



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
Division for Social Policy and Development
Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

International Expert Group Meeting

Programme of Work

Indigenous Languages:

**Preservation and Revitalization: Articles 13, 14 and 16 of the
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

19 to 21 January 2016

Tuesday, 19 January 2016

10.00am – 10.30am

Opening remarks:

Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Item 1 Election of Chair and Rapporteur

Item 2 Adoption of programme of work

Elected Chair

Ms. Chandra Roy-Henriksen, Chief of the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues/ DSPD

10.30am – 1.00pm

Opening statements

Ms. Megan Davis, Chair Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Mr. Alexey Tsykarev, Chair Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Item 3 Context and characteristics of indigenous languages

- The role of language in indigenous cultures
- The importance of ensuring the survival of indigenous languages
- The role of indigenous peoples' communities, in particular indigenous women's role in the transmission of their languages to future generations
- The revitalization of indigenous peoples' cultures and communities in urban contexts through indigenous languages

Presentations:

General Discussion

3.00pm – 6.00pm

Item 3 Context and characteristics of indigenous languages (continued)

General Discussion

Item 4 Initiatives and strategies undertaken for, with and by indigenous peoples to recover, use, revitalize and disseminate indigenous languages

- Sharing of examples of initiatives and strategies
- Sharing of examples of the use of information and communication technologies.

- Media: television broadcasting, film and video making, community radio, and journalism.
- Web tools and digital media: multilingual platforms, free software, nintendo Apps, mobile Apps.
- What has been shown to have the best results; what has not worked well?
- How can we raise awareness about these initiatives and strategies?
- How can we increase the use of these initiatives and strategies by indigenous peoples and the broader societies in which they live?
- Lessons learned from initiatives and strategies to recover, use, revitalize and disseminate non-indigenous languages

Presentations:

General Discussion

Wednesday, 20 January 2016

10.00am – 1.00pm

Item 4 Initiatives and strategies undertaken for, with and by indigenous peoples to recover, use, revitalize and disseminate indigenous languages (continued)

General Discussion

Item 5 Lessons learned from State educational systems to strengthen or accommodate indigenous languages

- Experiences of State education systems in strengthening indigenous languages
- The impact of bilingual education at elementary and secondary levels
- Good practices and challenges developing curriculum and educational texts in indigenous languages
- The role and impact of language ‘standardization’ on indigenous languages
- Other mechanisms that exist within States – e.g. interpretation in judicial and/or administrative proceedings, access to public documents and information in indigenous languages, etc.?

Presentations:

General Discussion

3.00pm – 6.00pm

Item 5 Lessons learned from State educational systems or accommodate indigenous languages (continued)

General Discussion

Item 6 What more can be done to support the survival, revitalization, use and promotion of indigenous languages

- Actions to be taken to increase the number of fluent speakers — not just documenting or archiving — of the most critically endangered languages
- What kind of support can be provided, both financially and otherwise to support the survival, revitalization, use and promotion of indigenous languages?
- What is the United Nations system doing to address this issue and how can its work be strengthened?

Presentations:

General Discussion

Thursday, 21 January 2016

10.00am – 1.00pm

Item 6 What more can be done to support the survival, revitalization, use and promotion of indigenous languages (continued)

Presentations:

General Discussion

3.00pm – 6.00pm

Item 7 Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations