

Indigenous Media Network

Indigenous Peoples and ICTs: Millennium Development Goal 8 and the Information Society

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Introduction

Indigenous Peoples, wherever they live, are on the wrong side of the digital divide. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) established a strong link between the evolution of the Information Society and the achievement of internationally-agreed development objectives, especially the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). *Goal 8* of the MDGs refers, among others, to overcoming the digital divide and thus had already put in place a relationship between these two processes.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies - especially information and communication technologies

The implementation of MDG 8 is part of the evolution of the Information Society. Indigenous Peoples have actively participated in the WSIS process and succeeded in becoming recognized as a stakeholder in building the Information Society.¹ Among the important issues that they raised were

- the protection of Indigenous rights in the Information Society and
- the right of Indigenous Peoples to access to ICTs and connectivity.

Both issues also have to be addressed when looking at the implementation of MDG 8.

Indigenous Peoples usually belong to the poorest of the poor – no matter if they live in industrialized countries or in developing countries. Thus, the achievement of the MDGs is of high relevance for them. However, concerning Indigenous Peoples interrelationship between MDG 8 and the evolution of the Information Society has not been discussed yet.

The proceedings of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues could be an avenue to assist in closing this gap. The discussions and recommendations at the Permanent Forum aim at evaluating the MDGs from an Indigenous perspective and Indigenous approaches to cultural diversity, traditional knowledge and human rights.

The rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Information Society must be enhanced and protected. At the same time, they must be linked to the WSIS process. Promoting cultural diversity and protecting traditional knowledge against appropriation, exploitation and misuse are important aspects in this context. Nevertheless, access of Indigenous Peoples to ICTs and connectivity are equally important, not only in their own right but also because ICTs could assist in achieving other MDGs related to poverty reduction, education, health and environment.

¹ For details see the WSIS orientation paper prepared by the Indigenous Media Network: Indigenous Peoples at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), An Overview. Editors: Ann-Kristin Håkansson, Kenneth Deer. In co-operation with Incomindios Switzerland.

Cultural diversity and human rights - an Indigenous perspective for approaching MDG 8 and the evolution of the Information Society

In its fourth session in May 2005, the Permanent Forum began to look at the Millennium Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples and developed the following conclusions and recommendations:

“Focusing particularly on Millennium Development Goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty) and MDG 2 (primary education for all), the Forum voiced concern that, unless the particular situation and voices of indigenous peoples are taken into account, the MDG process may lead to accelerated loss of land and natural resources, and accelerated assimilation, thus prolonging and even worsening the marginalization, discrimination and further impoverishment of indigenous peoples. The Forum recommended a human rights based approach to development, and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in designing, implementing and monitoring MDG-related programmes and projects that concern them or may affect them.”
(www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_fourth.html)

The prerequisites for achieving the MDGs as regards Indigenous Peoples thus include:

- Respect for cultural diversity and the special situation of Indigenous Peoples
- A rights based approach to development
- Full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the development process and respect for culturally appropriate solutions as proposed by Indigenous Peoples themselves

In its fifth session in May 2006, the Permanent Forum addressed the achievement of the MDGs in terms of redefining the Millennium Development in the context of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous approaches to cultural diversity, traditional knowledge and human rights built the basis to do so.

How would an Indigenous perspective for the implementation of MDG 8 look like, taking into account the conclusions, recommendations and approaches of the Permanent Forum?

- Indigenous Peoples have the right to connectivity and access to ICTs on their own terms
- ICT projects with Indigenous Peoples must be based on respect for Indigenous cultures and on recognition of the special situation of Indigenous Peoples
- The use of ICTs for development must respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, such as the rights to their cultures in general and to their traditional knowledge, their languages and their modes of communication, education, health practices and knowledge sharing in particular
- Indigenous Peoples must be able to fully and effectively participate in any ICT program, project or e-strategy concerning them
- Access solutions and ICT utilization must be culturally appropriate as proposed and/or endorsed by Indigenous Peoples themselves.

