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Information note

International Decade on the World's Indigenous People (1995 – 2004)

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to all indigenous organizations and has the honour to refer to Economic and Social Council decision 2003/306 in which it was decided to initiate a review of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

The Office of the High Commissioner is preparing the initial report for submission to the July 2004 session of the Council. Indigenous organizations are invited to provide information in relation to the International Decade so that it can be reflected in the said report. The Programme of Activities for the Decade as adopted by the General Assembly is contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 50/157 and is available on the website www.unhchr.ch/indigenous/decade.htm.

It is recalled that the goal of the Decade is to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in areas such as human rights, the environment, development, education and health. You may wish, therefore, to provide information on developments in these areas in the period under consideration (1995 – 2004) (a) in your community; (b) nationally; and (c) at the international level. Your organization is also invited to provide an assessment of the implementation of the Programme of Activities of the International Decade.

It would be appreciated if information could be submitted prior to 31 March 2004 to Julian Burger (fax +41 22 917 90 08 or electronically to jburger@ohchr.org).

We look forward to your contribution to the preliminary review of the International Decade.

9 February 2004