



# **THE 2017 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

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## **Update for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

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## Committee Overview

### *Recent Developments*

In the final months of 2016, the topic of indigenous peoples and the role of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) were discussed throughout the United Nations (UN).<sup>1</sup> At the opening of the General Assembly Third Committee on 4 October 2016, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs highlighted the need for the Economic and Social Council and its commissions, including UNPFII, to form partnerships and take a leading role in promoting people-centered development policies.<sup>2</sup> From 17-21 October 2016, the chair of UNPFII, Álvaro Pop, attended the Conference on World Food Security at the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Pop spoke on the topics of urbanization, rural transformation, and incorporating indigenous peoples in the implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015).<sup>4</sup>

At its 71<sup>st</sup> session on 19 December 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution 71/178 on “Rights of indigenous peoples,” which highlighted the work of UNPFII in promoting indigenous rights, underscored the necessity of incorporating indigenous voices across the UN system, and noted that 2017 is the ten-year anniversary of the adoption of the 2007 *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP).<sup>5</sup> The resolution encouraged Member States to review their progress in the implementation of UNDRIP and to actively participate in a high-level discussion that will be hosted during UNPFII’s 2017 session.<sup>6</sup> The goal of this discussion, along with several other meetings being held in 2017, is to review the measures that have been taken to promote indigenous rights and implement UNDRIP and to discuss how to better incorporate indigenous peoples into the UN System, including by strengthening or modifying UNPFII’s mandate.<sup>7</sup>

On 4 November 2016, the chair of UNPFII issued a statement regarding Standing Rock Sioux peoples of the United States of America, who are currently engaged in a dispute with the American government regarding the use of indigenous lands for the development of a pipeline.<sup>8</sup> The statement called upon the United States of America to uphold its commitment to UNDRIP and ensure that development affecting indigenous lands be undertaken with free, prior, and informed consent of the indigenous peoples.<sup>9</sup> The future of the pipeline remains to be determined. A similar statement was issued on 22 December regarding evictions of the Shuar community of Nankints, Ecuador.<sup>10</sup> The evictions were undertaken by the Ecuadorian military as part of an effort to develop the area for mining.<sup>11</sup> Mr. Pop encouraged the government of Ecuador to establish a dialogue with indigenous organizations and to work to protect the collective and individual rights of indigenous peoples as outlined in UNDRIP and *Convention No. 169* (1989) of the International Labour Organization.<sup>12</sup>

As 2016 came to a close, UNPFII looked forward to the following year and, at the beginning of December, issued a request for indigenous organizations to complete a questionnaire regarding the implementation of recommendations made at the 15<sup>th</sup> session of UNPFII earlier in the year.<sup>13</sup> The questionnaire was designed to elicit feedback regarding the effectiveness of UNPFII and its recommendations and broader goals regarding the realization of the rights of

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<sup>1</sup> UNPFII, *End of Year Statement by UNPFII Chair*, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> UN General Assembly, *Mr. Wu Hongbo Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs: Opening of the Third Committee of the General Assembly*, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> UN DSPD, *Chair at the 43 Session of the Conference on World Food Security (CFS)*, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> UN General Assembly, *Rights of indigenous peoples (A/RES/71/178)*, 2016.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> UN DSPD, *Expert meeting on UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, 2016; UN DSPD, *UNPFII Sixteenth Session 24 April to 5 May 2017*, 2016.

<sup>8</sup> UNPFII, *Statement from Mr. Alvaro Pop Ac, Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and Ms. Dalee Dorough and Chief Edward John, Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the Protests on the Dakota Access Pipeline*, 2016.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> UN DSPD, *Statement from the Chair on the Violence Experienced by the Shuar Community of Nankints, Ecuador*, 2016.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> UNPFII, *Questionnaire to Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations*, 2016.

