



NGO Committee on the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples

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February 2008 Report for CONGO

• **Current Leadership:** **Roberto Borrero** (Taino), Chairperson (Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources/United Confederation of Taino People); **Kevin Dance**, Vice-Chairperson (Passionists International); **Sandy Sheridan**, Communications Secretary (Sunray Meditation Society); **Pamela Kraft**, Treasurer (Tribal Link Foundation)

Special note: The next general election for the Committee is scheduled for December 2008

• **Current Membership** (including associate members): **Jo Albright**, Maryknoll; **Sharon Altendorf/Joy Peterson**, International Presentation Association; **Anglican Communion Office to the United Nations**, Anglican Consultative Council; **M. Cristina Blanc-Szanton**, International Union of Anthropological & Ethnological Issues; **Joselyn Borrero** (Tlingit), International Indian Treaty Council; **Mary P. Bruce/Sally Dunne**, Loretto Community; **Dr. Elaine Congress**, International Federation of Social Workers; **Sarah Dolan**, ATD Fourth World; **Amavi Joel Dossa**, OVAD-AP (Togo); **Tom Downes**, Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources; **Victoria Edmunds**, The Salvation Army; **Janet Cutting Feldman**, Globetree; **Stacy Hanrahan**, Congregation of Notre Dame; **Miguel Ibanez** (Quechua), Hapitatpro Association; **Dornye Kirby/Marilla D'Souza**, Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary; **Daniel LeBlanc**, VIVAT International & Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate; **Sher & Kaab Malik**, Indigenous Peoples Survival Foundation; **Mary McDonald**, Pax Christi International; **Ana Martinez De Luco**, UNANIMA International; **Dr. JoAnne Murphy**, Farleigh Dickinson University & Sunray Meditation Society; **Louise A. Nolte**, VIVAT International; **Corann Okorodudu**, American Psychological Association & Society for Psych. Study of Social Issues; **Daniel Rivera** (Taino), Taino Nation of the Antilles; **Barbara James Snyder** (Washoe/Paiute), Images of Peace; **Betsy Stang**, Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources; **Marilese Tronto**, International Women's Writing Guild; **Sacajawea Qualla Howard**, Cherokee Embassy to the Indigenous Peoples of the World.

• **What has the Committee done or been discussing since the last report?**

- **Monthly meetings:** Our Committee has continued to meet on a monthly basis, usually the 4th Thursday of the month, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at UN DC2 and at the UN Church Center in cooperation with CONGO.

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- **Talking Points:** Committee members in a working group led by Kevin Dance have updated our Talking Points on Indigenous Issues for NGOs and have made these available **(in English and Spanish)** for distribution. They are available
- **Committee Brochure:** Our Committee has finalized a new informational brochure that will assist in promoting the work of the Committee.
- **DPI/NGO Briefing - Climate change and its impact on Indigenous People:** The Committee collaborated on this event with the PFII and DPI (March 20). Summary at http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/spring08/briefings/20march08_Summary.asp or [website](#)
- **Migration Briefing:** Kevin Dance gave a briefing on Indigenous Peoples briefing to the CONGO Migration Committee. Elaine Congress facilitated the participation.
- **PFII 2008 (April/May 2008):** The Committee collaborated with the PFII during its opening cultural event and reception. **Side event:** Elaine Congress and Daniel LeBlanc organized and co-chaired a side-event around the theme "Indigenous People and the Earth". **Hospitality:** Staten Island Ferry Trip – Jo Albright and Daniel LeBlanc organized Staten Island Ferry trip for indigenous delegates attending the Forum. **NGO Resource Guide:** The Committee updated its NGO Resource Guide for Indigenous Peoples attending the PFII (Pamela Kraft, Coordinator).
- **Multi-Generational Briefing:** Roberto Borrero gave a briefing on Indigenous Peoples to the CONGO Multi-Generational Committee (May 1).
- **CONGO / Civil Society Forum (June 27-29):** Committee members formed part of the "Logistics Committee" and supported the initiative by volunteering to help collate the Forum's information packages and attend the proceedings.
- **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples:** The committee co-sponsored cultural events and panel discussions in collaboration with the PFII at UN Headquarters and the American Museum of Natural History on August 8 & 9, 2008. The August 8 at the UN events included an Indigenous welcome, messages from dignitaries and a cultural presentation by Halau I Ka Wekiu (Hawai'i Dance Company). The second part of the program included a panel entitled "Conciliation and Reconciliation between States and Indigenous Peoples" and a film screening of, "The Apology". The following day, Saturday, August 9, the program at the American Museum of Natural History included performances by Halau I Ka Wekiu, Cacibajagua Taino Cultural Society and film "Yarning Up" (Northern Australian Aboriginal stories) with post-screening commentary by Penny Smallacombe. The UN event on Aug 8 was webcast.
- **Evaluation Report of the PFII 2008:** The Committee submitted a report on 9/16, which compiled suggestions, comments, and evaluation of the last session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (April/May 2008). The report highlights matters raised by Indigenous Peoples with our members during the Forum as well provides additional evaluation from Committee members who attended the session. We have been informed that the evaluation was well-received the PFII Members will take them into consideration formally during a pre-session meeting.
- **Special Event:** International Day on the Eradication of Poverty, **our Committee** co-sponsored with the Baha'i International Community. This event featured Kevin Locke, a Lakota Storyteller and Hoop Dancer held on 17 October 2008. Mr. Locke spoke on the significance of Indigenous languages, **of education of our young and of ways to find a spiritual unity beyond our differences.**

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• ***What is the Committee planning or discussing as future work?***

- Our Committee will continue to hold our monthly meetings, support its working groups, and post relevant information via our Internet News List Serve. Current subscribers currently total over 600 members.
- The Committee is looking toward future participation during relevant conferences, meetings etc with the formation of a new calendar project.
- UNPFII Secretariat will now designate a representative to attend our monthly general to provide briefings etc.
- The committee is now discussing the development of a "Resource Kit for Indigenous Peoples" (Kevin Dance, coordinator)

This report has been prepared and submitted by Roberto Mukaro Borrero, Sandy Sheridan, and Kevin Dance on behalf of the NGO Committee on the UN International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.