Similar points have been made by Indigenous Peoples in the course of the WSIS process concerning the evolution of the Information Society². Indigenous Peoples, amongst others,

² See for instance: Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society, Indigenous Position Paper and Action Plan for the World Summit on the Information Society II (WSIS II), Tunis and Beyond (www.incomindios.ch) and Indigenous submissions for amendments of the WSIS documents at www.wsis.org, *Indigenous Declaration and*

- affirmed their right to be part of the global Information Society on their own terms
- emphasized that their participation in building and implementing the Information Society must be based on their right to self-determination and the recognition of their cultural diversity and distinctiveness as Indigenous Peoples
- highlighted that their full and effective participation in the evolution of the Information Society must take place in equal partnership with its non-Indigenous actors
- stressed that the evolution of the Information Society must, among others, be founded on respect for and recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly with a view to culture in general, language, health, education, media and traditional knowledge
- pointed out that Indigenous Peoples are heavily affected by the digital divide
- emphasized their right to develop culturally appropriate ICT applications, content and access solutions on their own terms and respecting their modes of communication and knowledge sharing
- requested protection of their traditional knowledge against unauthorized use, appropriation and misuse
- stressed that digitalization of traditional knowledge and cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples can only take place in a culturally appropriate way, in compliance with their cultural protocols and obligations and their customary law.

Generally, Indigenous Peoples emphasized that the Information Society must serve their needs and ensure their ability to shape their future without risking the loss of their cultural identity.

However, they also noted that the fundamental transformation of human societies caused by the Information Society on a global scale leaves them facing new conditions of life that pose new challenges for their survival as Indigenous Peoples and for the integrity of their cultures. These new situations are not covered by already existing Indigenous rights standards. Therefore they requested to carry out new standard setting activities for the elaboration of adequate *Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Information Society*.

Due to the awareness raising efforts of Indigenous representatives at the WSIS proceedings the *Geneva Declaration of Principles* and the *Tunis Commitment* both contain an Indigenous paragraph that reads:

In the evolution of the Information Society, particular attention must be given to the special situation of indigenous peoples, as well as to the preservation of their heritage and their cultural legacy.

Geneva Declaration, para.15 (WSIS 2003) and Tunis Commitment, para. 22 (WSIS 2005)

In conclusion, it can be summarized that the implementation of MDG 8 is part of the evolution of the Information Society. For Indigenous Peoples, key issues in this process are: cultural diversity, traditional knowledge, Indigenous rights and access to ICTs and connectivity.

ICT for Development – The Cultural Diversity Approach

Education, health and access to information are often considered as major fields for ICT applications to support development. As regards to Indigenous Peoples, digital preservation of their cultural heritage and their traditional knowledge are additional important targets for development projects.

However, Indigenous Peoples have their own approaches to education, health, information, traditional knowledge and heritage. Respect for cultural diversity means to respect these culturally diverse approaches when implementing MDG 8 and developing the Information Society.

Promoting cultural diversity

The Information Society and its core elements - knowledge, information, communication and ICTs - are cultural concepts and expressions. Therefore cultural appropriateness of ICT applications is essential when making available the benefits of ICTs for Indigenous Peoples. ICT applications should also reflect Indigenous modes of communication. Generally, ICT use needs to strengthen the cultures and identities of Indigenous Peoples besides improving their quality of life.

Moreover, ICTs cannot replace traditional elements of Indigenous cultures, such as inter-generational teaching and participation in traditional economies or interaction with ancestral territories for educational purposes. If these pre-conditions are met, ICTs could become a useful supplementary tool when applied in a culturally appropriate way. Otherwise, ICT use can easily contribute to culture loss.

A living language, for example, is at the core of passing on Indigenous cultures from one generation to the next:

“Some Elders have said that “you cannot have lived the culture if you have not lived the language”. This is very appropriate because some teachings lose their value when they are translated. Some of our languages have expressions and terms that cannot be translated without losing their meaning.”³