indigenous peoples.<sup>14</sup> The results of the questionnaire will be compiled into a report for the 16<sup>th</sup> session of UNPFII.<sup>15</sup> The year ended with a final statement by Mr. Pop on 31 December.<sup>16</sup> Mr. Pop noted some of the accomplishments of UNPFII throughout the year, but also warned that the protection of indigenous rights requires action by governments and UN institutions.<sup>17</sup> He spoke at length regarding the opportunity presented by the Sustainable Development Goals, which may allow for indigenous voices to be better heard nationally and internationally, and he highlighted that it will be important to capitalize on that opportunity in the coming years.<sup>18</sup> The 16<sup>th</sup> session of UNPFII is scheduled to begin on 24 April 2017 with the special theme of “Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: measures taken to implement the Declaration.”<sup>19</sup> While the provisional agenda includes following up on previous recommendations regarding indigenous women and indigenous youth and discussions on the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, its focus is discussions concerning the implementation of UNDRIP.<sup>20</sup>

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*In addition to giving context for how the UN is working to further incorporate indigenous peoples into multilateral meeting discussions, this website offers an excellent list of background documents on indigenous participation as well as notes on the current state of indigenous participation within the UN. Delegates should consider the precedents listed here, but also to what extent indigenous participation could be improved at the multilateral level, regardless of what topic they are discussing. This source also provides insight into the practical nature of how General Assembly resolutions are implemented at a high level.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/71/178)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/71/481). Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/178>

*This resolution, which was drafted by the General Assembly Third Committee and then adopted by the General Assembly Plenary without a vote, sets the stage for international action on indigenous issues going into 2017. It includes several new and specific actions, including calling for a high-level event to be hosted alongside UNPFII’s 2017 session and establishing 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages after a recommendation from UNPFII. This resolution will help delegates gain a better understanding of the current international consensus on indigenous issues and how the international community seeks to address them.*

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. (2016, December 30). *End of Year Statement by UNPFII Chair*. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/news/2016/12/end-of-year-statement-by-unpfii-chair/>

*This end-of-year statement by Mr. Álvaro Pop, the chair of UNPFII, highlights many of the Forum’s successes in 2016, including those of its recommendations that were implemented by other UN entities. Mr. Pop also goes on to highlight some of the challenges that will likely be faced by indigenous communities in 2017 and beyond, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Delegates should read this and consider how effective the Forum was in 2016 and the context in which UNPFII will be operating in 2017.*

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> UNPFII, *End of Year Statement by UNPFII Chair*, 2016.

<sup>17</sup> UN DSPD, *UNPFII Sixteenth Session 24 April to 5 May 2017*, 2016.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.



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## I. Global Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

### *Recent Developments*

On 13 September 2016, the United Nations (UN) commemorated the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the 2007 *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) by hosting a panel at UN Headquarters in New York City.<sup>21</sup> Among the speakers was the Chief of the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), Chandra-Roy Henriksen, who spoke about the arduous process of adopting UNDRIP and the persistent challenges in implementing the declaration.<sup>22</sup> In the months since her speech, the implementation of UNDRIP has been a topic of discussion within several UN bodies.<sup>23</sup> On 26 September 2016, the Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted resolution 33/25 to amend the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.<sup>24</sup> The revised mandate empowers the Expert Mechanism to better assist states in their implementation of UNDRIP and requires the preparation of an annual study that assesses the implementation of UNDRIP globally.<sup>25</sup> HRC also asked the Expert Mechanism to prepare a report on best practices and challenges in the business sector faced by indigenous peoples.<sup>26</sup> On 16 November 2016, the General Assembly Third Committee adopted a draft resolution on the “Rights of indigenous peoples” that was later adopted as General Assembly resolution 71/178.<sup>27</sup> The resolution reiterated past calls regarding the need for collective action at every level in the implementation of UNDRIP, as well as taking steps to bring indigenous issues to the forefront by declaring 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages.<sup>28</sup> In taking this step, the General Assembly sought to mobilize resources that otherwise would not be available.<sup>29</sup> The resolution further highlighted the loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to protect them.

