

MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND OF THE UNITED NATIONS
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PARTNERSHIP (UNIPP)

UNIPP FUND

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

JOINTLY PREPARED BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE UN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PARTNERSHIP AND
THE MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

1. BACKGROUND

Launched in 2011, the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership is a result-oriented initiative whose key aim is to support efforts at the country level for the realization of indigenous peoples' rights as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).

UNIPP seeks to take the aspirations of indigenous peoples beyond the global advocacy and international fora and bring about concrete change on the ground to the benefit of indigenous women and men.

In particular, the Partnership aims at:

- a. Providing critical impetus to the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights at the country level through a series of coordinated interventions by various actors;
- b. Helping raise the profile of indigenous peoples in government consciousness and increase the amount of resources allocated to projects targeting indigenous issues;
- c. Providing support to on-going national legislative and policy processes concerning indigenous peoples, increasing their chances of success and thereby encouraging good practices in the given country and the wider region; and
- d. Facilitating partnerships between indigenous peoples and governments as well as UN agencies.

As a rights-based collaborative framework, UNIPP main activities are implemented in one or more of the following key strategic areas of intervention based on the identified country needs:

- a. Legislative review and reform
- b. Democratic governance and strengthening of indigenous peoples' institutions
- c. Access to justice
- d. Access to land and ancestral territories
- e. Natural resources and extractive industries
- f. Access to education and health
- g. Supporting the effective implementation of recommendations issued by the UN Human Rights system

In the spirit of "Delivering as One", the Partnership embraces the principles of consultation and participation, which allowed different partners to forge alliances that are essential to promote adherence to international standards on indigenous peoples' rights; strengthened the capacities of State institutions to have indigenous peoples' rights included and recognized within the national legal framework; broadened indigenous peoples access to culturally pertinent education and health services; and increased their confidence and opportunities to make their voices heard in decision-making processes.

2. PROGRESS IN 2015

Virtually all the operational activities of UNIPP came to an end during the course of 2014. A detailed overview of these activities is provided in the 2014 UNIPP Annual Progress Report, together with a description of individual project and Partnership-level results. This report provides information about the last UNIPP Policy Board meeting and the next steps for the Partnership endorsed by Policy Board members, including plans for a UNIPP 2.0.

UNIPP POLICY BOARD MEETING 25 MAY 2015

The following decisions were adopted at the meeting of the UNIPP Policy Board on 25 May 2015

Decision point 1 (Agency Co-Chair of the Board and matters relating to the Technical Secretariat)

Noting the willingness of UNDP to take on the agency Co-Chair of the Board and the role of hosting the Technical Secretariat, the Policy Board:

- (a) Approves the handing over of the agency Co-Chair from the ILO to UNDP;*
- (b) Welcomes the transfer of the role of hosting the Technical Secretariat from ILO to UNDP; and*
- (c) Approves the allocation of the remaining balance of USD 134,155 available in the UNIPP MPTF to UNDP in order to cover human resource costs relating to the Technical Secretariat function, including a stocktaking exercise based on agreed terms of reference to identify lessons learned and a way forward for UNIPP.*

The handing over of the Co-Chair and transfer of the Technical Secretariat shall be effective as of 31 May 2015.

Decision point 2 (Consolidated Annual Progress Report 2014)

The Policy Board approves the Consolidated Annual Progress report 2014 prepared on the basis of inputs from Participating Organizations and the MPTF Office.

UNIPP POLICY BOARD DECISIONS DECEMBER 2015

In December 2015, the following next steps were agreed by UNIPP Policy Board members based on the proposals submitted by the Board Co-Chairs.

- **Extension of UNIPP's administrative arrangements**

The Board approved the proposal of extending the current administrative arrangements of UNIPP for another 12 months, in order to allow the participating organizations sufficient time to come up with a fully refined concept for a UNIPP 2.0

- **Extension of the term of the current indigenous peoples' Board members**

The Board agreed to extend the term of the current indigenous peoples' Board representatives to 31 December 2016 recognizing: 1) the need for strong institutional memory at this time of transition; and 2) the fact that it may not be appropriate to appoint new members in the absence of clarity regarding the future of UNIPP.

- **UNIPP stock-taking exercise**

The Board agreed to undertake a stock taking exercise structured around four focus areas as outlined below:

- **Process**

The analysis of process elements should reflect on the key strengths and weaknesses of UNIPP in relation to project development and selection as well as the extent to which the UNIPP process was effective in facilitating greater collaboration among UN organizations at country level. In addition the analysis should review the extent to which the UNIPP process was effective in facilitating greater collaboration between UNCTs and indigenous peoples' organizations at country level as well as the way in which the role of global indigenous leaders serving as Board representatives was fully leveraged.

- **Results**

The stock-taking should review results that were achieved by UNIPP projects in terms of strengthening duty bearers' capacity to advance indigenous peoples' rights as well as results in terms of strengthening indigenous peoples' capacity to successfully claim the fulfillment of their rights. Additional analysis should focus on the extent to which UNIPP projects contributed to the realization of an enabling environment for the realization of indigenous peoples' rights (for instance through legislative reform or by facilitating the establishment of effective consultation platforms).

- **Added value**

It is important that appropriate consideration be given to determining and effectively communicate what are the key elements of UNIPP's added value and what makes it a unique mechanism

- **Way forward**

A general sense of direction and steps for the way forward should be outlined in the stock taking. These should include also recommendations regarding the following areas of focus: membership; governance structure; operating procedures.

- **UNIPP 2.0 Strategic Framework**

The Board noted that the stock-taking exercise will provide a number of valuable insights on key aspects of the UNIPP 2.0 Strategic Framework. In addition, the new Strategic Framework should reflect changes in the development landscape – both broader shifts, such as the adoption of the Agenda 2030 and changes that are more specific to indigenous peoples’ rights, such as the adoption of the Indigenous Peoples’ Sector-Wide Action Plan (SWAP). The MPTF Office new guidelines on the design of Multi-partner Trust Funds which will have to be taken into account as well.



THE ACTION PLAN ULTIMATELY AIMS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REALIZATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ RIGHTS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL THROUGH REINFORCED SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO MEMBER STATES. THE UNITED NATIONS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ PARTNERSHIP CAN BE ONE OF THE KEY MEANS, AMONG OTHERS, TO PROMOTE COHERENCE AND JOINT PROGRAMMING AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL AND IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTNERSHIP AND ITS SCOPE.

UN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE SWAP, PARA 11

- **Overall need to raise UNIPP’s profile**

The need was stressed to raise awareness on UNIPP’s added value and potential to advance indigenous peoples’ rights. It was agreed therefore that plans would be made to organize a UNIPP Global Partners Meeting, bringing together representatives of the UNIPP projects (indigenous people, government and UN staff) together with Policy Board Members and other global indigenous peoples’ leaders, as well as other partners, including potential donors.