

UNIPP Strategic Framework

2011-2015

1. Introduction

The UN-Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (UNIPP) is a joint rights and results based initiative between the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). The purpose of UNIPP (hereinafter also referred to as the "Partnership") is to facilitate the implementation of international standards on indigenous peoples, in particular the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ILO Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (ILO Convention No. 169). UNIPP seeks to move the aspirations of indigenous peoples beyond the international arena to concrete change on the ground through joint programs at the country level, as well as regional and global initiatives aimed at enhancing capacities and ensuring coherence in policy and practice between UN partner organisations.

UNIPP is governed by a Policy Board which comprises of indigenous experts and representatives from the participating UN organisations. Based on the broad objectives of UNDRIP, UNIPP has established strategic priorities for the realisation of indigenous peoples' rights and a Multi-Partner Trust Fund to mobilize and manage resources to implement its strategic priorities.

The Partnership was created in response to the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, namely Article 41 which calls on "*organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance. Ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them shall be established.*" In addition Article 42 provides that "*the United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration.*"

These provisions led the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) to make a specific recommendation to the ILO, OHCHR and UNDP to enhance inter-agency coordination at the country level with a focus on the promotion and implementation of indigenous peoples' rights.¹ UNICEF and UNFPA joined the initiative in 2011.

¹ 39. UNPFII Report, Ninth Session (E/2010/43; E/C.19/2010/15) http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/E_2010_43_EN.pdf

"The Permanent Forum encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), ILO and UNDP to strengthen their collaborative framework and partnership for the promotion and implementation of indigenous peoples' rights through joint country programs aimed at building capacity and establishing mechanisms for consultation, participation and consent in

2. A Rights-based collaborative framework

Principles

The Partnership underscores the significant place of indigenous peoples as rights holders under international human rights law. While the initiative is global in scope, its primary focus is at the national level. UNIPP seeks to facilitate the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples, taking as a cornerstone the right to participate in decision-making, state duty to consult, and the principle of free, prior, and informed consent.

UNIPP Guiding principles

- Ownership and coherence with the principles of indigenous peoples' self-determination, consultation, participation and free, prior and informed consent.
- Gender equality and special consideration to indigenous children and youth as appropriate.
- Partnerships founded on equality, trust, inclusion and mutual accountability of governments, UN agencies and indigenous peoples.
- Integration of human rights in development processes and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples.
- The "Delivering as One" approach, improving the effectiveness and impact of the United Nations Development System at the country level, and promoting greater coherence of the UNDS activities in support of national priorities.
- Special attention to indigenous peoples having no access to other capacity development measures and support frameworks.

The Partnership seeks to translate these principles into tangible results that advance the rights of indigenous peoples, including the rights of women, children and youth.

Support for implementation of recommendations of the UN Human Rights system

UNIPP will primarily be guided and contribute to the effective implementation of recommendations and studies undertaken by the three UN mechanisms dealing with indigenous peoples: 1) the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; the Human Rights Council's Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP); and the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. This will be complemented by the comprehensive body of General Comments, and country specific Observations and Recommendations of UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) processes, various UN Special Procedures mandates, and ILO Supervisory mechanisms. In addition, UNIPP will also promote awareness and facilitate implementation of observations and judgements deriving from the regional human rights systems for regional level initiatives.

Enhancing capacities and partnerships

At the national level, UNIPP will contribute to bridging implementation gaps through support for capacity enhancement of national actors such as government, national human rights protection systems, and civil society. Programmes will seek to provide space for dialogue and common understanding between governments, indigenous peoples, civil society and the private sector through effective and sustainable partnerships. Depending on the context and priorities identified with indigenous peoples and other national counterparts, UNIPP joint programmes will engage and offer technical assistance to public sector, civil society and other actors.

accordance with ILO Convention C169 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

UNPFII Report, Tenth Session (E/2011/43-E/C.19/2011/14, paragraph 9)

The Partnership expects indigenous peoples, UN partner organisations, and where relevant, government counterparts to lead in the identification of priorities and objectives that will inform the design of UNIPP joint programmes in each country. Indigenous peoples' organisations and the three UN mechanisms on indigenous issues are also expected to play a key role in leading the design of activities at the regional and global levels.