In response to past requests, specifically those made in General Assembly resolution 70/232 and UNDRIP, to increase the level of indigenous participation in UN meetings, the General Assembly began hosting a series of information consultations with indigenous representatives in December 2016.<sup>30</sup> The first of these consultations was held from 14-15 December 2016.<sup>31</sup> This meeting was attended by dozens of indigenous representatives and began a dialogue on not only how to recognize indigenous organizations, but also how to ensure they were able to speak in a multilateral setting.<sup>32</sup> Three additional consultations will be held in 2017.<sup>33</sup> Meetings are also taking place in recognition of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNDRIP, including an expert meeting that took place from 25-27 January 2017.<sup>34</sup> The implementation of UNDRIP was discussed, as well as how to better structure indigenous mechanisms in order to better promote the implementation of UNDRIP.<sup>35</sup> The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been actively engaged in several of these meetings as they gather input for their draft policy on “Engaging with Indigenous Peoples,” which is expected to be published at UNESCO’s next session in April 2017.<sup>36</sup> The policy will seek to formalize and improve the organization’s methods for engaging with indigenous peoples.<sup>37</sup>

When the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, addressed the General Assembly on 28 October 2016, she described how the high-level implementation of UNDRIP was not being

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<sup>21</sup> UN DPI, *9th Anniversary of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - Press Conference*, 2016.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> UN General Assembly, *Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/71/178)*, 2016.

<sup>24</sup> UN HRC, *Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/HRC/RES/33/25)*, 2016.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> OHCHR, *Human Rights Council Adopts 18 Texts, Creates Mandate on the Right to Development*, 2016.

<sup>27</sup> UN General Assembly, *Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/71/178)*, 2016.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> UN General Assembly, *Roadmap for Consultation Process*, 2016.

<sup>31</sup> *Informal Consultations on Indigenous Participation at the UN*, Indian Law Resource Center, 2016.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> UN General Assembly, *Roadmap for Consultation Process*, 2016.

<sup>34</sup> UN DSPD, *Expert meeting on UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, 2016.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>36</sup> UNESCO, *Towards a UNESCO Policy on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples*, 2016.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*

matched with commensurate action at the national level and how indigenous rights continued to be undermined globally.<sup>38</sup> She specifically highlighted how many conservation efforts are undertaken with no indigenous consultation, despite their impact on indigenous communities and lands, and she called for Member States and conservation organizations to take steps to better comply with indigenous rights frameworks.<sup>39</sup> In a more recent statement made on 25 January 2017, Ms. Tauli-Corpuz highlighted some positive progress in the implementation of UNDRIP, especially in Bolivia, which has codified several of UNDRIP's provisions into law.<sup>40</sup> However, she also recognized that implementation remains limited, with some Member States rolling back progress, including, she noted, the United States, which recently altered its position on the development of a pipeline on indigenous lands.<sup>41</sup> Civil society organizations have also been critical of governments' lack of adherence to UNDRIP in recent months.<sup>42</sup> In particular, multiple groups have been critical of the Canadian government, which stated in November 2016 that it would accommodate and consult with indigenous communities on natural resource development projects, as required by the Canadian Constitution, but would not obtain their free, prior, and informed consent, as stipulated by UNDRIP.<sup>43</sup>

Free, prior, and informed consent remains a contentious topic for Member States, although some progress has been made on developing international standards for its implementation.<sup>44</sup> On 10 October 2016, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN released a manual on free, prior, and informed consent, which provides a voluntary framework for development projects that could have an impact upon the natural or cultural resources of indigenous peoples.<sup>45</sup> As disputes between indigenous communities and governments continue to escalate, often over commercial development, having such tools available may assist states in their implementation of UNDRIP and ensure that indigenous peoples are able to realize their rights in relation to the control of their lands and resources.<sup>46</sup> In a statement made to the Arctic Circle Assembly in October 2016, former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke on the link between the protection of indigenous rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>47</sup> He noted that indigenous knowledge systems are increasingly being recognized as important tools in the advancement of sustainable development and in combatting climate change, which makes the protection of indigenous rights and the commitment of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) to leave no one behind critical to global progress.<sup>48</sup>

### Annotated Bibliography

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*This FAO manual is among the first international documents to provide an in-depth framework for Member States on how to integrate free, prior, and informed consent into national development policies. Drafted in response to escalating tensions over the past decade between indigenous communities and governments over resource use, the manual is very practical and provides insight into how to implement several provisions of UNDRIP at the ground level. The document also provides quality background information and definitions in addition to processes, examples, and roadmaps.*

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<sup>38</sup> OHCHR, *Statement of Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, at the 71st session of the General Assembly*, 2016.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> UN Recognizes Ecuador, Bolivia for Support of Indigenous Rights, La Nueva Televisora del Sur, 2017.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Barrera, Canada Could Face '20 Standing Rocks,' says Mohawk Chief as Ottawa Rejects Need for 'Consent', *Aboriginal Peoples Television Network*, 2016.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> UN DPI, *New UN Manual Gives More Say to Indigenous Peoples in Development Projects that Affect Them*, 2016.

