

Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IP-MG)

Organizing Partner Governance Reporting Form

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Division for Sustainable Development- Major Groups Programme

I. Governance

1. How many OPs facilitate engagement of your Major Groups constituency into the UN Sustainable Development agenda? **Number: 2**

2. Please describe the process within which you were selected or elected as organizing partners for your Major groups

The global Indigenous Peoples Major Group had nominated the OPs to continue serving as the IP-MG. Currently there are two organizational Organizing Partners - Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples International Centre for Policy research and Education) and IITC (international Indian Treaty Council). Organizing Partners who have been inactive for more than the period of 6 (six months) automatically step down as OPs.

a. Are OPs **Selected: Yes, between April to June 2014.**

b. Make sure to describe:

i. how you ensure regional and thematic facilitation within your sector.

The IP Major Group have IP Regional Caucuses which facilitate the selection of the regional focal points; and regional workshops and consultation on regional priorities and concerns within the IP sector. They already selected their IP regional focal points during these IP regional caucus meetings between April to June 2014.

ii. how you ensure global coverage:

We have a global list serve and also regional list serves moderated by the IP OPs and the regional focal points, and the IP regional networks themselves. Information sharing, feedback and recommendations are forwarded to the Global IP-OPs for consideration on proposals and position papers submitted by the IP MG.

3. How did you coordinate with other OPs in your Major Group to ensure a fair division of labor?

Thru MG-OP meetings and joining cluster thematic meetings on thematic concerns and issues, common for the Ops. Division of labor is assigned on the voluntary basis especially on coordination, facilitation, drafting and consolidating statements or information exchanges.

4. Please indicate whether you maintain regular coordination with other Major Groups sectors Ops: **Yes**

a. *If yes, describe how you reach cooperate with other sectors including through the development of a joint work plan, as appropriate.*

Regular coordination with other OPs of Major Groups is done thru OP meetings and thru cluster meetings on specific thematic and institutional concerns and issues, as necessary.

II. Outreach

5. Please explain how you identify and reach out to new member organizations and regional networks within your Major Group, to ensure appropriate engagement at the regional and international level and how you brief these new organizations on how to engage with the UN intergovernmental process on sustainable development.

Out reach among the IP regional networks are done primarily thru the regional IP networks and caucuses facilitated by the regional focal points. The regional caucuses have annual meetings to make positions on various thematic concerns and issues, organizational mechanisms and nominations for various meetings/consultations that are held within the year. Then, whatever decisions that the regional caucuses come up with, they will inform the global IP-OPs on these decisions and recommendations. Additionally, other networks are accessed via social media or during international conferences where Indigenous Peoples are engaged.

a. *Do the OPs cover all regions of the world? Yes, however, 2 regions have not yet forwarded their nominations for the regional focal points but we already have sent the information to them early on last April 2014.*

b. *If not, how do you specifically reach out to regional networks?*

6. Please explain how you assess new requests for Major Groups membership and the process for new organizations to join.

The UN-Major Group system needs to maintain the full and effective participation of CSOs thru the Major Groups system as being recognized in the CSD and Rio+20 outcome document. New organizations shall be considered, and recommended to apply for ECOSOC accreditation, or can be registered under specific ECOSOC-accredited organizations to insure accountability. A level of credibility should also be maintained via the regional networks to which they belong. New groups should also have some verifiable experience engaging in sustainable development processes/issues locally, nationally or internationally. New member request,

whenever possible, should be endorsed and or recommended by their regional or global networks.

7. Please describe activities your organizations conducted to maintain an accurate and up-to-date understanding of sustainable development processes and the work of the CSD and HLPF, and other relevant processes since the lead up to Rio +20 (2011).

The IP-MG Ops have facilitated global workshops for regular update reports and to come up with position papers and strategies for engagement and advocacy within each period and/or during the UN CSD, Rio+20 , OWG-SDG and HLPF processes. Within reasonable time frames, the drafts are usually circulated thru the IP-MG global caucuses during the meetings, regional caucuses and focal points for necessary comments, feedback and proposals, that will then be discussed, considered and integrated in the final position papers and strategy plans within the period.

Speakers from the IP-MG during the OWG-SDG, HLPF, and related PGA/GA processes are usually nominated from the regions and the OPs submit nominations to the UNDESA/NLGS secretariat for consideration. Presentations or statements are also circulated among the IPMG caucus for additional suggestions/editions before the final presentation or delivery of the paper or intervention.

8. Please describe the process you use to provide constituents with timely and appropriate background information and understanding about logistics and process to ensure their effective engagements. Please provide links to this information if possible.

All relevant and appropriate background documents and logistics and process information are being circulated by the IPMG-OPs to the IPMG and related listserves at global and regional levels. Feedback and comments are then sent to the IPMG list, which the OPs will again consider for proper and timely response and inclusion. The link is indigenous-peoples-major-group@googlegroups.com for global IPMG, and the regional IP networks have their own lists, including social media networks, for broader circulation.

9. Please describe the frequency of briefings to constituencies on UN process and Major Group involvement. How are these briefings organized, and what is the primary means of engagement (e.g. Conference calls, in person meetings, newsletters etc.)?

The frequency of briefings to IP-MG constituencies on UN process and Major Group involvement depends on the frequency of meetings, at global, regional and national levels. Briefings are organized thru emails to the listserve, conference calls

as may be necessary, and thru personal consultations, if there are regional/global opportunities for direct consultations and engagement. Position papers or statements are posted in the list serves, which is usually posted by the member organizations or regional networks in their websites. Most of these are also posted in the UNDESA and susdev websites.

III. Reporting

10. Please describe, step by step, how you develop your Major Groups position papers. Please include how:

- a. *you consult with regional groups*
- b. *coordinate among the various OPs*
- c. *achieve consensus or account for minority reports*

As discussed above, the IPMG draft position papers and statements are primarily circulated to the global, regional and national listserves for comments, feedback and recommendations or proposals. These are then consolidated by regional focal points and the global Ops, for further discussion, revisions and again circulated for consensus building on the position papers and statements.

11. What is the standard that you apply for any Major group statement presented in intergovernmental processes and submitted to UN-DESA? How do you gauge whether it represents a broad range of views in your constituency?

So far, the IP-MG group statements that were presented in intergovernmental processes have represented the broad range of views of the IPMG, which had been greatly acknowledge by the IP MG network members, and these are submitted to UNDESA and our member networks for posting in various websites. Major group statements are also usually compared to earlier and related global and regional statements to gauge and maintain standard consistency.

12. Please describe the process by which how you ensure fair participation and speaking opportunities of various organizations within your constituency.

The IP-MG OPs have been very open in inviting regional IP representatives and/or speakers for the various global/regional intergovernmental processes, thru timely information and invitations sent thru the global and regional listserves. We had been successful in bringing several speakers from the regions, however, there is a big limitation on support for travel expenses to bring people to attend global, regional and national meetings. The IP-MG relies primarily on UNDESA to support travel for nominated and accepted speakers for the global processes, and from

whatever our specific organizations can provide during other important meetings, that we may consider as priorities.

- 13.** Please describe how you organize your constituency to provide expert advice, presentations, best practices, and position papers to quickly respond to expert-based sustainable development request. Please list any working groups, committees, or list of experts you have set up.

As IP-MG, we have set-up working groups which were primarily dependent on the priority position papers on various thematic issues and concerns that is being called for. IP experts are also identified as speakers and panelists during the previous meetings on CSD, Rio+20, OWG-SDG thematic stocktaking meetings, and the HLPF processes coordinated by UNDESA and the UN_NLGS. Again, draft position papers and statements that will be delivered are circulated for comments, feedback and recommendations before its final delivery. The position papers and statements, always include best practices of IPs from the ground that have been proven to be sustainable over the years of experiences.

IV. Communication

- 14.** The Secretariat is trying to ensure transparency and inclusivity through the use of the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.

How frequently are you posting information on the Sustainable Development

Knowledge Platform? *Once per week* *Once per month* less than once a month:

Usually, less than once a month, but these depend on the positions papers and statements that had already been delivered during the various processes; and subsequently submitted to the UNDESA secretariat for posting.

- 15.** How could the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform be made more useful for your constituency?

This is useful, however, still dependent on the frequency of posts and the frequency on when the constituency have accessed this information from the website. Usually, the more useful information access for our IP-MG constituency is thru circulation thru our listserve and websites of our network organizations, especially for those who have no regular access to internet connection.

- 16.** Please describe if and how you have used social media to support the UN outreach strategy. How frequently do you engage with our social media platforms? Please indicate the name and contact information for your social media contact.

Our IPMG-OPs and regional focal organizations have their own social media websites including Facebooks and Twitter, etc. where these are also posted. As mentioned above, these are the more practical and helpful social media platforms that are frequently used by our MG networks especially at regional levels.

VI. Coordination with UN-DESA

- 17. Please describe how you coordinate with the Division for Sustainable Development to facilitate the regular participation of Major Groups throughout the intergovernmental process?**

Coordination with the UNDESA-DSD is through the Major Groups Secretariat, either thru emails or OP meetings or general MG meetings. During the intergovernmental processes, requests are forwarded in terms of coordination on possible speaking slots, on support for travel, and other specific concerns such as other funding support being facilitated by other MGs and the UNDESA secretariat, for the MGs. There had been specific concerns and issues raised in relation to these which were either resolved or which remained an issue.

- 18. Have you participated in all monthly conference calls to get information on ongoing processes and to update the Secretariat on ongoing activities over the last year?**

Yes, except for a few cases where communications were not received before the scheduled conferences, or, when not one from the OPs is available during the mentioned conference calls.

- 19. How have you instilled in your constituencies, policies relating to appropriate behavior and conduct at the United Nations not only between members of other Major Groups, but with UN staff and security?**

The IP-MG OPs represent 3 ECOSOC accredited Indigenous Peoples organizations with long, respected histories working within the United Nations System. As such, the IP-MG OPs are well aware of policies relating to appropriate behavior and conduct at the United Nations not only between members of other Major Groups, but with UN staff and security. Most credible and accredited Indigenous Peoples organizations that are working within the system also understand these policies and protocols. Between 2013-2014, however, the IP-MG unfortunately had to report and call to the attention of the UNDESA Major Groups staff and other MG-OPs, inappropriate behavior of at least 3 "organization" representatives who attempted to disrupt the work of the IP-MG by publically attacking the credibility of the IP-MG OPs and even harrasing OP focal points in New York. In all 3 instances, these organizations were not ECOSOC accredited, but were accredited

under the one ECOSOC accredited, non-indigenous organization. These groups, did not function or represent themselves at the OWG under said ECOSOC organization, but as their own, unaccredited entities. At least one formal meeting was conducted with the representatives of Major Groups Secretariate and the OP of the NGO Major Group in an attempt to resolve the issue with meeting minutes including steps for follow-up recorded. The MG secretariat may have also reported these incidents to the UN Security for proper action.

- 20. Do you plan on nominating your organization to continue to serve as OP for the next two year term?**

The current IP-MG OPs – Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples International Centre for Policy research and Education) and International Indian Treaty Council - have already been nominated by our regional and global networks to continue as IPMG-OPs for the next two years, We also have regional OPs and focal points selected by the IP networks and caucuses, to reinforce the outreach and communications within the regional IP networks.

Prepared and submitted by IPMG-OPs/August 12, 2014