Preservation of their living languages therefore is essential for Indigenous Peoples. Although ICTs could also be used to assist in language recording and language teaching, there are at the same time considerable risks that this may lead to language loss. First of all, Indigenous languages are not ICT languages. Therefore, it would be difficult to apply those ICTs for language teaching that involve writing. Video, radio and TV may, however, be used for oral or audiovisual teaching. But even if Indigenous languages could become written ICT languages, the process of codification would be based on language standardization that might neglect the richness and diversity of the language with its local variations. Thus, ICT utilization in Indigenous languages could actually lead to language loss if not carefully balanced with traditional methods of language transmission. This would mean, for instance, to involve fluent speakers, and particularly Elders, to widen the vocabulary but also to adapt it to the actual local language version. On the technical side, such a process would include the development of free

³ Indigenous Media Network/Incomindios: Give us the stuff and we'll figure it out. Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society. Survey Report May 2004, Editors: Ann-Kristin Håkansson, Kenneth Deer, p.24; www.incomindios.ch

software that provides Indigenous Peoples with an option for the culturally appropriate digitalization of their languages.

Using ICTs for health applications, education and access to information would have to follow the same principles to avoid loss of language and culture in general.

Protection of traditional knowledge

Regarding the digital preservation of the knowledge and cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples it has to be stressed as well that digitalization can only take place in a culturally appropriate way and in compliance with related cultural protocols, obligations and ethical considerations embedded in their customary law. Therefore, not all of their knowledge and cultural heritage can be digitalized. Furthermore, it is essential that digital preservation of Indigenous cultural heritage takes place in support of the survival and development of Indigenous living cultures, not in place of them. Thus, it should not lead to the digital museumization of Indigenous cultures.

Unfortunately, digital recording and documentation of Indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage for the purpose of strengthening Indigenous cultures simultaneously contributes to their easy accessibility by third parties. In Western economic philosophy any information or knowledge which is considered to be shared, disclosed or generally known is classified as part of the public domain. As such it is freely available for commercial use, e.g. for the pharmaceutical industry, agribusiness, textile industry (Indigenous designs), utilization on the Internet such as for advertisement purposes and others. In this way, Indigenous Peoples lose ownership and control over their traditional knowledge and cultural expressions. As a result, they cease to be able to fulfill existing cultural obligations in breach of their customary law since they can not prevent inappropriate use, exploitation and appropriation.

Indigenous Peoples have also voiced concern about current practices of storing traditional knowledge on public and private databases for scientific, economic or development purposes, including in the context of development projects.⁴ Such practices contribute to either placing Indigenous traditional knowledge in the public domain or creating private property rights on databases containing the foundation of Indigenous cultures. A second concern relates to the loss of the holistic character of traditional knowledge when codified for digital storage. Indigenous knowledge often includes teachings. Sharing them is usually accompanied by a set of cultural obligations, protocols and ethical considerations, which in addition may vary according to the specific situation of sharing and the receivers of the information. Furthermore, traditional knowledge is collective knowledge. Therefore it can neither be stripped of its holistic character nor be placed in the public domain or linked with private property rights of third parties.

Indigenous rights

A rights based approach to development is therefore a prerequisite for the implementation of MDG 8 as it is for the overall evolution of the Information Society with a view to Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous rights need to cover respect for their cultural diversity in general and

⁴ Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society, Indigenous Position Paper and Action Plan for the World Summit on the Information Society II (WSIS II), Tunis and Beyond (www.incomindios.ch)

protection of their traditional knowledge in particular, but also access to ICT infrastructure, technology and connectivity in a culturally appropriate way.

Concerning the promotion and protection of the cultural diversity of Indigenous Peoples in the Information Society when implementing MDG 8 it is important to recognize that ICT applications can only supplement and support traditional methods as provided by Indigenous education systems (transmission of cultural practices and traditional knowledge, language teaching) or health practices, among others. Thus, it is equally important that Indigenous rights like those related to their ancestral territories, cultural values, education systems, languages and health systems are enforced and protected.

However, standard setting for additional Indigenous rights in the Information Society such as rights related to their traditional knowledge and culturally appropriate access to connectivity and ICT infrastructure has not yet taken place. Although the protection of traditional knowledge is currently being debated at WIPO it would be important to add a rights based dimension with a view to the evolution of the Information Society. At the same time, other rights need to be developed, for example culturally appropriate access to connectivity and ICT applications including in the context of Internet Governance (domain names, servers, portals, multilingualism etc.). The difficulties of Indigenous Peoples to establish their own media even using traditional ICTs such as radio and television may demonstrate how important this kind of standard setting would be. In many countries it is, for instance, extremely difficult for Indigenous Peoples to obtain concessions for radio frequencies to operate their own community radios.

