

Criteria for the selection of beneficiaries of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples

According to General Assembly resolution 40/131, the only beneficiaries of assistance from the Fund shall be representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and communities:

- i) Who are so considered by the Board of Trustees;
- ii) Who would not, in the opinion of the Board, be able to attend meetings without the assistance provided by the Fund;
- iii) Who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on these mechanisms and bodies of the problems affecting indigenous peoples and who would secure a broad geographical representation.

In addition, the Secretary-General approved the following criteria upon recommendation by the Board:

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

In addition, the Secretary-General approved the following criteria upon recommendation by the Board:

- (a) A travel grant approved by the Secretariat is given on an individual basis. An organization or beneficiary cannot request that a beneficiary be replaced by another one, except under exceptional circumstances, time permitting and upon approval by the Secretariat;
- (b) The representatives and the organizations applying for a grant should be indigenous;
- (c) The Board does not consider applications which do not provide a letter of recommendation signed by an executive of their indigenous organization. The Board will not examine a letter signed by the applicant herself/himself;
- (d) The Board only considers a maximum of 2 applicants per organization;
- (e) Applicants are requested to submit application forms and recommendation letters in the working languages of the Board's secretariat (English, French or Spanish);
- (f) The Board selects both, representatives who have never participated in a session of the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues or the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and representatives who already participated and could develop specialized capacity and strengthen the core group of participants in the Permanent Forum or the Expert Mechanism;
- (g) The Board strongly encourages applications from indigenous women, youth and indigenous persons with disabilities;

(h) The Board encourages former beneficiaries of the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme to apply for grants to represent their indigenous organization or community at sessions of the Permanent Forum or the Expert Mechanism by sending duly filled in application forms and meeting all the criteria for selection;

(i) The Board will give priority to applicants living in their own community and country *vis a vis* applicants living abroad.

(j) The Board will not consider applications from indigenous representatives and their nominating organizations that have been beneficiaries of the Fund and failed to submit their evaluation forms.

Additional criteria that only apply to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:

In accordance with ECOSOC resolution 2000/22 "...non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council may participate as observers; organizations of indigenous people may equally participate as observers in accordance with the procedures which have been applied in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protections of Human Rights".

According to the ECOSOC resolution 2000/22, the Permanent Forum has a mandate to discuss indigenous issues within the mandate of the Council relating to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. Applicants must therefore refer in their statements to these issues.