

Who can apply?

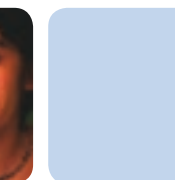
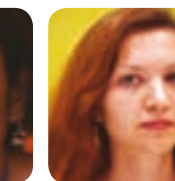
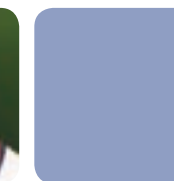
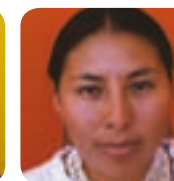
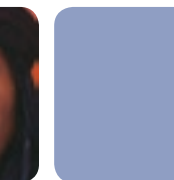
Only **indigenous men and women** may apply for the Programme. Non-indigenous persons will not be considered, even if they have close links with indigenous communities and/or organizations.

Most indigenous peoples share some or all of the following identifying characteristics:

- Descendants of the peoples who inhabited a land or territory prior to colonization or the establishment of State borders
- Distinct social, economic and political systems, languages, cultures and beliefs. Determined to maintain and develop this distinct identity
- Strong attachment to their ancestral lands and the natural resources therein
- Belong to the non-dominant groups of a society and identify themselves as indigenous peoples

The candidate

- should be **proposed** and the candidacy **supported** by his/her indigenous organization or community
- should have a **good working knowledge of the language** in which the Programme is conducted
- should be **willing and able to train other indigenous persons** upon their return to their respective communities/organizations
- Age is not a limitation**, although preference is given to candidates in the 25 to 35-year age bracket
- Formal education does not constitute a limitation** to participation in the Programme



Contact

Indigenous Fellowship Programmes are held annually and deadlines for applications vary. Travel, living expenses, health insurance and training materials are covered by the Fellowship Programme. For more information or deadlines on the Programme please:

see our website:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/fellowship.htm>

Or contact:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights
Indigenous and Minorities Unit
UNOG-OHCHR
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Fax: (+41 22) 928 90 66 or (+41 22) 917 90 08
E-mail: fellowship@ohchr.org

The Indigenous Fellowship Programme

Human Rights Training for Indigenous Peoples

Who can apply and how

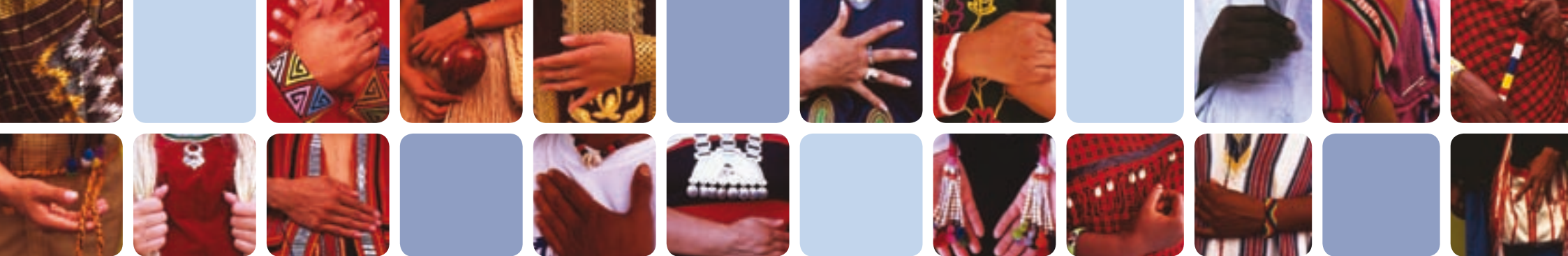
Designed by the Publishing Service, United Nations, Geneva – GE.07-12394 – May 2007 – 400 – Photos: Ms. Anouk Garrigue



OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



UNITED NATIONS



Empowering Indigenous Peoples

The Indigenous Fellowship Programme aims to empower indigenous representatives and their communities by strengthening their knowledge of the United Nations human rights system and how to protect their human rights. The trained Fellows are more aware of existing UN instruments and, hence, better equipped to assist their organizations and communities.

The Programme was launched by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the context of the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004).

In its first decade, more than 100 indigenous men and women from 46 countries undertook the programme.

Learning about programmes and mechanisms of interest to Indigenous Peoples

The Programme is available in four languages: **English, French, Russian** and **Spanish**.

It consists of briefing sessions, interactive discussions, individual and group assignments on international human rights mechanisms in general (i.e., UN Charter and treaty-based bodies), and UN mechanisms dealing specifically with the protection of indigenous peoples' rights. Briefing / training sessions also take place at other organizations, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Indigenous Peoples' Center for Documentation, Research and Information (DoCip).

Four Languages, One Programme

Each language version of the Indigenous Fellowship Programme has developed slightly differently:

- The **English language programme** was launched in 1997. It consists of a four-month training session at OHCHR in Geneva.
- The **Spanish language programme** was established in 2000. It targets more specifically candidates from Latin America. It is organized in close cooperation with the Deusto University in Bilbao, Spain, and lasts approximately four months.
- The **French language programme** was created in 2002. It benefits indigenous communities from Africa, Canada and other French-speaking countries. It is organized jointly with the University of Bourgogne in Dijon, France, and generally runs for two and a half months.
- The **Russian language programme** started as a pilot project in 2005. It is currently organised in cooperation with the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON). It generally lasts for two months.

