



UNITED NATIONS-INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PARTNERSHIP (UNIPP)

Policy Board Terms of Reference

Preamble

The UN-Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (UNIPP) is a UN collaborative rights-based framework focused on developing national capacities to promote indigenous peoples' rights through more effective dialogue and partnership mechanisms at the country level. It aims at "Delivering as One" with the view to improving the effectiveness of United Nations programmes on indigenous peoples at the country level.

With the adoption of the UN Declaration, the international normative framework regulating the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples has been firmly strengthened. The ILO Convention No. 169 on the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples, adopted by the ILO in 1989, is fully compatible with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The two instruments are mutually reinforcing and provide the solid framework for promoting indigenous peoples' rights and addressing the existing implementation gaps at all levels.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular Article 41 of the Declaration, calls upon the organs and specialized agencies of the UN system to contribute to the full realization of its provisions. UNIPP is the first inter-agency initiative with such a programmatic focus on indigenous peoples' rights at the country level. It consists of a collaborative framework and a global funding mechanism to support joint programmes at the country level, which will strengthen consultative and participatory processes, and support capacity development. UNIPP also seeks to implement thematic, regional and global lines of work that support the work at the local level.

While launched by ILO, OHCHR, UNDP and UNICEF, on the 20th of May 2011, UNIPP is open to the participation of other UN agencies or organization interested in contributing to its goals. UNFPA joined UNIPP in June 2011.

Policy Board members will be guided by relevant international instruments and the overall UNIPP collaborative framework.

Section 1. Structure and composition

1.1. Criteria for membership

The composition of the UNIPP Policy Board will include up to five indigenous experts and representatives of UN Agencies that have joined UNIPP as partners.

Other UN organisations may join as members by entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the existing UN member organisations.

Selection of indigenous experts or representatives is based on consultation with the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. Each UN Indigenous Peoples Mechanism nominates individuals for selection, taking into account gender, youth and region as a guide in their selection.

Each indigenous member of the Policy Board will serve a term of two years with the possibility of renewal of an additional one term of two years, taking into account the need for a degree of continuity.

1.2. Observers and Ex-officio members

- Multi Donor Trust Fund Office (ex-officio)
- Donors
- Other institutions and individuals who in the opinion of the Policy Board will contribute to the work of UNIPP may be invited by the Board to participate in the meeting as observers.

At the invitation of the Co-chairs, observers and ex-officio members may participate in the deliberations of the Policy Board.

Section 2. Role and mandate

The Policy Board provides strategic guidance and oversight to UNIPP. Its primary tasks and responsibilities are:

- Appoint the Co-Chairs of UNIPP Policy Board;
- To review, approve and update as needed the Rules of Procedure and Operational Guidelines;
- Develop, articulate and review UNIPP policy direction and vision;
- Provide advice and guidance to the UNIPP Technical Secretariat;
- Promote and support engagement with stakeholders and partners and mobilisation of resources;
- Review and approve:
 - proposals in line with Programmatic documents;
 - UNIPP Policy Board Terms of Reference and Operational Guidelines
 - UNIPP global and specific programmatic documents;
 - periodic progress reports (programmatic) consolidated by the Technical Secretariat based on the progress reports submitted by the participating UN organisations, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding

Section 3. Methods of work

3.1. Meeting procedures

Two Co-Chairs will be selected by the Policy Board from one of the member UN organisations, and one of the selected indigenous experts. The Co-chairs will rotate among the UN members at least once per year (from the time of the first Policy Board meeting i.e. July 19th 2011).

The Co-Chairs from the most recent meeting shall preside over Inter-sessional meeting of the Policy Board.

The Policy Board shall meet annually, or as determined by the Co-Chairs in consultation with membership at a location and time to be determined. In order to reduce the cost of Policy Board meetings, one of such meetings may be held via video conference or similar means of communication.

3.2. Quorum

A quorum of the Policy Board will consist of six members, including at least three indigenous members.

The Policy Board makes decisions by consensus of the full members. Decisions of the Policy Board will be duly recorded.

3.4. Progress Reports and Updates

The UNIPP Technical Secretariat will submit annual progress updates to the Policy Board for review and action as appropriate.

The MDTF will provide regular updates on the financial status of the MDTF to the Policy Board.

The Policy Board will advise the MDTF, and vice versa, on related issues that may arise.

3.5. Public Disclosure and communication

Information regarding the work of the UNIPP Policy Board shall be made public;

Information given to the press, to the beneficiaries of UNIPP, all related publicity material, official notices, reports and publications, will acknowledge the role of the relevant Government, donors, the Participating UN Organisations, MDTF, indigenous peoples and any other relevant entities as appropriate, as indicated in the Memorandum of Understanding

The MDTF, in consultation with the Policy Board and Participating UN organisations will ensure that decisions regarding the review and approval of UNIPP country programmes are posted where appropriate, for public information, on the website of the Administrative Agent.