In line with the human rights and results-based approach that all UNIPP participating organisations adhere to, UNIPP will focus on capacity development around meaningful participation which has at its core indigenous peoples as equal partners in developing policies and programmes.

Focus on marginalised and excluded groups

Also in line with the human rights and results-based approach, as well as the need to pay special attention to vulnerabilities, the UNIPP collaborative framework will have a strong focus on the promotion of the rights of indigenous women, children and youth at the regional and country level. Indigenous women face significant challenges to the full enjoyment of their human rights and suffer multiple forms of discrimination manifested in their lack of access to education, health care, economic opportunities to overcome poverty, and are subject to violence, including sexual violence and trafficking. In view of this reality the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has made a number of recommendations over the years to advancing the rights of indigenous women, children and youth. Governments, UN organisations, civil society organizations and the private sector, need to act upon these recommendations with a sense of urgency. Bearing in mind this context, UNIPP will promote the participation of these groups in decision-making processes.

UN system coherence

UNIPP will be fully aligned with the UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues² adopted in 2008 and the implementation plan³ that aims at assisting the UN system in the mainstreaming of indigenous peoples' issues in processes and programmes at the country level.

3. Context for UNIPP

Indigenous peoples have been very effective in forging strong collaborations and networks. They have driven processes and created spaces at the international level to advocate for their worldviews and raise awareness on pressing issues. The last three decades have witnessed the evolution and reinforcement of international legal and policy frameworks dealing with indigenous peoples.⁴

² United Nations Development Group Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, February 2008 at: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/UNDG_Guidelines_indigenous_FINAL.pdf

³ An Action Plan for the rolling out and implementation of the UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Issues was developed in 2008 to assist the UN system to mainstream and integrate indigenous issues in processes for operational activities and programmes at the country level, following the normative and programmatic framework presented in the UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Issues.

⁴ The creation of a Working Group on Indigenous Populations (1982), adoption of ILO Convention No. 169 (1989) and increased number of ratifications by states, creation of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2000), establishment of the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the landmark adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly (2007), and the creation of the UN Human Rights Council's Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples have all signalled significant advances.

Despite such advances to secure the rights of indigenous peoples, many continue to face challenges and gaps in the enjoyment of their rights on the ground. Indigenous peoples constitute 5% of the world's population but make up to 15% of those living in poverty. Such levels of poverty are inextricably linked to low levels of enjoyment of indigenous rights, in particular their cultural and political rights: persistent exclusion and discrimination of indigenous peoples from decision making, non-recognition and protection of their rights over ancestral lands and resources, lack of access to culturally appropriate social services, and often inadequate understanding about their way of life and traditional economies. This is compounded by an increased global demand for resources and energy. The activities of extractive industries and the private sector may create detrimental effects on indigenous peoples who often face dispossession of their lands, contamination of their environment, and a negative impact on their livelihoods and well-being.

Indigenous children around the world are less likely than other children to be in school and more likely to drop out of school. Indigenous girls are at even greater risk of being excluded from school, while indigenous children with disabilities also have special challenges. Studies have shown increasing rates of suicides, substance and solvent abuse among indigenous youth.⁵

Indigenous women present deleterious socio demographic indicators and face large inequalities in terms of access to social services and economic opportunities. Women face multiple forms of discrimination linked to gender, ethnic and socio-economic factors. For example, maternal mortality tends to be higher among indigenous women compared to other population groups. Nonetheless, important changes have taken place over the last twenty years. Indigenous women's organizations and networks are playing an influential role. Their empowerment is leading indigenous women to recognize that they have the ability and knowledge to influence specific contexts for advancing their human rights.

