

Nomination form
International Memory of the World Register

1.0 Checklist

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary completed (section 1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declaration of Authority signed and dated (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified, and all Declarations of Authority obtained |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History/provenance completed (section 3.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bibliography completed (section 3.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of owner completed (section 4.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of custodian – if different from owner – completed (section 4.2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of legal status completed (section 4.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented to support fulfilment of the criteria? (section 5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Additional information provided (section 6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of consultation with stakeholders completed (section 7) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Assessment of risk completed (section 8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan attach details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 9) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other information provided – if applicable (section 10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Suitable reproduction quality photographs identified to illustrate the documentary heritage. (300dpi, jpg format, full-colour preferred). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Copyright permissions forms signed and attached. Agreement to propose item(s) for inclusion on the World Digital Library if inscribed |

Nomination form International Memory of the World Register

Statements made by Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations 1982 to 2015

ID Code [2016-91]

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

The Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information Docip was created in 1978 at the request of the indigenous peoples and it retains custody of thousands of documents produced within the framework of United Nations (UN) forums in Geneva and New York. In order to guarantee the ongoing accessibility of the documents, with their treasure house of indigenous memories, Docip conserves them physical and digitally.

The nominated heritage offers unique documents created by indigenous peoples around the globe on behalf of their communities. They contain juridical, historical, cultural arguments and claims on a variety of topics addressed by the UN important for the development of international law, the advancement of indigenous people's rights at national level and the inspiration of younger generations.

Among the major international outcomes of the indigenous peoples participating in the UN and other bodies through their statements were the creation of relevant specialized UN bodies dealing the interests and issues of indigenous peoples, and in 2007 the General Assembly (GA) adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the GA Outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014.

Already in 2009, UNOG included within the Memory of the World Register the documentary heritage of the League of Nations from 1919 to 1946, which includes documents from Deskaheh who was the first delegate to bring indigenous peoples concerns before the League of Nations in Geneva (Switzerland) in 1920s.

As **Jefferson Keel** stated: *"I am the Lieutenant Governor of the Chickasaw Nation – an Indian nation with our own government that has entered into treaties and that historically has been a part of the international community. We are back now, along with many other indigenous nations, to take our places here. We are indigenous nations and peoples – not just individuals. As nations, with our own governments, we are rejoining the international community".* (Annex 1: Statement made during the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014)

2.0 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

David Matthey-Doret (Docip- Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information)

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Director of Docip

2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

John Miller and Andrés Del Castillo

2.4 Contact details

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	
John Miller and Andrés Del Castillo	106 Route de Ferney, CH1202, Geneva, Switzerland	
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i>	<i>Email: andres@docip.org</i>
+41(0)227403433		john@docip.org

3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

Title: Statements made by Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations 1982 to 2015.

Institution: Docip - Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information. Geneva, Switzerland

Docip's library holds over 22.000 heterogeneous items distributed in a physical archival collection, a digital database, journals, monographs, thematic files and multimedia on indigenous peoples rights.

Docip's aim is to protect an archival collection forming a significant part of the documents which we have preserved since the first session of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP) in August 1982 to December 2015. The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples was held in 2014, and 2015 was a crucial year for setting up the implementation plan of the outcome document of that conference. In addition, there are changes adopted on the modalities of participation of indigenous peoples at the international meetings, having as consequences less written statements and more interactive dialogues, which implies the use or other technologies as video and audio recording.

We continue to build the collection and preserve the documentary heritage of indigenous peoples. Statements collected from 2016 are not considered as part of the nomination and it would be proposed for inscription at a later date if judged appropriate.

The archival collection that we are nominating comprises exclusively hard and digital copies of written statements and reports made by and submitted by the indigenous peoples representatives and organisations before the UN bodies, which have been conserved in the Docip archives in Geneva, Switzerland in two locations:

- Headquarters: 106 Route de Ferney, CH 1202, Geneva, Switzerland.
- Archive - Fallout shelter: Av. Trembley 1209 Geneva, Switzerland.

The archival collection contains statements made by indigenous peoples organisations before the following bodies: The UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations (1982- 1990) and the UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples (1991-2000); Inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples (1995-2006); The Open-ended Working Group on a Permanent Forum (1999-2000); The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2002-2015); The UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2006 -2015); The UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and Alta Preparatory meeting (2013-2014).

Physical collection: The files have been processed, classified and indexed and are maintained in hard copy at the Docip archive office.

