



## United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee of Kenya

### **Background**

The United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee of Kenya (UNIPACK) was one of the outputs of the 2004-2005 Human Rights Strengthening (HURIST) project focused on mainstreaming indigenous peoples' rights in Kenya.

The formation of UNIPACK is an unprecedented experience and a great learning opportunity for UN agencies and Kenyan indigenous peoples alike. The committee will offer strategic guidance/advice to UNDP on indigenous peoples' issues, in the manner that the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues<sup>1</sup> advises the Economic and Social Council and UN agencies at the global level.

The indigenous peoples' component of the HURIST programme in Kenya has created a space for dialogue between diverse groups of indigenous peoples of Kenya and ministers in the Government, most of whom had never sat together around the same table before.

### **Steps to Set Up UNIPACK**

An interim committee was established in consensus with indigenous representatives participating in the June-July 2004 HURIST pilot workshop in Kenya on indigenous peoples' issues and human rights. The interim committee was composed of nine indigenous peoples' representatives and one UNDP representative. The interim committee served for one year (2004-2005) and supported, amongst other things, UNDP activities under the HURIST project.

The interim committee has contributed to the terms of reference for the permanent UNIPACK (to be put in place in 2006) and a framework for membership. The committee will:

1. Establish a mechanism for dialogue and information sharing amongst indigenous peoples, UNDP/UN system and relevant national actors, such as Government authorities and parliamentarians.
2. Provide strategic guidance on indigenous peoples' concerns, principles and perspectives for UNDP country programming and related policy initiatives supported by UNDP and the UN system.
3. Promote stakeholder dialogues and initiatives with state and non-state actors including representatives from IPOs and CSOs that strengthen networks and raise awareness about influencing policy.
4. Provide spaces for mutual learning and understanding between indigenous peoples and UNDP/UN staff.

### **Where to Find Out More**

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, please visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/>