



INTERVENTION BY THE DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL IN GENEVA,
AMBASSADOR SERGIO FLORÊNCIO

EXPLANATION OF VOTE AFTER THE VOTE ON
THE DRAFT RESOLUTION L 3 – UNITED NATIONS
DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES

Human Rights Council

First Session

Geneva, Switzerland

June 29, 2006

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**"DECLARATION OF THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE
OCCASION OF THE ADOPTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES BY
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

The Brazilian Government voted for the Resolution which adopted, in the First Session of the Human Rights Council, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We believe that this decision is a major achievement, which augurs well for the Council's work.

We commend States and indigenous peoples who made great efforts to ensure this memorable result. We are thankful to Mr. Luis-Enrique Chávez, from Peru, whose able guidance decisively contributed to a successful conclusion of a very long and difficult negotiating process.

The Declaration adopted by the Council revitalizes the core principle of non-discrimination, which inspires the whole system of human rights in the United Nations. The Declaration asserts the importance of the indigenous peoples in our societies; acknowledges diversity as a richness of countries; underlines the past and present contribution of indigenous peoples to the material and spiritual development of all states.

As a multiethnic and multicultural country, Brazil recognizes the invaluable contributions of indigenous peoples to the political, economic, social, cultural and spiritual development of our society. The Brazilian Government is convinced that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be of the utmost importance to fight discrimination against indigenous peoples and distortions created by centuries of exclusion.

We believe it will also play an important role in promoting harmony in the relationship between indigenous peoples and the other segments of society where they live.

Brazil wishes to underline the understanding that presided over the negotiations and that permeates the whole Declaration - that the exercise of the rights of indigenous peoples it acknowledges is consistent with the respect for the political unity and territorial integrity of the sovereign and independent States which they inhabit.

These dimensions - political unity, territorial integrity and indigenous rights - are mutually reinforcing and serve the cause of a harmonious relationship within our societies. Brazil has no doubt that the Declaration will always be invoked in good faith by States and by indigenous peoples.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a reaffirmation of the commitment of the international community to ensure the enjoyment by indigenous people of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to respect the value and diversity of their cultures and identities.

As such, it will contribute to democracy, good governance, stability, social and economic equity, and greater justice in our countries."