Text item carrier: A4 Paper 210 x 297 millimetres / ISO 216 standard

Number of pages: 90000 A4 pages of texts

Storage Binders: 300

Not all originals of the statements are proposed because those documents are kept by indigenous people's organisations themselves, although some originals have been given to Docip for safekeeping.

Database: Docip's digital database is based on UNESCO Software (Greenstone Digital Library documentation database) with 10786 documents containing statements submitted by indigenous peoples' representatives which we received directly or collected during various UN conferences from 1982 to December 31 2015.

Data storage: Hard disk 13 GB

Cloud: 13 GB

Greenstone: 7.8 GB

80% of these files have been digitized (Text item carriers: Hard disk and Cloud) and put on an external hard drive kept at 106 Route de Ferney ([Annex 2](#): photo of the professional storage place for the external hard drive). Indigenous peoples, researchers and other partners can have access to 80% of the documents which are easily found online through our website www.docip.org, and to 100% of documents in hard copy in our Documentation centre-library base in Geneva.

3.4 History/provenance

Participation in international organisations meetings is addressed through oral interventions. Speakers lists are arranged for that purpose and participants have to write oral statements and distribute them to the UN and to the interpreters before taking the floor.

Statements given by thousands of representatives of indigenous peoples' organisations during plenary meetings are not archived systematically by the UN. This task is thus unique and exhaustive in nature and is part of the Docip mandate. Docip since 1982 has collected, stored, distributed, and classified approximately 2000 interventions per year. Docip history is strongly linked with the history of Indigenous peoples' international movement.

Since the 1920s, the Six Nations Confederacy (Canada) strove to obtain international recognition by the Society of Nations in Geneva. However, they waited until the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities appointed a special rapporteur, Mr José Martínez Cobo, in 1970 to draw up the *Study of the Problem of Discrimination against Indigenous Populations*. His final report was presented between 1981 and 1984.

In 1977, the First NGOs International Conference on the *"Discrimination against the Indigenous Populations in the Americas"* was convened in Geneva. 90 delegations representing 60 indigenous nations from 15 countries participate in it. In 1981 took place the *"NGO International Conference on Indigenous Peoples and Land"*. One of the recommendations by the Conference was the establishment of the WGIP within the framework of the Commission on Human Rights.

Docip is also one of the outcomes of the 1977 International Conference. It was established at the request of the indigenous delegations who defined its priorities. As a service organisation it was responsible for the secretariat of the 1981 Conference, translated the resolutions of the First Congress of Indigenous Movements of South America during which the Indian Council of South America was established, prepared the documentation for the Experts Conference on Ethnocide and Ethno-Development convened by UNESCO and put the documentation of the 1977 and 1981 Conferences at the disposal of the first session of the WGIP in 1982.

The proposal to create a permanent forum on indigenous issues originated at the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, and its establishment became one of the central objectives of the program of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples (1995-2004).

In 1999, an ad hoc Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights met in Geneva to draft proposals to create a permanent forum. A second ad hoc Working Group met in 2000 to draft a proposal for the Commission on Human Rights. The Commission on Human Rights then recommended that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) set up a permanent forum on indigenous issues. In 2000, ECOSOC established the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) was created in 2007 by the Human Rights Council (HRC). The EMRIP replaces the WGIP of the former Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

The UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples was established by the GA in 1985 with the aim of providing financial assistance for indigenous delegates wishing to participate in UN meetings. In 2001 was appointed the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples by the Commission on Human Rights.

After more than 30 years of discussions and work, in 2006, the HRC adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and this international normative text was approved by the GA on 13 September 2007.

Finally, the first World Conference on Indigenous Peoples of 2014, was considered to be another significant milestone on this journey. Indigenous delegates from 7 regions of the world carried out a considerable amount of preparation for the conference, including a meeting held in June 2013 in Alta, Norway, in order to establish a common position. Initiated by the Sámi Parliament of Norway, this conference produced the "Alta Outcome Document", which contains recommendations to the States.

Docip has collected statements at the UN specific bodies dealing with indigenous peoples rights: -WGIP(1982-2007); Inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. (1995-2006); Working Group on a Permanent Forum for Indigenous People (1999-2000); UNPFII (2002- ongoing); EMRIP (2007-ongoing); World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and Preparatory Process (2013-2014).

