



OHCHR FACT SHEET

KEY FACTS ABOUT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Did you know that...

- ❖ *It is estimated that there are more than 370 million indigenous people living in more than 70 countries across the world.*
- ❖ *There are at least 5000 different indigenous groups in the world.*
- ❖ *Indigenous peoples are responsible for over 4000 of the 6700 different languages that are believed to exist today.*
- ❖ *Most of the indigenous languages are considered 'endangered' - - i.e risk being replaced by dominant languages by the end of the twenty-first century.*
- ❖ *The Amazon River Basin is about 7 per cent of the world's surface area but harbours more than half of the world's biodiversity. The Amazon River Basin is also home to about 400 different indigenous groups.*
- ❖ *More than 100 pharmaceutical companies are currently funding projects to study indigenous plant knowledge and specific plants used by native/indigenous healers.*
- ❖ *In many countries more than the 50 per cent of indigenous peoples live in cities. Over the last three decades indigenous peoples have moved from their traditional lands towards urban areas partly seeking opportunities for education and employment, partly because of human rights abuses and violations in particular to their land rights and cultural survival.*
- ❖ *Despite cultural diversity and differences in local ways of life, indigenous peoples share common features such as distinct languages, customary laws and conflict resolution practices, special relation with the land and its natural resources, traditional medicine practices and spiritual traditions and ceremonies.*

*_*_*