

“Partnership for action and dignity”

*Indigenous peoples evaluating the progress
made in the implementation of the Second
International Decade of the World’s
Indigenous peoples*

Mid-term evaluation
Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous
People
2005-2014

*Questionnaire for indigenous peoples’ organizations and other civil society
organizations*



**Information presented by United Confederation of Taino People, Puerto Rico,
Dominican Republic, Cuba, Barbados and Bimini (U.S.)**

Unedited version



United Confederation of Taino People

“A Unified Taino Nation”

? *Boriken (Puerto Rico)* ? *Kiskeya (Dominican Republic)* ? *Cuba* ? *Barbados* ? *Bimini (U.S.)*

09.30.2009

To: Ms. Dorte Lindegaard Madsen
Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Division for Social Policy and Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
2 United Nations Plaza - Room DC2 – 1458
United Nations
New York 10007, US
Email: madsend@un.org

Re: Mid-Term Evaluation on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Takahi (Greetings):

The following is the submission of the United Confederation of Taino People - Office of International Relations and Regional Coordination (UCTP-OIRRC) with regard to the Mid-Term Evaluation on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Although the Secretariat requested submissions for the evaluation be submitted in the form of the questionnaire developed by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII), our organization has found said format to be unresponsive to our specific concerns. The UCTP-OIRRC welcomes recommendations from the PFII or its Secretariat with regard to how our submission can be re-formatted to suit both the PFII request and the presentation of our concerns.

The following highlights a regional perspective with some specific references to Boriken (Free Associated State of Puerto Rico). This submission relates directly to Caribbean indigenous island and mainland communities known as Arawak, Carib, Garifuna, Kalinago, and Taíno among others.

The UCTP-OIRRC would like to bring to the attention of the Forum, the Plan of Action for the Second Decade, B. Areas of action, 6. Social and economic development, (b) Regional level, paragraph 86 which reads:

It is recommended that representatives of Caribbean indigenous peoples should be included in region-specific consultations and conferences in Latin America and the Caribbean, and on steering committees for planning and implementing the programme of activities for the Second International Decade. Serious consideration should also be given to organizing a special regional consultative session focusing on the unique situation of Caribbean indigenous peoples, which would take place in the Caribbean, hosted by a Member State and a local indigenous community.

Response: While a few United Nations Agencies and Programmes, etc such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNICEF, WIPO, and the Organization of American States have included Caribbean Indigenous Peoples in region-specific consultations and conferences in Latin America and the Caribbean, a majority of agencies have still not been responsive to paragraph 86 of the 2nd Decade's Plan of Action.

United Confederation of Taino People

Office of International Relations and Regional Coordination

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With this in mind, the UCTP-OIRRC would like to commend the above listed entities for their inclusion of Indigenous Peoples representatives from the island of Borikén without discrimination in their initiatives.

With specific reference to the PFII, the UCTP-OIRRC notes that in collaboration with indigenous organizations from throughout the region collectively organized as the *Indigenous Caucus of the Greater Caribbean*, recommendations have been presented over subsequent sessions calling for a special regional consultative session focusing on the unique situation of Caribbean Indigenous Peoples, which would take place in the Caribbean, hosted by a Member State and a local indigenous community. The PFII continues to be unresponsive to these calls in their session reports.

Recommendations:

a) The PFII should recommend to the inter-agency support group the inclusion of Caribbean indigenous peoples (including indigenous peoples from Borikén) in region-specific consultations and conferences in Latin America and the Caribbean as specifically noted in paragraph 86 of the Plan of Action. Further, in partnership with regional indigenous initiatives such as the UCTP-OIRRC and the Caribbean Organization of Indigenous Peoples (COIP), the PFII should engage in a timely follow-up on this recommendation with the members of the Inter-Agency Support Group.

b) The PFII should urge the Secretary General to reaffirm paragraph 86 calling all relevant parties to include Caribbean indigenous peoples and on steering committees for planning and implementing the programme of activities for the Second International Decade.

c) The PFII should urge the Secretary General to reaffirm paragraph 86 calling a special regional consultative session focusing on the unique situation of Caribbean Indigenous Peoples, which would take place in the Caribbean, hosted by a Member State and a local indigenous community. This session should include participation of indigenous representatives from Borikén without discrimination. Further, in partnership with regional indigenous initiatives such as the UCTP and COIP, the PFII should encourage Caribbean State Regional Initiatives such CARICOM, the Association of Caribbean States as well as Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to support the implementation of this recommendation with financial and technical assistance.

The UCTP -OIRRC would like also to bring to the attention of the PFII, the Plan of Action for the Second Decade, (c) National level, paragraph 90 which reads:

90. High priority is urged to systematize data collection and disaggregation and dissemination initiatives. Technical resources should be provided to national information systems to produce reliable statistics, so that the specific linguistic and cultural characteristics of indigenous peoples can be demonstrated. The work and studies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean can be drawn upon as an example in developing more coherent systems for data collection with respect to indigenous peoples at the national level.

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Response: While the UCTP-OIRRC commends the High Priority focus on data collection and disaggregation and dissemination to produce reliable statistics, the UCTP-OIRRC would like to highlight the relative invisibility of Caribbean Indigenous Peoples in this exercise.

With Caribbean indigenous islanders in mind, few States officially recognize Indigenous Populations and organizations in the Caribbean region. Lack of effective engagement of Caribbean Indigenous Peoples has long been an impediment to effective implementation of regional programs and strategies. Clearly, recognition of local indigenous communities or organizations is a strength in the State apparatus capacity to approach indigenous issues while non-recognition is a weakness.

Recommendations:

- a) The PFII and the Secretary General should call on states to effectively engage Caribbean Indigenous Peoples in the development of more coherent systems for data collection with respect to indigenous peoples at the national level.
- b) The PFII should recommend that Indigenous led data collection initiatives such as the United Confederation of Taíno People's Taíno Population Census and Inter-Tribal Registration Project be recognized as a best practice example in the approach to developing more coherent systems for data collection with respect to indigenous peoples at the national level.

This project is currently being conducted in Borikén (Puerto Rico) and among Caribbean Diaspora communities in the United States will soon be expanded to include Barbados. The UCTP Taíno Populations Census and Inter-Tribal Registration Project is a volunteer initiative that currently receives no government or institutional funds to operate.

In conclusion, the United Confederation of Taino People – Office of International Relations and Regional Coordination will continue to monitor the goals and objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People with specific reference to the Caribbean region. The UCTP plans to issue an additional review in collaboration with other regional indigenous initiatives at the next session of the PFII. The UCTP plans to use its networks to publicize these findings.

Oma'bahari, nabori'daka
(With respect, I am at your service),

Roberto Múkaro Agueibana Borrero,
President, UCTP - OIRRC

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