4.0 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address	
Docip	106 Route de Ferney, CH 1202 Geneva, Switzerland	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+41(0)227403433		docip@docip.org

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address
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Telephone

Facsimile

Email

4.3 Legal status

Docip's Mandate was conferred by the first indigenous peoples delegates that came into meetings in 1977. Docip is owner of the database and custodian of the documentary heritage. Indigenous peoples representatives retain full and exclusive rights on the documentary heritage content.

Legally we have contract agreements with our donors (The DDC, EU, Canton and City of Geneva, Sami Parliament), which includes the update, maintain of the Documentary heritage. In 2014 Docip was accepted as a member of the Network of Swiss Development Documentation Centres (NEDS)

The Documentation Centre is protected by a special law by the State of Geneva. The documentary heritage of the Centre is to be kept in Geneva (Switzerland) and the Archival collection of statements is a unique expression of the documentary heritage of indigenous peoples representatives.

- 1994 and 1999: *Arrêtés approuvant la misse à disposition au profit du Docip par le Conseil d'État République et Canton de Genève.*

- 1998: *Arrêté relatif à l'exonération d'impôts sur le revenu et la fortune ainsi qu'à la réduction des droits de succession et d'enregistrement accordées au Docip par le Conseil d'État République et Canton de Genève.*

4.4 Accessibility

Interventions made by indigenous peoples delegates at the relevant UN mechanisms are kept safe and available for indigenous peoples communities and other stakeholders in the online archival collection, on CDs & DVDs and in printed and online newsletters (UPDATES). Documents that are not yet digitized can be still be accessed on request.

To reduce the linguistic gap between participants, the Docip publishes Newsletter (Update), which summarizes all the speeches of each participant at every session from 1991 to 2015 and beyond.

Documentary heritage is accessible throughout online collections. Original documents have been gathered, photocopied and 80% have been digitized and are freely accessible on the Internet (<http://www.docip.org/en/our-services/documentation-center/>), as well as CDs, DVDs, and newsletter (UPDATES) in hard copy can be requested by email to documentation@docip.org and online.

The archives can be consulted three working days per week (Tuesday to Thursday) from 10 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm. In the reading room of the Documentation Centre. Hard copies of statements can be ordered by written/oral request.

Hard copy documents held in our Trembley repository will need to be retrieved from there and so there may be a delay in them being made available in the Docip reading room.

4.5 Copyright status

For the online documentation Docip uses the Creative Commons licence Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivs 2.5 Switzerland (CC BY-NC-ND 2.5 CH). Material can be reproduced, translated, distributed, or otherwise used as long as the appropriate credit is given and Docip is advised.

The digitized statements enjoy the same intellectual property copyright protection level as the original. Therefore all digitized documents in the online documentation are available free of charge and all pdf. archives can be previewed and downloaded.

Excerpts from statements

According to the United Nations rights and permissions policy, in relation to speeches delivered at the United Nations by non UN staff, requests must be addressed to the indigenous peoples participants, as they are still the owners of original source materials.

Traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, must be respected and not infringed by users of the digital Archival collection.

As Docip's mandate was granted by indigenous peoples themselves, during the statement collection process volunteers ask speakers to express their will as to whether or not they want their statements to be published and to be used for non commercial purposes. At the beginning of each session the Chair informs participants about the gathering process. When they give to us their statements (the original/copies) they give their permission for their use for non commercial purposes.¹

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity.

The authenticity of the statements can be confirmed at all times by the indigenous peoples organisations themselves. Docip houses digitized resources which have always remained in their ownership.

Docip has a certification process and as a source of verification the UN keeps the list of speakers which can corroborate the names of participants at the meetings and allows them to be matched with the content of interventions.

The unique way of gathering the documents during conferences : Docip collects, digitizes, catalogues, certifies and makes accessible the interventions made during relevant UN meetings and conferences. These interventions are preserved on paper and electronically, in order to make them available to all, including those who are unable to attend the conference.

Our head of documentation and our volunteers who are stationed in the conference room request a copy of each delegate's speech. If necessary, copy the document and return the original to the delegate. If the indigenous delegate is unable to produce a copy of the speech at the time of the request, the document is sent as soon as possible by email to documentation@docip.org

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/copyright/> . Last visit. 23-03-2016

The digitization process is rapid and publications are uploaded in the minimum possible time - this provides remote access to these documents for communities which could not attend the conferences. These documents support ongoing negotiations and decision-making. All speeches are given in their original language - English, French, Spanish or Russian. Translations of documents have been included if available. After that process, statements are transferred to our headquarters in Geneva.