In order to translate international commitments into national reality and effectively implement international instrument a three-dimensional process is necessary. Firstly, an information-sharing and awareness-raising process would allow various national stakeholders to understand and recognize what are the rights and key issues of indigenous peoples. Secondly, information-sharing advocacy and consultation would create an enabling environment for implementation of national laws or in the absence of such laws, a domestic standard-setting process. These processes may result in the ratification of international instruments; adoption of new laws and policies or reviews of existing ones. Thirdly, legal and policy frameworks require effective implementation and monitoring to ensure the enjoyment of rights, including appropriate budget allocations, design and delivery of rights-based programmes and services that are also culturally sensitive.

Against this backdrop, UNIPP seeks to build on the global momentum gathered by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and support the action of indigenous peoples' organisations to accelerate and achieve key results in the implementation of these rights. UNIPP's collaborative framework will benefit from UN's wide country presence across the globe, comparative advantage of UN partner organisations, and unique partnership with governments and other relevant partners to address indigenous peoples' concerns and aspirations into national development policies and programmes. Consultative/participatory mechanisms and review, as well as implementation of national legal and policy frameworks will be central to this process.

⁵ See UNICEF Innocenti Digest No. 11, 2004.

4. Regional considerations

UNIPP will focus its efforts in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America on distinct challenges and opportunities during the 2011-2015 period.

As in other parts of the world, the majority of indigenous peoples in Africa live in extreme poverty and on the margins of their respective societies. Socio-economic indicators demonstrate low levels of enjoyment of rights and basic services compared to national averages. While the question of the existence of indigenous peoples in Africa has been controversial, there is an emerging awareness of this issue and standard setting related to indigenous peoples. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights clarified the concept of indigenous peoples in the African context with its 2005 Report.⁶ The Report put forward criteria which facilitates the identification of indigenous peoples. These include cultures and ways of life which differ considerably from the dominant society and when such cultures are under threat, including of extinction. A key element for the survival of indigenous peoples' and their particular way of life is access to their traditional lands, territories and resources. Many indigenous peoples in Africa suffer from discrimination on account of being regarded as less developed and less advanced than dominant sectors of society. African indigenous peoples include, among others, pastoralists and hunter-gatherers. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights concluded that "the favouring of settled agriculture over hunting, gathering and nomadic herding has been instrumental in both marginalizing and stigmatizing some peoples and inspiring them to identify themselves as indigenous groups"⁷.

Efforts of the UN partner organisations in the region have focused on information-sharing and awareness-raising on indigenous peoples' issues, with a few countries engaged in the process of standard setting. There have been important legal developments in the region. In a landmark case, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights recognized in 2010 the plight of the Endorois people, finding the Kenyan government to be in violation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The Commission recommended that Kenya provide the Endorois community both restitution of ancestral lands and compensation for damage done to their lands and the community since they were evicted.

A law on indigenous peoples was adopted by the Republic of the Congo in 2010. This was the first of its kind on the continent and has created momentum in the Central African region for the potential development of similar laws in Cameroon and Central African Republic. In August 2010, Central African Republic became the first country in Africa to ratify ILO Convention No. 169. In other parts of Africa, Namibian and Kenyan reports under the Universal Periodic Review process include clear commitments to the enhancement of indigenous peoples' rights, as enshrined by the UN Declaration. The UN Declaration was widely supported and voted for by African countries. Despite such progress, most laws and policies in African countries do not take into account the rights of indigenous peoples. Public opinion, awareness and understanding of indigenous peoples' rights, including indigenous women and children, therefore remain low.