<sup>45</sup> FAO, *Free, Prior and Informed Consent – An Indigenous Peoples' Right and a Good Practice for Local Communities: A Manual for Project Practitioners*, 2016.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> UN DPI, *New UN Manual Gives More Say to Indigenous Peoples in Development Projects that Affect Them*, 2016.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.



United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016). *9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – Press Conference*. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: <http://webtv.un.org/media/watch/9th-anniversary-of-the-un-declaration-of-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples-press-conference/5123099266001>

*This video of a press conference held to commemorate the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of UNDRIP features a panel of indigenous representatives that includes Chandra-Roy Henriksen, Chief of the Secretariat of UNPFII. The description of the challenges not only in drafting and adopting UNDRIP, but also in implementing the provisions today, provides insight into how leaders in the field of indigenous issues view the current landscape. Delegates should listen carefully, particularly to Ms. Henriksen, not only as she describes what needs to be done for successful implementation of UNDRIP, but also with regard to some of the successes she notes.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/71/178)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/71/481). Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.3/71/L.17/Rev.1>

*This resolution, which was drafted in the General Assembly Third Committee and adopted by consensus in the General Assembly Plenary, constitutes the most recent effort by the General Assembly to mainstream indigenous issues. While delegates should be aware of the new items in the resolution, it behooves them to read each clause, as the resolution summarizes most multilateral actions taken to date on the implementation of UNDRIP and also highlights many areas of opportunity. Delegates should also take note of what programs and specialized agencies are mentioned in the resolution and to what extent the General Assembly recommended they take action, as these bodies may be helpful in developing multilateral solutions to indigenous issues.*

United Nations, Human Rights Council, Thirty-third session. (2016). *Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/HRC/RES/33/25)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/33/25>

*This HRC resolution provides a rare and direct glimpse into how UN bodies use mandates to further certain goals. While there is general information in this resolution that pertains to the implementation of UNDRIP, delegates should focus on how HRC is reworking the mandate of the Expert Mechanism and what impact it is trying to have on UNDRIP's implementation. Understanding the potentials and weaknesses of the mandates of bodies focused on indigenous issues will help delegates maximize the impact UNPFII can have.*

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2016, October 17). *Statement of Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, at the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly*. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20748&LangID=E>

*This statement from Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, presents an excellent overview of the current state of indigenous issues at every level and what has changed in the past year. Ms. Tauli-Corpuz describes how difficult it is to reconcile the viewpoints of indigenous groups and Member States and also notes some best practices and areas of work. As delegates read this statement, they should consider what actions their Member State has taken in the last year, how their indigenous communities have been impacted, and what policies their Member State would support to help promote indigenous rights going forward.*

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## II. Sustainable Tourism and the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples

### *Recent Developments*

With the start of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017, the international community has reaffirmed its commitment to working towards sustainable tourism as a means of promoting sustainable development.<sup>49</sup> The role of indigenous peoples in promoting sustainable tourism and how it in turn affects the economic, social, and cultural rights of indigenous peoples have remained of special interest to Member States.<sup>50</sup>

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted resolution 71/240 on the “Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection” on 21 December 2016, highlighting the importance of including indigenous peoples and local communities in the process of developing infrastructure for sustainable tourism.<sup>51</sup> The General Assembly further emphasized the need to include indigenous women and youth in decision-making processes as a form of empowerment and contribution to sustainable development.<sup>52</sup> Furthermore, the General Assembly called upon specialized agencies, UN bodies, and other organizations and multilateral financial institutions to increase their efforts in providing Member States with all necessary technical and financial assistance to further sustainable tourism.<sup>53</sup> The official opening ceremony for the Year took place on 18 January 2017 at the Spanish Tourism Fair FITUR in Madrid, where participants reiterated the importance of political and social dialogue in promoting investments and actions towards sustainable tourism.<sup>54</sup> A number of further meetings and conferences will consider the issue throughout 2017, including the 6<sup>th</sup> International United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Conference on Tourism Statistics, entitled “Measuring Sustainable Tourism” and to be held in the Philippines in June 2017; the celebration of World Tourism Day in Qatar in September 2017; and the UNWTO General Assembly in Chengdu, China, in October 2017.<sup>55</sup>

