



## Global Observances to Highlight International Day of the World's Indigenous People 2008

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### Special Report on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People

ROME, August 8, 2008, World For World Organization (WFWO) call international communities, to react to straighten the right of the World's Indigenous People Day 2008. The event will be a commemoration on 9 August, an observance at UN Headquarters, will focus on efforts by indigenous peoples right and for sustainable development.

This year's International Day of the World's Indigenous People, celebrated on 9 August, is the first to take place following the landmark adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly in September 2007. The Declaration, which was the culmination of more than two decades of tireless campaigning by indigenous peoples -the drafting was started in 1985, marked a significant development in the protection of their human rights. The Declaration, approved by an overwhelming majority of UN Member States, lays down minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well being of the world's estimated 5,000 indigenous groups (comprising as many as 370 million individuals). It seeks to address the historical injustices they have faced by re-affirming their right to be different, and to live peacefully on their own lands. It also represents a significant contribution to the guiding principles of justice and dignity championed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. The adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - important though it is - will not in itself change the everyday lives of the men, women and children whose rights it champions. For this we need the political commitment of states, international cooperation, and the support and good will of the public at large, to create and implement a range of intensely practical programmes, designed and undertaken in consultation with indigenous peoples themselves.

WFWO, is observing and reporting on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, are committed to working together towards the realization of the rights contained in the Declaration and the implementations of MDG's by 2015, is for essential that international communities support and targeting the indigenous people group as a specific beneficiaries of sustainable development, so that increasing numbers of the world's indigenous peoples can truly live in dignity, justice, prosperity and peace.

The Indigenous Peoples group and the Millennium Development Goals Objectives (MDG's) committed by more than 190 world leaders to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and setting out a series of time - bound targets stated to be achieved by 2015.

WFWO report that if the MDGs are met by 2015, there is no doubt that some effects will trickle down to some of the world's 370 million indigenous peoples group, the majority live in poverty. The question remains whether governments, the international community, civil society, indigenous peoples, and the private sector, can achieve these goals. It could happen that indigenous peoples become the sacrificial lambs for the reduction of poverty through development projects that will displace them from their lands. Framing the MDGs as a human rights-based agenda is there- fore essential. For indigenous peoples it is difficult to talk about development without talking about basic rights to lands and resources, culture and identity, and self-determination. At the same time, some governments and even intergovernmental organizations question the wisdom of targeting indigenous peoples as a specific beneficiary group for development. Indigenous peoples are invisible in the MDGs. A review of MDGs in some countries shows that they are not even mentioned or referred to. In this context, it may be worthwhile to explore how to make the MDGs relevant to indigenous peoples, and in the process discuss more comprehensively indigenous peoples' development. The WFWO highlighted that the partnership with indigenous people group is necessary in order to implement and to achieve the objective of the Millennium Development Goals and to maintain the right of indigenous people sustainable development projects worldwide.