



## PRESS RELEASE



### **The UNAM will present the Preliminary Report of the 'Indigenous Peoples and the Indicators of Well-being and Development' in the UN.**

- This document is the result of the work of a group of experts that were summoned by the Mexico Multicultural Nation University Programme of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (PUMC-UNAM) about the development and social well-being indicators of the indigenous peoples of the world.
- It is a study that has not been restricted to methodological tools, rather it has widened the analysis of issues connected to political, economic, cultural and judicial processes, taking into account the perspectives of the indigenous communities.
- The Preliminary Report will be presented on April 23, 2008, in the VII Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in New York.

Mexico City, April 15, 2008.- Over the last few years the concern of the indigenous peoples, organizations, leaders and intellectuals to have at their disposal the indicators that will reflect with fidelity and certainty the situation of economic and social development and the conditions of well-being of the indigenous peoples of America and the world, have been manifested.

Since the approval of the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** the past September 13 of 2007, where the collective and individual rights of the indigenous peoples are specified, as a first result, an important amount of documents were produced that constitute the raw material of an analysis that is necessary to expand and delve into, specially in a scenario like the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues where the ethnic populations of the world are represented.

The document the **Indigenous Peoples and the Indicators of Well-being and Development** was prepared from within the (PUMC-UNAM), as part of the works related to monitoring the International Second Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2005-015, conforming to the commitment contracted by the UNAM with the 25 indigenous leaders of America, signees of the Tepoztlan Declaration (Mexico, October 12, 2004).

The PUMC-UNAM promoted the creation of a Working Group on Indicators of and for Indigenous Peoples, in which experts from universities, research centers and international bodies participate, and who met, in two occasion in Mexico City, under the auspices of the University Programme, to nourish, with their ideas and debates, this report.

The study takes into account the indigenous demand formulated in diverse international forums. It is worth mentioning that in said meetings, the need to advance in the task of defining indicators clearly appears and is referred to the subjects of: social well-being,



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traditional knowledge, biological diversity, protection and usufruct of natural resources, right to food, food security and food sovereignty, sustainable development, situation of the indigenous woman and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

This Working Group agrees that currently, there is a shift in the approaches and in the amplitude of the analysis and design strategies of policies. The demand to possess this type of instruments has not been limited to methodological tools, rather it has widened the analysis of issues connected to political, economic, cultural and judicial processes, taking into account the perspectives of the indigenous communities. This demand is oriented towards the United Nations System Agencies, Governments members of the UN, International Banks and diverse instances of International cooperation.

The abundant documental and bibliographic information employed for the report was integrated into the Information System of the Indigenous Peoples of America (SIPIA), and can be consulted in the Multicultural Nation Information System of the PUMC-UNAM, through the web page [www.nacionmulticultural.unam.mx](http://www.nacionmulticultural.unam.mx)

The Preliminary Report **Indigenous Peoples and the Indicators of Well-being and Development** will be presented during the **VII Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**, in the **Conference Room 2 of the United Nations main building in the city of New York, Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at 11:35 hrs.** Myrna Cunningham, Tarcila Rivera, Andrea Carmen, Marcos Terena, José del Val y Carlos Zolla will present.

This report will be delivered to the President of Bolivia Evo Morales, and other leaders of American countries; as well as to the members of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The final version of the document, with the observations and critiques that could be formulated during the Forum, will be prepared and edited during the subsequent months, for its distribution during the second semester of 2008.

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