Against this backdrop, UNIPP will focus on developing capacities to enhance the understanding and awareness on indigenous peoples as well as build support for the adoption of legal and policy frameworks that are conducive to the realisation of the rights of indigenous peoples in Africa. It will also support initiatives that look into the specific

⁶ Report of the African Commission's Working Group of Experts on Indigenous Populations/Communities, ACPHR and IWGIA 2005, p93

⁷ African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Reports of the Working Group of experts on indigenous populations/communities, Banjul, Gambia, 2005, p.92

vulnerabilities of indigenous women and children. In particular, UNIPP will seek to contribute by promoting the success stories, good practices, and pioneering efforts in countries such as Congo and Cameroon, as a means of potentially influencing other regions of Africa. UNIPP will also seek to facilitate south-south cooperation and peer-learning. This would enable African countries to benefit from the long-term experience and successes on indigenous issues in regions such as Latin America.

Asia Pacific is a culturally diverse region and home to the largest number of indigenous peoples, who are often among the most marginalized in society. In Asia and the Pacific, there are mixed trends on the situation of indigenous peoples. Some countries explicitly recognise indigenous peoples' identity and rights in national and international contexts while others either do not recognise their existence or identify them as ethnic minorities. In such contexts there remains a need for enhanced awareness-raising and advocacy on the rights of indigenous peoples. The understanding and ratification of international instruments pertaining to indigenous peoples is largely limited in Asia-Pacific to Nepal and Fiji. These are the only countries in the region that have ratified ILO Convention No. 169. While the understanding of indigenous issues is varied and contextual, there are many strong indigenous advocacy networks and organisations that could be instrumental partners to UNIPP.

With the growth of economies in Asia, and the increased focus on economic development through extraction and development of natural resources, as well as development projects, a number of countries in the region are witnessing social unrest and conflict between corporations, the state and indigenous peoples. Continuous efforts to promote dialogue and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples are essential in such contexts. In Asia Pacific UNIPP will aim at supporting regional policy dialogues on these issues, and promoting a human rights-based approach to development. A key pillar will involve support to and establishment of strategic partnerships with indigenous peoples' organizations and networks operating in the region.

Latin America has witnessed the emergence of indigenous issues as a priority in a number of countries. More than 15 countries have either ratified ILO Convention No. 169, conducted constitutional reviews, or enacted domestic laws on indigenous issues, including laws on consultation and participation. Indigenous peoples' organisations and states have engaged with regional mechanisms, more notably with the Inter-American human rights system: the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Jurisprudence of the Inter-American Human Rights System on indigenous peoples' rights is rich and provides a strong legal basis to address a wide range of issues, including land rights and natural resources. The case of the *Mayagna Awas Tingni Community v. Nicaragua* (2001) was a landmark case in which the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, with binding authority, held that the right to property applied to Indigenous peoples' ownership of their land in accordance with their own indigenous norms. An important number of cases such as the *Saramaka people v. Suriname* (2007) or the case of the *Xákmok Kásek Indigenous Community v. Paraguay* (2010) have largely contributed to consolidating the development of legal standards in the region and to put indigenous issues at the forefront of national and regional debates.

In spite of high visibility of indigenous issues, the region is experiencing increased conflict and social unrest between corporations and states and indigenous peoples over extractive industries and development projects. Indigenous peoples are struggling to preserve control over their lands and natural resources. In numerous countries, the ILO supervisory mechanisms and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples have highlighted these matters and issued a number of recommendations, including the State duty to consult with a view to obtaining free, prior and informed consent on the use of indigenous lands and natural resources. Similarly, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has carried out missions to Bolivia, Paraguay and Colombia, and made specific recommendations to

governments in the region and UN agencies on the need to realize the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In Latin America the disparities and level of inequalities are glaring. Available data demonstrates the disproportionate context of poverty, exclusion and marginalization affecting indigenous peoples, which is even more severe among indigenous women, children and youth. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean indicates that child mortality is a full 70 per cent higher among indigenous children than non-indigenous children. Indicators of poverty as well as maternal mortality and morbidity are systematically higher amid indigenous women than non-indigenous women.

In the Latin American context, UNIPP seeks to strengthen the establishment of participation and consultative mechanisms and processes in all national processes and development programmes including with indigenous women and youth. It would do so through a particular focus on extractive industries and conflict prevention. It will also aim to work on sustainable dialogue mechanisms which involve all stakeholders, including extractive industries, relevant ministries, law enforcement agencies, national human rights institutions, the judiciary, and community-based institutions. Tracking progress in the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples will be part of the Partnership's focus in Latin America. UNIPP will invest in strengthening capacities of UN Country Teams and support the establishment of UN-Indigenous Peoples partnership mechanisms, learning from experiences across different countries.

5. Strategic areas of support

Across all regions, discrimination in participation, decision-making, access to justice, and matters which directly or indirectly affect indigenous peoples is a common challenge. Indigenous peoples across regions also witness increased threats and challenges to protecting their underlying their rights to lands, territories and resources, due to a range of variables. The international human rights system has made a large number of recommendations to states of the United Nations in an effort to address these issues. UNIPP provides a collaborative framework and platform for addressing these often, unaddressed or neglected concerns.

UNIPP's strategic framework priorities are informed by the contextual analysis. They are also based on the principles, lines of support and thematic areas identified in the UNIPP Collaborative Framework Terms of Reference⁸:

Themes:

- **Legislative review and reform:** develop capacities of State institutions to have indigenous peoples' rights included and recognized within the national legal system, including through constitutional reforms, development of legislation and incorporation at administrative levels both through indigenous specific legislation such as in areas of non-discrimination.
- **Democratic governance and strengthening of indigenous peoples' institutions:** supporting the institutional and organizational capacity to fully participate in governance and policy processes at local and national levels
- **Access to justice: recognition and strengthening of indigenous customary law and justice systems;** addressing discrimination within the national legal system and the inclusion of indigenous customary law and justice systems.

⁸ UNIPP Terms of Reference, 15 February 2010

- **Access to land and ancestral territories:** developing and strengthening capacities for land titling, demarcation and use of ancestral territories, including local capacity development initiatives and those aimed at securing greater recognition of indigenous lands.
- **Natural resources and extractive industries:** promoting a framework for conflict prevention, consultation, participation, benefit-sharing and dispute resolution. This area will have a special focus on conflict prevention initiatives around ancestral land and use of natural resources, in particular the need to develop capacity of indigenous communities in negotiation skills and dispute resolution in line with international legal instruments.
- **Access to education and health:** promoting indigenous peoples, including women and youth, to the right to quality, culturally pertinent education that respects indigenous peoples' histories, languages and traditions, and guarantees their right to pertinent, culturally sensitive and quality health services. This would include reproductive health services in order to reduce the high levels of maternal and infant mortality and morbidities which affect indigenous women and new borns.

The partnership seeks to further these themes through:

- A. Capacity development for the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples across the thematic areas described.
- B. Establishment or strengthening of consultative and participatory mechanisms to operationalize the principles of consultation, free, prior and informed consent, and the right to participate in decision-making, which enables partnerships between the states, indigenous peoples and the UN Country Teams.
- C. Support to pilot initiatives and countries during the inception phase, where there is momentum for development of laws and policies, and their implementation in a short time frame.
- D. UNIPP will also aim at supporting the establishment of knowledge networks and c sharing of important experiences.

6. UNIPP Support Streams

6.1. Joint programmes

Joint programs at the country level are the principal thrust of UNIPP as the Partnership aims at having a direct and lasting impact on the advancement of indigenous peoples' rights at the national and local levels. These programs will address priorities and issues identified in partnership with indigenous peoples and advocacy will be an important area of focus since recognition of indigenous rights and their implementation requires well-structured design and development of advocacy messages and strategies.

UNIPP will support joint programs among the UN partner organisations or individual UN partner programs based on the following criteria:

- Specific needs to be addressed related to the implementation of key indigenous peoples' rights, including recent ratification of ILO Convention 169 or specific requests for assistance from governments and State institutions.
- Consultation with and expressed interest from national partners and indigenous peoples taking into account the level of organization and capacity of indigenous peoples' authorities and organizations,

- Comparative advantage and capacities of field presences/country/regional offices, and coordination with existing United Nations programs.
- Opportunities offered by United Nations coordination processes through the UN Resident Coordinators systems and UNCTs (including CCA/UNDAF and Joint Office initiatives and the 'Delivering as One' pilot countries).
- Specific recommendations emanating from UN human rights system and mechanisms dealing with indigenous peoples.

UNIPP has identified a number of countries that meet the criteria above and have the potential to offer results in a short to medium time horizon. At the initial stage of the Partnership the following countries have been identified and invited in the first call for proposals since they present unique opportunities: Central African Republic; Cameroon; Republic of Congo; Bolivia; Nicaragua; and Nepal. In the Central African region, the Republic of Congo has adopted a land mark national legislation on indigenous peoples, which requires support for its implementation. In August 2010 the Central African Republic became the first country to ratify ILO Convention 169 in Africa, and faces an acute lack of resources and capacity to implement the new instrument. UNIPP's intervention is important to sustain momentum after the ratification. While Cameroon does not have a national law protecting the rights of indigenous peoples, there is space for involving indigenous peoples in the preparation of a draft law. In Latin America, Bolivia has incorporated the UN Declaration into its national legal framework, and there are opportunities to support state institutions to implement consultation processes, as well as strengthen protection mechanisms for highly vulnerable indigenous peoples. Nicaragua has ratified ILO Convention No. 169 and there is space for dialogue and coordination to implement its provisions through a unique mechanism of the UN and indigenous peoples who are working with state organs. Lastly, Nepal ratified the ILO Convention 169 and is going through a historic nation building process after a decade of conflict. Indigenous rights are an important area of consideration at the Constituent Assembly, and Nepal's national legal framework requires alignment with international standards. This presents an opportunity for UNIPP support.

In addition to providing support to specific joint programmes at the country level, UNIPP will contribute to ensuring that UN Country Teams have the technical skills to promote indigenous peoples' rights and provide support to national counterparts. Steps will therefore be taken to build on the implementation of the UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and the inter-agency implementation plan that focuses on developing the capacity of UN Country Teams to integrate indigenous peoples' issues in UN development processes and programmes. This includes UN Common Country Assessments and UN Development Assistance Frameworks (CCA/UNDAFs)⁹.

6.2. Regional support

UNIPP will play a role at the regional level to facilitate policy dialogues with a wide range of actors, including regional intergovernmental organizations and indigenous peoples' networks. It will generate regional platforms for effective sharing of knowledge and experiences which would enable partnerships and South-South cooperation. UNIPP's regional line of support will aim at sustaining and strengthening the existing work of the participating UN organisations that have a regional scope.

⁹ UNIPP will also contribute to the implementation of the CCA/UNDAF Guidelines which include the mainstreaming of indigenous peoples' issues and rights.

There is general consensus among a number of indigenous peoples' organisations that in Asia, the *Regional Programme on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development* (RIPP) and ILO's *PRO-169* are important programmatic initiatives by the UN system. RIPP was designed to provide a regional space to discuss indigenous peoples' issues with a range of partners including governments, indigenous peoples' organizations and other stakeholders. It has been recognized by the UN Permanent Forum and others as a unique initiative with a distinct presence in Asia. An external assessment finalized in October 2010 acknowledges RIPP's contribution to improved engagement between governments and indigenous peoples, and recommends that this should remain a priority area in the region. The assessment recommends that RIPP should strengthen its work with governments and UN agencies.

In this context, UNIPP will provide support to the strengthening of the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development (RIPP) during the inception phase with a focus on UNIPP's thematic areas.