5.2 World significance

The archival collection has a great significance for all indigenous peoples worldwide as well as for academia, governments, international organisations, etc.

For instance the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the OHCHR publication (2013) *The UNDRIP: A Manual for National Human Rights Institutions*, states that: *“The Docip website contains an extensive collection of historically important international documents for indigenous organisations and documentation from relevant international forums. National Human Rights Institutions can utilize the resources published on the website and promote its use by indigenous peoples and their organisations within their jurisdiction.”*

During the opening ceremony of the UNPFII in May 2014, the Chairperson, M. Dalee S. Sambo, stated: *“In advance, I would like to express our appreciation for the work of the Forum Secretariat, the staff of the Conference Services, and also acknowledge the work of the Docip. Since 1977, Docip has been an important organization for thousands of indigenous individuals, carefully and apolitically (...) providing a vital record of our work within the UN system.”*

In April 2015, the EMRIP, through the Chair-Rapporteur, Mr. Albert Deterville, stated: *“It is crucial for indigenous representatives to be supported by Docip in order to participate effectively in our sessions. Available in four languages, Docip’s services connect indigenous organisations from around the world, along with other concerned parties; they thus facilitate the sharing of knowledge on good practices all over the world, regardless of linguistic barriers. Without Docip’s support, it would be very challenging for EMRIP and its secretariat to manage participation and take into account the inputs of hundreds of indigenous delegates in each session.”*

Docip collection complement items already included in the register such as: UNOG Archives of the League of Nations, the Archive of the Skolt Sámi village of Suonjel Suenjel, the Mabo Case Manuscripts, as that documentary heritage are testimony of their rights.

Also some of the statements are unique, as they were made by indigenous groups representing the point of view of a whole region, such as in the handwritten Declaration of July 1989: Peoples of the Spring Penans and Dayak Tribes in Sarawak, made and signed and fingerprinted by representatives of 40 different Penan groups (nomadic people) in Ulu Baram and Ulu Sitibang ([Annex 11](#): photo of the statement made by Peoples of the Spring Penans).

These documents facilitate a greater understanding of the historical claims, positions and requests of indigenous peoples and the evolution of contemporary international law. Some of the statements are the first speeches made by indigenous peoples at the UN. ([Annex 12](#): PDF of the First Igorot People statement at the UNWGIP-84).

Two historical symposiums were organised at the request of indigenous peoples in 2013 and 2015. During those meetings, the historical value of the documentation centre’s task was highlighted as well as the value of the Archival collection.

This value is incalculable to the indigenous international movement and the young generations to come, which will be able to use the Archival collection as a means to see what their ancestor’s

claims and their positions were during the last 3 decades.

The statements collected by Docip have remained practical documents: They have been used to claim de facto or legal recognition as indigenous peoples at internal level and they are still examined in juridical processes and grievance mechanisms as evidence of claims, and legitimation of indigenous peoples organisations.

5.3 Comparative criteria:

1 Time

During more than 30 years Docip has been keeping track of the collective memory of the international network of indigenous peoples. Its implications for the evolution on international law concerning indigenous peoples has been:

-The adoption of instruments such as the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is an unprecedented process of the elaboration of an international normative instrument with the effective participation of indigenous peoples during the drafting process.

-The establishment of 3 mechanisms and 1 fund: EMRIP, UNPFII and the Special rapporteur on indigenous peoples and the UN Voluntary fund on Indigenous peoples.

Also, statements and their information content are a testimony to their struggles in a specific period of time from 1982 to 2015, for instance:

-the impact of the Cold War on Inuit people meant an actual separation of blood relations between the Alaskans and those in the Russian Far East, in Siberia and the militarization of the Arctic region including the oceans.

- The Impacts of the loss of the land and culture of indigenous peoples and suicide of young Kaiua people in Brazil. (Annex 13: Statement by **Lucio flores**. Federação Indígena do Mato Grosso, UN WGIP-1999).

- The impacts of the privatization of the Hul'qumi'num Mustimuhw lands. *"privatization has also severely impacted essential water supplies, traditional medicinal plants and wildlife populations. Our dependence upon the marine resources, especially salmon are being impacted by climate change. We are witnessing the declining return of salmon stocks throughout our traditional territory."* (Annex 14: Statement by **Lydia HWITSUM** The First Nations Summit. Hul'qumi'num Mustimuhw, UNPFII-2008)

2 Place

The Archival collections contain claims, positions and opinions expressed by indigenous peoples delegates during the last 40 years, on behalf of their own communities at the UN headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland) and New York (USA).