Generally it has to be stressed that these pre-requisites for the implementation of MDG 8 would not only apply for development projects and Government policies but also for partnerships with the private sector.

Digital Divide

MDG 8 also points to the goal to overcome the digital divide. Indigenous Peoples clearly are on the wrong side of the digital divide and great efforts have to be made to close the gap. Many Indigenous Peoples have, for instance, no access to the Internet or do not have the expertise to take advantage of its potential (e.g. creation of web-sites or portals).

Major obstacles that prevent them from participating in the Information Society include the lack of

- basic infrastructure including electricity and telephone services,
- available servers and ICT-equipment (such as computers and software), and
- financial resources to obtain the necessary technology and training.

Respecting the cultural diversity of Indigenous Peoples in this context means to recognize their right to bridge the digital divide on their own terms. First and foremost, this includes the right to culturally appropriate access to connectivity and ICT applications. It also includes the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in designing, implementing and monitoring any projects and programmes related to the implementation of MDG 8 in particular and to the evolution of the Information Society in general. Indigenous Peoples must have the right to

determine the approach to be taken in this process. Special attention needs to be paid to the fact that literacy and command of non-Indigenous languages is a problem for many Indigenous Peoples. Thus it is important to develop affordable culturally appropriate software solutions that simultaneously strengthen Indigenous cultures and languages.

Bridging the digital divide on their own terms includes another aspect that is vital for Indigenous Peoples. Since Indigenous Peoples are so profoundly affected by the digital divide they have little knowledge and understanding about ICTs and connectivity. To make fully informed decisions, it would be necessary to provide them with culturally appropriate capacity-building. To this end it would be essential to promote the elaboration of adequate models with full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples themselves and involving their own ICT experts.

Indigenous-to-Indigenous co-operation

It generally has to be emphasized that it is important to look at Indigenous-to-Indigenous co-operation when implementing MDG 8. Some Indigenous Peoples, often in industrialized countries, have begun to utilize ICTs in various fields and have developed expertise in their application. Sharing their experiences, they would simultaneously be able understand the problems that Indigenous Peoples face to overcome the digital divide. Furthermore, they possess a genuine cultural sensitivity which is an enormous plus to assist in the development of culturally appropriate solutions which are sustainable at the same time.

Therefore it would foster the sustainable implementation of MDG 8 to promote:

- Indigenous-to-Indigenous projects
- Involvement of Indigenous ICT experts to develop and carry out projects, programmes and culturally appropriate capacity-building
- Indigenous-to-Indigenous private sector partnerships
- Indigenous research projects.

Indigenous research projects

Indigenous research projects would be a first step to explore the aspirations of Indigenous Peoples towards the implementation of MDG 8 and the evolution of the Information Society and thus could serve to prepare sustainable projects and programmes. Indigenous research projects could assist Indigenous Peoples in identifying

1. local content
2. local connectivity needs
3. technically and culturally appropriate ICT applications
4. technically and culturally appropriate access solutions
5. Indigenous language requirements
6. necessary technical requirements
7. necessary culturally appropriate capacity-building programs.

The central goal of such projects would be the elaboration of locally adapted ICT strategies based on the needs and aspirations of the Indigenous Peoples concerned. These ICT strategies would also include concrete project proposals pointing out the necessary steps for their implementation.

Full and effective participation of the Indigenous Peoples concerned is an essential element in the research process and the development of follow-up activities.

Indigenous approaches to overcome the digital divide might be different from non-Indigenous approaches. Indigenous Peoples might, for instance, decide that it would be indispensable to properly involve Elders and traditional authorities in the process. One avenue are intergenerational partnerships between Elders and Youth that correspond to traditional methods of education, training and transmission of culture and identity.

Indigenous research projects could identify these approaches in advance and therefore assist in saving valuable time to find solutions for bridging the digital divide that are applicable and sustainable.