ILO PRO-169 has undertaken several projects in different parts of Asia. For instance activities in India, which ratified ILO Convention 107, included research and publications that raised awareness on indigenous issues. In Nepal, the activities of PRO 169 on awareness-raising achieved spectacular success through with the Government's ratification of ILO Convention No. 169. PRO-169 has also facilitated high-level dialogues on indigenous issues in Nepal, including support to indigenous peoples who are members of its Constituent Assembly. This has also resulted in inclusion of key issues in Nepal's draft constitution, including on identity, participation, self-determination, and autonomy. In Bangladesh, the government is considering the ratification of the ILO Convention No. 169.

Dialogues, training sessions, publications and related activities have contributed to these important developments by bringing together governmental leaders, including members of the cabinet and parliament, indigenous leaders, UN agencies and civil society actors. PRO-169 has facilitated meetings of the newly formed Indigenous Peoples' Parliamentary Caucus in Bangladesh, which lobbied for inclusion of indigenous issues in the constitution, through partnership with indigenous leaders. Similar programmes have been initiated in other countries of Asia.

UNIPP therefore seeks to retain and extend the scope of activities of PRO-169 and UNDP-RIPP in Asia to consolidate the gains made in the region, particularly with regard to mainstreaming of indigenous issues in governance and development. It is equally important to expand the scope of the partnership and collaboration between UN organisations, indigenous peoples and national governments. Existing networks and alliances need to be nurtured, strengthened and expanded.

In Latin America, UNIPP will encourage the promotion and advancement of indigenous peoples' rights, including indigenous women's rights to health, education, decent employment/work and participation in decision making. UNIPP will engage with and support the strengthening of the indigenous women's networks in Latin America.

The Africa region suffers from a dearth of information and data on the situation of women and children. This hinders effective advocacy and evidence building on their behalf. To this end, UNIPP will partner with the UN, governments and indigenous peoples organisations to fill in these gaps and will use evidence generated to advocate for ratification of ILO Convention 169, legislative reform and support work that results in improved social, economic, cultural and political indicators.

6.3. Global support initiatives

The UNIPP Policy Board will identify activities with a global scope that could reinforce regional and country initiatives in key thematic areas while taking into account key global issues and international developments which impact on the rights of indigenous peoples. These global support initiatives will be informed by global advocacy platforms for indigenous rights, as well as on the basis of gaps and priorities identified through country and regional initiatives. In particular UNIPP will seek to support, but not be limited, to research, and advice on major topical issues. The following areas are illustrative examples of global initiatives which UNIPP may seek to support:

- Aid effectiveness and indigenous peoples: This potential line of work would focus on the impact of aid effectiveness policies on indigenous peoples, including an analysis of how the UN human rights system has addressed this issue, as well as of the impact of bilateral and multilateral cooperation on indigenous peoples' rights.
- The impact of extractive industries on indigenous communities: Research on practices and trends identified in the area of extractive industries operating in or close to indigenous territories. This could potentially consist of global convenings, research and documentation of case studies keeping in mind the frame of what should be practices in accordance with international human rights standards.
- Impact of armed conflicts on indigenous peoples: This potential line of work would document the situation of indigenous peoples in countries affected by armed conflict and analyse how various actors, including humanitarian agencies, could adjust their interventions to capture specific needs of indigenous communities, in accordance with human rights and, where relevant, humanitarian law.
- Rights of indigenous children and women: This potential line of work may involve analysis to determine progress being made in meeting the MDGs and other internationally agreed indicators among indigenous peoples, with special reference to women, children and the youth. It would also potentially focus on the impact of multiple forms of discrimination and intersecting inequalities.

Research and knowledge on indigenous peoples' issues is a central pillar of UNIPP. This line of work will help build the foundation for future work and engagement with other partners, in particular with indigenous peoples organisations. Research activities will be carried out in close coordination and collaboration with the 3 UN mechanisms dealing with indigenous peoples, and bear in mind the recommendations of the UN human rights system in these areas.