Historically, Switzerland has long been very engaged in the promotion and defence of Indigenous Peoples Rights.

Within the United Nations, the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples (Geneva, Switzerland) has been an instance of openness for the 5000 indigenous peoples. The fact that it allowed them to

take the floor is quite symbolically remarkable for the development and recognition of indigenous peoples collective and individual rights.

Documents contain historical and geopolitical evidence of indigenous peoples territories on different continents of the world, and the composition and relationship of the colonial powers with them.

For instance:“(…)Since February 28, 2006, our people have taken action to reclaim jurisdiction over lands that rightfully belong to the Six Nations people of Grand River. These lands were promised by way of the Haldimand Proclamation in 1784, which guarantees to our people; six miles on each side of the Grand River from its mouth to its source. However, since then much of our land has been encroached upon by the non-indigenous jurisdictions that surround us. As the legitimate authority responsible for the territorial integrity of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, we are charged with the duty of securing and protecting our lands.” (Annex 15: Statement by **Kenneth DEER**, on the behalf of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, UN WGIP-2006).

3 People

Thousand of the documents affirm the existence of indigenous peoples from all around the world, including remotes areas, and the collection contains their claims on lands, notices of motions and their point of view on the history of humanity, with allegories to their world view.

Within the collection is possible to find statements made by **Berta Cáceres** (R.I.P), leader of the indigenous Lenka peoples murdered last 3rd March 2016 talking about the 2009 Honduran coup d'état (Annex 16: Statement of the COPINH, at the at the UNPFII-2011), as well as the Nobel Peace Prize **Rigoberta Menchú Tum**, talking about Guatemala peace agreements and the proposals of indigenous peoples for the constitutional reform process. (Annex 17: Statement at the UNWGIP-1998).

Also, statements contain their world view: “La Pachamama "Madre Tierra", fuente de vida y los seres humanos hacemos parte de una sola unidad armoniosa. Nuestros ancestros nos han enseñado a vivir con dignidad y respeto. Continuamos nuestra existencia regidos por los tres reglamentos: el ama sua (no seas ladrón), ama llulla (no seas mentiroso) ama killa (no seas flojo).” (Annex 18 Statement of Andrea Flores Organización Mujeres Aymaras Del Kollasuyo, UN WGIP-1992).

Statements taking positions about a legal definition of indigenous peoples and general principles on indigenous peoples are in the collection.

For example, statements rejected the doctrine of terra nullius, with strong juridical and historical arguments. such as in the Mabo Case Manuscripts about the Murray Islands in Torres Strait, recommended for inclusion in the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2001, where for the first time land claims of indigenous Australians were recognized. (Annex 19: Statement by Mick Dodson, director Northern Land Council, Darwin, Australia, UNWGIP 1992).

The collection also represents a historical memory of the network of indigenous peoples organisations composed of hundreds of such organisations who have a shared sense of purpose, and concerns, and documents their struggles in the recognition of their rights and affirmation of their existence.

4 Subject and theme

Within the document collection it is possible to find from the discussions on international law on the definition of indigenous peoples, materials on the Discovery doctrine, the Terra nullius

doctrine, and the link between climate change and its negative impact on indigenous peoples rights.

As part of the topic conservation and environmental protection from the point of view of Yanomami indigenous leader from the Amazon forest :“The whites say: "Environment". My idea is not "Environment," it is "all around and in the middle" or to speak "environment intact". This is good; this is very good that I am doing this, so that you don't forget: Exist Yanomami, and in this big gathering please don't forget: We need help... need help!, We Yanomami want to live also!, We Yanomami want to live like this, saving our culture!, We Yanomami never left our culture!, Always guarding our culture and our languages!" (Annex 20: Statement of **João Davi Yanomama**. Chief of Community Paapiu and spoken person of Yanomami. UNPFII-2002)

The inclusion of this group of documents in the Memory of the World register would have a memorable impact on the historical understanding of the international movement for indigenous peoples rights.

