been undertaking a number of activities in the African region that respond directly to this recommendation. These activities include elements of longer-term projects or processes with specific objectives, outputs and results. A detailed description of these activities is provided in the document E/C.19/2007/3/Add.11.

UNESCO: (a) UNESCO is in contact with the OHCHR about the preparations of the May 2007 meeting of the African Human Rights Commission, notably the organization of a roundtable on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. (b) UNESCO has furthermore reinforced its collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordination Committee (IPACC), which recently established official relations with UNESCO. The collaboration currently focuses on participatory cultural mapping in Africa to foster indigenous peoples' capacity and participation in protecting and promoting their biological and cultural resources. A special effort is made to exchange information with partner agencies active in this area, IFAD and UNEP. (c) UNESCO is in the process of creating a Southern African Regional Centre for Peace, Culture and Security Studies, which will promote and

create an understanding of intercultural dialogue, cultural pluralism, and cultural diversity as a vital means of facilitating mutual understanding, promoting peace and stability in Southern Africa. Indigenous knowledge systems and peace will be a central area of focus of the new centre. (d) The UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning carried out a comprehensive stocktaking on bilingual education and the use of local languages (most of them indigenous languages), covering 25 African countries, which was shared with Ministries, NGOs and partner agencies at the AEA (Association for the Development of Education in Africa) biennial meeting in March 2006 in Libreville, Gabon. At the country level, UNESCO has become the focal point for indigenous issues in the UN country team in Tanzania. In Cameroon, UNESCO works closely with UNICEF in the field of education for indigenous children. UNESCO is, furthermore, implementing a project on the promotion and safeguarding of the oral traditions of the AKA Pygmies in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo. UNESCO Kinshasa is developing a strategy for the integration of Pygmy communities, which is focused on advocacy for their civil rights and citizenship, in partnership with the relevant indigenous organizations, civil society and parliament members. The strategy is based on a study entitled Situation des "autochthones" Pygmées (Batwa) en République Démocratique du Congo: Enjeux de droits humains, published in November 2005 by the UNESCO chair at the University of Kinshasa with the support of UNESCO.

Area of Work

Methods of Work