Indicators relevant to Indigenous Peoples: International Technical Workshop: Role of UNPFII

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Outline:
1. The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
2. UNPFII, data-disaggregation and indicators
3. Responses to recommendations
4. Challenges ahead
1. UNPFII

UNPFII established in 2000 by ECOSOC Res. 2000/22

Subsidiary body of the ECOSOC and reports to ECOSOC

Composed of 16 members: 8 government experts and 8 indigenous experts
To discuss indigenous issues within the ECOSOC’s mandate, including **economic** and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights.

To provide expert advice and recommendations to the Council and to programmes, funds and agencies of the UN, and
To raise awareness about indigenous issues,

To integrate and coordinate activities in the UN system and

To produce materials on indigenous issues.
Coordination mandate: done through Inter-agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues (IASG) and meeting of functional commissions of ECOSOC.

IASG - composed of more than 30 UN programmes, specialized agencies and funds.

Several intergovernmental bodies: ADB, IADB, EC, IOM, etc.

First session – 2002: Holds 2-week sessions every year; attended by more than 1,500 participants.
UN General Assembly

: UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

: Functional Commissions

: CSW- Csust. Devt (CSD)- Statistics
Commission- UNFF-UNPFII – Com. On Social Devt.(CSocD)

- UNPFII has a secretariat based in NY
2. UNPFII and Indicators:
2003 – held an international expert workshop on collection of disaggregated data on indigenous peoples

UN Statistics Division noted that “consideration of the issue of indigenous peoples and data collection was groundbreaking work. The collection of reliable data would allow judgements to be made about the effectiveness of development programmes that had
a direct impact on the quality of life of the world’s indigenous peoples. Indigenous issues were the important emerging theme in social statistics. “

Participants noted the ff:

1. data collection and disaggregation concerning indigenous peoples posed unique challenges in terms both of developing data for global comparative purposes and of developing data that was useful at a microlevel for IPs”
4. Qualitative data and human rights indicators important to assess the true social situation of indigenous peoples (i.e. information on the quality of land was as important as the amount of land controlled by indigenous peoples)

5. Lack of standardized data, which restricted useful comparisons; ethnic drift, where individuals might change ethnic affiliation owing to reduced fear of discrimination, renewed ethnic pride, marriage,
adoption, social relationship, perceived benefit or increased options to identify as mixed race; and problems with people who were not of indigenous descent identifying themselves as Indigenous.

6. the need for developing a conceptual framework for rights-based indicators to ensure that the data to be collected would be relevant to indigenous peoples,
while allowing for the measurement of issues crucial for indigenous peoples’ development and rights, such as

• control over land and resources,
• equal participation in decision-making
• control over their own development processes.
• process of full, active and meaningful participation at all stages of data collection,
3. Actions taken

2006 – International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) provided PFII a grant to carry out regional consultations:

Canada offered to host Technical Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Indicators of well-being: Ottawa – 2006

UNPFII supported meetings:

2006: Meso-American (Nicaragua) Asia (Phil.): Africa (Kenya):
2007: Global (Philippines); Pacific (Australia)
2006-2007: Special Theme of UNPFII - Millenium Development Goals

Lack of visibility of indigenous peoples in country MDG reports highlighted; can lead to further discrimination

Disaggregation of data became more stark - Vietnam experience;

Meeting of Chair with Statistics Division
13 Sept. 2007 – adoption of UNDRIP
2008 – Climate Change
Regional and Global Workshops on indicators:

• Identify gaps in existing indicators at various levels that assess the situation of indigenous peoples and have an impact on policy making, governance, program development, including a gender perspective.

• Examine work being done to improve indicators to take into account indigenous peoples and concerns, including a gender perspective.
• Examine linkages between quantitative and qualitative indicators, particularly indicators looking at processes affecting indigenous peoples.

• Propose core global and regional indicators that address specific concerns and situations of indigenous peoples and can also be used by international financial institutions, the UN system and regional intergovernmental organizations.
2. that data should help to detect and measure discrimination, inequality and exclusion of indigenous peoples individually and as a group;

3. existing data such as participatory poverty assessments and data used to describe regional disparities within a country could be used more efficiently for this purpose.

4. culturally specific and should be relevant to the problems of IPs
issues of discrimination or exclusion in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights.

5. Rights-based indicators; useful in policy articulation and prescription should measure both the process and the outcome of development activities and the process of the realization of human rights, such as participation, nondiscrimination, empowerment and accountability.
4. Challenges ahead

- 2010 – Special Theme: Indigenous Peoples' Development with culture and identity. Article 3 and Article 42
- Need to develop indicators to monitor the effective implementation of the UNDRIP
- Climate change researches and processes
Challenges for refining indicators

- Clarifying policy objectives and targets – strategic vs. focused
- Consideration of suitable indicators – human rights based approach
- Gathering of data – pilot countries
- Improving and developing new indicators
- Development of monitoring systems