Statements also contains explanations of specific context concerning education policies and the importance of the modern tongue:

“Mbororo children are thus disadvantaged from going to school because of the distances they have to cover on a daily basis. Similarly, in Chad most Mbororo families undertake seasonal transhumance with the effect that, only during dry season, their children are able to regularly attend schools, while during rainy season they are away with their cattle and thus cut off from educational facilities.” (Annex 21: Joint Statement by Organisations representing the Mbororo people of Cameroon, Chad and Niger (MBOSCUA, Lelewal, AFPAT, AREN) EMRIP-2008).

“(…)/la langue maternelle est un outil de transmission des savoirs, de la connaissance de l'histoire, des ancêtres fondateurs. Elle permet de transmettre l'éducation de base au sein des communautés. Par exemple chez le peuple peul Mbororo du Tchad, le « PULAANKU » qui est le code de conduite morale que doit assumer tout peul est enseigné uniquement en langue maternelle peule.” (Annex 22: Statement by **Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim**, from Association des Femmes Peules Autochtones du Tchad (AFPAT), UNPFII -2008)-

The inclusion of this group of documents in the Memory of the World register would have a memorable impact on the historical understanding of the international movement for indigenous peoples rights.

5 Form and style

6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

For some indigenous communities it is through oral communication that concepts and beliefs about the dreaming are passed on from one generation to the next. In several cases they are being used at internal level as the only evidence of their participation at the UN.

Indigenous peoples representatives are in most cases leaders of their communities. Some of those leaders are already elders and others have passed away, so the significance of their words increase over the years as a main source of information about their points of view.

Other indigenous peoples prefer oral tradition rather than written, so it is rare for them to see their views expressed in a message kept in a written form. (Annex 23: PDF of the statement by the Sovereignty for Hawaii Committee)

As the Director of the *Musée d'ethnographie de Genève* stated: “*Docip's collection of documents*

is a unique and diverse look into recent history. It groups together information from peoples whose traditions and ways of life are at risk and, in many cases, already declining.”
(Annex 24: PDF of the recommendation letter MEG).

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

The collection is unique because Docip's collected dossiers of documents related to all the world's Indigenous peoples and their struggles to have their rights recognised and protected represents an information resource found nowhere else. In some cases, the documents held by Docip are the only examples of these documents in existence anywhere.

For almost 40 years indigenous peoples living in more than 90 Countries have been able to retell their history and their part in the history relating to the creation of contemporary States, their relation with colonial powers, etc.

The European Union has confirmed Docip's unique position in the framework of UN activities: *“The choice of a direct award with the Docip is justified by its unique position. Acting as the Technical Secretariat of the Indigenous Peoples' representatives for the United Nations' organs, bodies and sessions in relation with Human Rights and working in close relationship with the OHCHR, and being part and being part of the UN organisational arrangements for these meetings, Docip has a unique position in the framework of the UN activities.”*² The OHCHR has also confirmed this "de facto monopoly" position.

6.2 Integrity

On August 2th 1987 a fire damaged part of Docip's then Documentation Collection. Docip lost the Statements made by indigenous peoples during the 3th and 4th session of the WGIP (1984 and 1985) and some evidence collected by indigenous peoples for the drawing up of the Martinez Cobo Study of the Problem of Discrimination against Indigenous Populations. Docip was not immediately able to obtain replacement copies after the fire but later was able to do so. Documents are now stored in a secure fire-proof bunker designed to withstand major explosions.

From 1990 to 1991 Docip reconstructed the missing files, with help from volunteers who got access to the OHCHR meetings file and who contacted all the indigenous peoples organisations participating in the 1984 and 1985 WGIP.

Docip keeps all the statements that have been made and voluntarily donated by indigenous peoples representatives. A very small number of statements were not collected for a variety of reasons, such as speakers not wanting any kind of visibility or for security reasons.

Sometime indigenous peoples organisations have given the responsibility for safekeeping of certain documents to Docip. It means that in such circumstances, they have not conserved copies of the statements themselves. In some cases, they have given us the originals with corrections made by hand. (Annex 25: photo of the original Statement made by Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas -KAMP- EMRIP 2013).

Consequences if documents were lost would be far-reaching since there are sometimes no other copies in existence of these documents supporting the history of the international network of

² See Action Document for supporting key actors. annex 9:

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/maap-eidhr-annex-9-20150207_en.pdf

indigenous peoples, and the loss of some documents would deprive international law in general of certain fundamental texts. The greatest losers would be future generations of indigenous peoples wanting to know what their ancestors said about their claims in a specific period of time.