In October 2016, 50 representatives from national statistical offices and ministries of environment in 13 Member States, as well as subnational administrations, the private sector, civil society, and multilateral organizations, participated in the first meeting of the Working Group of Experts on Measuring Sustainable Tourism (MST).<sup>56</sup> The working group concluded that a statistical framework was key in order to measure sustainable tourism and provide states with an effective mechanism to assess their own policies.<sup>57</sup> The meeting marked an important milestone in UNWTO efforts towards MST, which began in 2015.<sup>58</sup>

At the national level, states continue to invest in initiatives that empower indigenous communities and boost their wellbeing and productivity.<sup>59</sup> In December 2016, the Canadian Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs announced the implementation of a five-year national strategy, the *Path Forward 2016-2021*, to support “new and existing Indigenous tourism businesses, enhance product and market readiness, increase the visibility of the Indigenous tourism industry, and facilitate the sharing of best practices within and between regions.”<sup>60</sup> The initiative was launched in light of the Canadian government’s growing desire to strengthen ties with indigenous peoples in the country, emphasizing the importance of their rights.<sup>61</sup> Western Economic Diversification Canada, a federal department focusing on economic development in western Canada, recently launched a program to invest in non-

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<sup>49</sup> UNWTO, *2017 is the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development*, 2016.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> UN General Assembly, *Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection (A/RES/71/240)*, 2016.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> UNWTO, *International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017 kicks off*, 2017.

<sup>55</sup> UNWTO, *A roadmap for celebrating together*, 2016, p. 15.

<sup>56</sup> UNWTO, *UNWTO hosts 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group of Experts on Measuring Sustainable Tourism*, 2016.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> Canada, *Canada Supports the Indigenous Tourism Industry*, 2016.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Canada, *Statement by Minister Carolyn Bennett at the launch of the reconciliation theme for Canada150 on the Winter Solstice*, 2016; Canada, *Canada Supports the Indigenous Tourism Industry*, 2016.

profit organizations targeting indigenous economic growth.<sup>62</sup> The program's objectives include increasing indigenous participation in economic opportunities, such as those relating to natural resource development and tourist attractions.<sup>63</sup>

Civil society continues to play a pivotal role in the promotion of sustainable tourism, as the example of the Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority (WHPA) shows.<sup>64</sup> This nonprofit organization, located in Saskatoon, Canada, teaches visitors about the history and culture of nomadic tribes that have lived in the Northern Plains for more than 6000 years.<sup>65</sup> The Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC) awarded the WHPA with the *National Aboriginal (Indigenous) Cultural Tourism Award* in November, recognizing the organization's efforts to create "partnerships between associations, organizations, government departments and industry leaders."<sup>66</sup>

In Mexico, the Mexican research group Environmental Legislation and Policy released a study assessing the country's legal basis regarding the implementation of programs that use traditional knowledge of indigenous people to strengthen sustainable tourism.<sup>67</sup> The study called on the government to increase efforts to include indigenous peoples in the debate, as their traditional knowledge has the potential to increase not only sustainable tourism, but also resilience to social, environmental, and climate change.<sup>68</sup>

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*This Canadian government initiative is a good example of how Member States can further sustainable tourism. It provides insights on the interdependencies between sustainable tourism and strengthening the rights of indigenous peoples. Delegates will find this source helpful when considering measures that individual states can take to empower their indigenous communities.*

Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada. (2015). *About Western Canada* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <http://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/243.asp>

*This publication explains an interesting example of how countries destine their resources strategically to develop initiatives. Due to a deep commitment of the Canadian government to reconciliation, several programs developed by WD will focus on indigenous issues. Thus delegates will be able to explore components of such initiatives and adapt them to their contexts, safeguarding the mandate of the Forum.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection (A/RES/71/240)*. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/71/467). Retrieved 13 February 2017 from: [www.undocs.org/A/RES/71/240](http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/71/240)

*This resolution reaffirms the international community's commitment to sustainable tourism and highlights key areas of action for the International Year of Sustainable Tourism 2017. The resolution not only provides general recommendations, but also more specifically advises including indigenous communities. Delegates will find this source helpful as it provides an update both on the most recent UN discussion on the issue and on the inclusion of vulnerable groups to further the issue.*

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<sup>62</sup> Canada, *Western Diversification Program Call for Proposals (WDP-CFP) Applicant Guide & Instructions*, 2016; Canada, *About Western Canada*, 2015.