The role of “traditional” ICTs

Last but not least it would be important to recognize that for many Indigenous Peoples “bridging the digital divide” also means to have access to “traditional” ICTs such as radio, TV and print media.

Indigenous community radios, for instance, are able to provide information in the respective mother tongue and can therefore be an important means to strengthen Indigenous languages. They are usually operated with extensive community involvement for producing and broadcasting local content in a culturally appropriate way. At the same time, they are technically very adapted to local conditions. Community radios are often the only means of communication in Indigenous areas, besides personal meetings. Moreover, they can be instrumental to disseminate information on national and international developments. In fact, they can close the “information gap” that many Indigenous Peoples are suffering from.

In addition, it should be considered that “traditional ICTs” such as community radios may provide a good basis to connect Indigenous communities to “new ICTs”, and particularly the Internet. Indigenous research projects could explore these possibilities and assist in developing innovative strategies to use any existing potentials in this direction.

Nevertheless, in a number of countries Government policies compromise the right of Indigenous Peoples to participate in the Information Society, for instance by creating an unfavourable environment for the establishment of Indigenous media or by denying frequencies. In fact, implementing MDG 8 needs to address these realities.

The potential role of ICTs to support the implementation of MDGs 1-7

Implementing MDG 8 also means to look at the potentials of ICTs to achieve MDGs 1-7. In fact, there are a number of cross-cutting issues and ICTs could provide potential tools to reach the Millennium Development Goals towards poverty reduction, education, health and environment.

Potential avenues to follow in this process with a view to Indigenous Peoples are mainly derived from the *Indigenous Position Paper to WSIS*⁵ and an initial study among Indigenous Peoples on the use of ICTs⁶ which served as the basis for developing the Indigenous Position Paper.

Poverty Reduction

Indigenous Peoples and their communities are usually at the bottom of social indicators and burdened with high poverty rates. The potentials of ICT use for poverty reduction therefore represent a vital question for Indigenous Peoples.

E-business opportunities - adapted to their cultural background, geographic location and economic situation - may be one option. However, Indigenous Peoples would need support and capacity-building for the successful establishment of Indigenous e-business, for instance to develop strategies for sufficient income generation and market access in a globalized environment. Therefore it would be essential to create programs to promote the establishment of Indigenous e-business with full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples themselves.

Education

Generally, Indigenous education has to be based on recognition of the right of Indigenous Peoples to their own educational systems and cultural methods of teaching and learning. ICT utilization for Indigenous education needs to follow the same principle.

Based on this approach long distance education, for instance, could become an enormous plus for Indigenous students in remote areas since they could stay in their home regions and would not have to leave for boarding schools. Thus, their education could take place at home within their own cultures, which would significantly assist them in strengthening their Indigenous identity. Simultaneously they would be able to acquire the skills needed to interact with the non-Indigenous world. Long distance education could be developed into a potentially promising instrument to enable bi-cultural education in remote Indigenous regions.

Health

Generally, health policies in the Information Society must respect the right of Indigenous Peoples to their own traditional medicines and health practices, including their right to the protection of vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Furthermore, utilization of health-related ICT applications in Indigenous communities has to be based on the right of Indigenous Peoples to the continued integrity of their health systems and traditional healing practices.

There are, in fact, fundamental differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous healing systems, treatment methods and drug production. Indigenous specific approaches, protocols and cultural obligations related to their traditional healing arts must be acknowledged and respected by non-Indigenous actors of the Information Society – for instance by recognizing that

⁵ Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society, Indigenous Position Paper and Action Plan for the World Summit on the Information Society II (WSIS II), Tunis and Beyond; www.incomindios.ch

⁶ Indigenous Media Network/Incomindios: Give us the stuff and we'll figure it out. Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society. Survey Report May 2004, Editors: Ann-Kristin Håkansson, Kenneth Deer. www.incomindios.ch

Indigenous traditional medicinal knowledge and medicinal plants can not be considered a part of the public domain.

Therefore it is of fundamental importance to develop health policies that allow for the complementarity of Indigenous and non-Indigenous health systems and healing practices.

