

Foro Indígena de Abya Yala

Declaration of the Indigenous Forum of Abya Yala Iximulew, Guatemala April 11-13, 2013

In the framework of the Preparatory Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014, which took place in Iximulew, Guatemala on April 11-13, 2013, women, youth and representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations in 17 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, have met to discuss the themes and content of the World Conference. Concerns, recommendations and proposals were made demanding the respect, recognition and the fulfillment of the individual and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples, of States, financial institutions, inter-governmental agencies, among others.

For indigenous Peoples, our lands, territories and resources, are key elements that allow historical continuity and fullness of life, spirituality, social, cultural, economic, political and human development, linked to our worldview that consists of a deep relationship with Mother Earth. The institutionalization of indigenous Peoples, as expressed through institutions, ancestral authorities, their own political participation and legal systems, allow peaceful coexistence, territorial management and governance.

The current economic development model promotes megaprojects, infrastructure, communication monopolies, extractive industries, forestry, clean development mechanisms, hydroelectric industries, biofuels, "clean" energy (wind, geothermal), metal mining, and dubious solutions based on market mechanisms, REDD +, carbon credits and all its variants, biotechnology and marine fertilization, which do not respect the individual and collective human rights of indigenous peoples, primarily the right to self-determination and free, prior and informed Consent.

Mindful that dominant society in Latin America and the Caribbean persists through patterns and mechanisms of exclusion, discrimination and racism that do not allow to eradicate inequality gaps, indigenous peoples, especially those in voluntary isolation, indigenous children, youth and women, are more vulnerable to the negative impacts of the policies being developed.

We demand the real and effective decolonization of power, that does not depend on a party or government in power, but on the true construction of plurinational states respecting the demands of indigenous peoples and their life plans. This recognition is an effective mechanism to improve the relationship between States and indigenous peoples, which would allow to build and harmonize mutual coexistence for peace and an inclusive and participatory democracy, eliminating the

criminalization actions that have been committed against the indigenous leaders and peoples defending their territorial rights and cultural and spiritual integrity.

Given this situation, the indigenous peoples of Abya Yala:

- *We urge* the effective application and implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular Articles 3 and 4 on the full exercise of the right to self-determination and to autonomy or self-government;
- *We demand* that the development actions and policies proposed and promoted by States and others, meet international standards of human rights of indigenous peoples;
- *We demand* that States ensure the full and effective participation of children, youth and indigenous women in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies, especially for the revival and strengthening of cultural and linguistic identity, access to good quality indigenous intercultural education at different levels;
- *We urge* States the adequacy of their internal legal systems in line with international standards of human rights, based on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which allow democratization and the rule of law;
- *We call upon* the organisms and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, financial institutions and other intergovernmental organizations, to effectively implement the provisions of the UN Declaration in the execution of initiatives in the countries, in coordination with governments and indigenous peoples, including women and youth;
- *We urge* States to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the evaluation of the post-2015 agenda, based on self-determination, autonomy and territoriality, free, prior and informed consent, spirituality, interculturality, women and youth, reciprocity and solidarity. Eliminating practices that threaten Mother Earth and society for the common good and full life;
- *We urge* States that the construction of Sustainable Development Objectives is done with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples;
- *We urge* States to ensure indigenous peoples' right to communication and information through legislation and specific funds, as enshrined in Article 16 of the UN Declaration;

- *We call upon* States to support the political, technical and financial preparation process, ensuring participation of indigenous peoples at the World Conference and in the preparation of the outcome documents of the Conference;
- *We urge* States to establish mechanisms or laws that ensure the right to water;
- *We call upon* States, as part of an interactive dialogue with indigenous peoples, to develop processes to assess the implementation and effective enforcement of the rights of indigenous peoples, as enshrined in ILO Convention No. 169, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and others.