<sup>63</sup> Canada, *Western Diversification Program Call for Proposals (WDP-CFP) Applicant Guide & Instructions*, 2016.

<sup>64</sup> Wanuskewin Heritage Park, *The Land*, 2017.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> Aboriginal Tourism Association of Canada, *Wanuskewin Heritage Park in Saskatoon, SK receives the ATAC National Aboriginal (Indigenous) Cultural Tourism Award*, 2016; Wanuskewin Heritage Park, *The Land*, 2017.

<sup>67</sup> Nauman, Mexico's Maya Point Way to Slow Species Loss, Climate Change, *Reuters*, 2016.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

United Nations World Tourism Organization. (2016). *A roadmap for celebrating together*. Retrieved 13 February 2017 from: [http://www.tourism4development2017.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/brochure\\_en\\_web.pdf](http://www.tourism4development2017.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/brochure_en_web.pdf)

*This source provides a concise overview of the upcoming year and key focus areas for UNWTO. The roadmap summarizes the objectives and key strategies related to the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017. Delegates will find this source helpful for understanding the complexity of the international community's responses to the international year and can use the strategies and objectives provided here to further develop their own solutions.*

United Nations World Tourism Organization. (2016, December 3). *UNTWO hosts 1st meeting of the Working Group of Experts on Measuring Sustainable Tourism* [News Story]. Retrieved 13 February 2017 from:

<http://www.tourism4development2017.org/news/unwto-hosts-1st-meeting-of-the-working-group-of-experts-on-measuring-sustainable-tourism/>

*The first meeting of the working group is the start for a continued debate on an issue that the UNWTO put on the agenda in 2015. This source provides a comprehensive overview of the need for effective mechanisms to measure sustainable tourism. Delegates will find this useful when considering mechanisms that could improve indigenous communities' participation in decision-making processes towards sustainable tourism.*

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### III. Development of the Arctic: Preserving Indigenous Rights

#### *Recent Developments*

Over the past few months, the international community has continued to mainstream indigenous rights in the debate about the development of the Arctic.<sup>69</sup> Both international efforts and regional approaches demonstrate a commitment to ensuring that indigenous communities participate in decision-making that affects not only their ability to exercise their rights, but also the overall development of the regions they inhabit.<sup>70</sup>

The role of indigenous knowledge in addressing climate change became one of the analysis topics during the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), held on 7-18 November 2016.<sup>71</sup> The discussion emphasized the importance of collaboration between indigenous knowledge and cutting-edge scientific research to cope with the impact of climate change, considering that more than 400 million indigenous people are highly vulnerable to it.<sup>72</sup>

Furthermore, the Arctic Resilience Assessment (ARA) published the latest update of the *Arctic Resilience Report 2016* in November 2016, elaborating on the status of the Arctic and the ongoing changes that affect the region.<sup>73</sup> The report calls on states to improve efforts toward better integration of indigenous knowledge into adaptation strategies concerning the Arctic and argues that indigenous knowledge could help build sustainable resilience in the region.<sup>74</sup>

Also, in November, Pacific Environment, a non-governmental organization, invited six leaders of Arctic communities from Alaska, Canada, and Russia to participate in meetings of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to discuss “the impacts of shipping on food security in the Arctic Indigenous communities.”<sup>75</sup> It was the first time that Indigenous communities had ever participated in a meeting of the IMO to talk about the development of the region and the effects of modern shipping on their livelihoods.<sup>76</sup> Pacific Environment and Indigenous Communities continue to advocate for a permanent seat for indigenous communities in the IMO to ensure indigenous interests are represented.<sup>77</sup>

At the regional level, the governments of the United States of America and Canada pledged to designate extensive areas of their sea territories in the Arctic as “indefinitely off limits to offshore oil and gas leasing” in December 2016.<sup>78</sup> With the *United States-Canada Joint Arctic Leaders’ Statement*, both states agree to review and assess the designation every five years according to scientific criteria.<sup>79</sup> Furthermore, the Canadian government is working closely with indigenous communities to develop an Arctic Policy Framework that focuses on infrastructure, education, and economic development.<sup>80</sup>