Based on this approach, culturally appropriate forms of ICT use could assist in achieving the health-related MDGs 4-6. For instance, ICTs could have a great potential for health education – particularly with a view to those sicknesses that Indigenous Peoples have traditionally not been exposed to. Combating HIV/AIDS (MDG 6) in Indigenous areas could, for instance, be a major field for dissemination of culturally appropriate information material via ICTs. Broadcasting community radio information programs on HIV/AIDS and preventive measures against its transmission or producing audiovisual information material on video or DVDs may be avenues to broadly reach Indigenous Peoples in rural and urban areas. It would be particularly important to have information available in the respective Indigenous languages to ensure that monolingual speakers can benefit from the information as well.

However, Indigenous Peoples in a number of countries face a general fundamental difficulty leading, among others, to high child mortality rates (MDG 4) and maternal health problems (MDG 5). On the one hand, traditional health care systems are weakened or disrupted. Sufficient provision with traditional health care can no longer be uphold. On the other hand, Indigenous regions are often underprovided with basic non-Indigenous health care facilities. Thus, the affected Indigenous Peoples have lost any kind of medical care.

Such a situation leads to generally high death rates. Especially for Indigenous women it is very difficult to appropriately cope with health issues related to pregnancy, birth and infant care, particularly in the case of adolescent pregnancies. As a result, infant mortality rates are high. In some Indigenous areas more than 50% of births are not attended by a health professional – neither traditional nor non-Indigenous.⁷ These conditions are rather alarming and may also lead to maternal health problems and an increase in the maternal mortality rate.

Measures to remedy this situation first and foremost should strengthen the traditional health care system and provide Indigenous Peoples with affordable access to non-Indigenous basic health facilities. ICTs could play a complementary role in achieving MDG 4(child mortality) and MDG 5 (maternal health). Indigenous women might, for instance, be provided with vital information through education programs broadcasted in their mother tongue by Indigenous community radios. Furthermore, video and DVDs – or where available TV programs – may assist them to improve their knowledge about health issues related to pregnancy, birth and infant care. Such information material could be produced together with local healers.

Environment

MDG 7 aims at ensuring environmental sustainability. To this end, the principles of sustainable development should be integrated into country policies and programmes and the loss of environmental resources should be reversed.

⁷ Source for the information above: Ann-Kristin Håkansson (Ed.) 2001: Roots of Life. Cultural Diversity for Sustainable Development. An Indigenous Approach. The Saami Council. p.29

Indigenous Peoples have much to offer on sustainable development. Their traditional ways of life can provide models of sustainable livelihood. Their holistic approach towards the relationship between man and nature and the wisdom of their traditional ecological knowledge can contribute to environmental protection and human sustainability.

ICTs could assist Indigenous Peoples in sharing some of their philosophies and related traditional ecological knowledge for environmental education, guided by their customary laws. Applying ICTs could therefore enhance intercultural learning and understanding of environmental issues. Such an approach would, at the same time, promote recognition of the value of Indigenous cultures among Governments and the non-Indigenous world in general. It might as well support political participation of Indigenous Peoples in the development process, particularly with a view to Indigenous ancestral territories and their environmental integrity.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. We request the Global Alliance to adopt the approach of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on achieving the MDGs with a view to Indigenous Peoples. Implementing MDG 8 in an Indigenous context thus has to be based on

- respect for cultural diversity and the special situation of Indigenous Peoples,
- a rights based approach to development,
- respect for Indigenous customary law, and in particular cultural protocols, obligations and ethical standards of Indigenous Peoples towards their traditional knowledge
- protection of traditional knowledge against appropriation, misuse and unauthorized application by third parties
- full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, and
- respect for culturally appropriate solutions as proposed by Indigenous Peoples themselves.

2. We further request the Global Alliance to look into ways how the material side of the digital divide can be bridged for Indigenous Peoples.

3. The Global Alliance should promote Indigenous-to-Indigenous co-operation for achieving MDG 8 and support Indigenous research projects to assist Indigenous Peoples in bridging the digital divide and participate in building the Information Society.

4. The Global Alliance should encourage UN bodies and agencies as well as the private sector to enter into partnerships with Indigenous Peoples to meet the objectives of MDG 8.