Negotiations between Finland, Sweden, and Norway on the political and cultural rights of the Sámi people came to an end after nearly eleven years with the signing of the *Nordic Sámi Convention* in January 2017.<sup>81</sup> The Convention broadens political rights of the Sámi community by defining Sámi not only by their language skills, but also by their

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<sup>69</sup> *Arctic cities and local communities are key players in research and innovation*, European Committee of the Regions, 2017.

<sup>70</sup> Arctic Council, *Arctic Resilience Assessment*, 2016.

<sup>71</sup> UNESCO, *Indigenous Knowledge offers innovative solutions to address climate change*, 2016.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>73</sup> Arctic Council, *Arctic Resilience Assessment*, 2016.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>75</sup> Sevunts, *UN maritime body listens to Arctic Indigenous voices*, 2016; Sevunts, *Arctic Indigenous leaders to push for permanent voice in world maritime body*, 2016.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>77</sup> Harun, *Indigenous Leaders Need a Seat at the U.N. Table*, *Pacific Environment*, 2016.

<sup>78</sup> Trudeau, *United States-Canada Joint Arctic Leaders’ Statement*, 2016.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*; Zelenova, *A Close Look at the United States-Canada Joint Arctic Leaders’ Statement*, 2017.

<sup>80</sup> Trudeau, *United States-Canada Joint Arctic Leaders’ Statement*, 2016.

<sup>81</sup> Staalesen, *Historic Sámi agreement starts long way towards ratification*, *The Independent Barents Observer*, 2017.

Sámi descent and sense of belonging to the Sámi community.<sup>82</sup> The Convention must first go through legislative processes in all three Sámi parliaments and national parliaments before entering into force.<sup>83</sup>

The development of the Arctic remains of special interest to Member States, and the international community will discuss the future of the region on various occasions in 2017.<sup>84</sup> The Arctic Institute will hold a symposium on “The Future of Arctic Entrepreneurship” to discuss the economic development of the Arctic whilst ensuring indigenous communities’ full participation in decision-making processes.<sup>85</sup> Moving forward, the “High North Dialogue 2017: Innovation in the Arctic,” to be held in April, will look at specific contributions from indigenous communities to economic development.<sup>86</sup>

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*This is a valuable tool for delegates, as it gives a detailed explanation of current climate trends in the Arctic. The report gives various examples of how communities remained resilient in the face of climate change and large-scale development interventions or how they succumbed. It also defines indigenous knowledge and differentiates it from Traditional Knowledge. Delegates will find it useful as a research tool on specific examples of the impact climate change can have upon the livelihoods of indigenous peoples.*

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*This source gives an excellent overview of current developments in the Arctic and the growing interest of states in the region. It puts developments in the Arctic into a broader context regarding world politics. Though it does not address indigenous rights specifically, it is important for delegates to understand motivations for growing involvement in the Arctic, which can help them draw appropriate conclusions for addressing indigenous rights in that context.*

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*This source discusses indigenous peoples’ move towards representation within the IMO. It further serves as an example of how NGOs can help indigenous communities make their voices heard in international forums. Delegates will find this source helpful when deliberating comprehensive solutions to ensuring that indigenous rights are considered in discussions on the development of the Arctic.*

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*The Nordic Sámi Convention marks an important milestone in strengthening indigenous rights. This source provides a short summary of the process leading up to the agreement and the ongoing process of its ratification. The source provides delegates with an important update on the situation of Sámi people and insights on mechanisms and processes that can help preserve indigenous rights.*

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<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> Keil, *Governing Arctic Change – Global Perspectives*, 2017.

<sup>85</sup> The Arctic Institute, *The Future of Arctic Entrepreneurship*, 2017.

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*This source summarizes key findings from COP 22, held in Marrakech in November 2016. Participants at the events highlighted the importance of including indigenous communities in decision-making processes and in developing climate change strategies. Delegates will find this source helpful when considering mechanisms and strategies for increasing the involvement of indigenous communities as means of preserving their rights.*

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