



**CELAC**  
Comunidad de Estados  
Latinoamericanos y Caribeños



PERMANENT MISSION OF EL SALVADOR  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**EL SALVADOR**  
PPT - CELAC - 2017



---

**Statement by the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations on  
behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC),  
17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous People  
“Indigenous peoples’ collective rights to lands, territories and resources”**

New York, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018



**CELAC**  
Comunidad de Estados  
Latinoamericanos y Caribeños



PERMANENT MISSION OF EL SALVADOR  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Madame Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the member states of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

We highlight the valuable work undertaken by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and its Secretariat, by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and by the Mechanism of Experts on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

CELAC reaffirms its commitment with the implementation of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. And in this regard welcomes the General Assembly Resolution 72/155 which urges Governments and the United Nations system, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples to develop and implement, appropriate measures, to realize the commitments made in the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

As a follow up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, CELAC would also like to recognize the efforts of the United Nations system to develop of the System Wide Action Plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, guaranteeing that the United Nations advocates with one voice for indigenous peoples rights and implement programs in a coordinated way.

Also, our countries acknowledge the adoption of the General Assembly resolution titled "Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them", in September 8th of 2017, in which we recognize the discussions on indigenous participation and request the Secretary-General to report on achievements, analysis and concrete recommendations on the possible further measures necessary to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, and encourages the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of indigenous peoples to continue to address the issue of indigenous participation.



**CELAC**  
Comunidad de Estados  
Latinoamericanos y Caribeños



PERMANENT MISSION OF EL SALVADOR  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Madame Chair,

In the agreed conclusions of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, we recognized the important role, contributions and diversity of indigenous women and girls living in rural and remote areas, particularly to the wellbeing of their families and communities; we also decided to promote and protect their human rights of by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers they face, including violence, ensuring access to quality and inclusive education, health care, including sexual and reproductive health, public services, economic resources, including land and natural resources, and women's access to decent work, and promoting their meaningful participation in the economy and in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, while respecting and protecting their traditional and ancestral knowledge, and noting the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for indigenous women and girls.

Our Member States are committed to the promotion, protection and respect of all Human Rights, without any discrimination, as a fundamental basis for sustaining the democratic life of our nations. In that sense, we underline the importance of implementing measures aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of persons in vulnerable situations, including indigenous people, persons of African descent, migrants, persons with disabilities and women, adolescents, children and older persons.

Moreover, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes and reaffirms that indigenous individuals are entitled without discrimination to all human rights recognized in international law, and that the indigenous peoples possess collective rights for their existence, well-being and integral development as peoples.

Furthermore, CELAC Member States recall that this Declaration recognizes and reaffirms that indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions to provide education in their own languages, in line with their cultural methods of teaching and learning.

We reaffirm the right of the indigenous peoples to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights and the duty of States to consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them. We especially support the empowerment and capacity-building of indigenous women and



**CELAC**  
Comunidad de Estados  
Latinoamericanos y Caribeños



PERMANENT MISSION OF EL SALVADOR  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**EL SALVADOR**  
PPT-CELAC-2017



youth, including their participation in decision-making processes in matters that affect them, with consultation to obtain their free, prior and informed consent, in particular in the areas of health, education, employment, the protection of their territories and natural resources and the transmission of traditional knowledge, languages and practices. Measures to promote awareness and understanding of their rights are also important.

Madame Chair,

We welcome the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2019 as the International year of Indigenous Languages, and we commit ourselves with the implementation of programs for the recovery, conservation, development, learning and dissemination of the different indigenous languages that are part of our cultures.

Also, our countries reaffirm the right of indigenous peoples to preserve, use, develop, revitalize and transmit to their future generations their own histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, systems of knowledge, writing and literature, and to designate and maintain names they choose for their Communities, places and individuals.

We reaffirm our commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, in a balanced and integrated way, as agreed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which cannot be attained without the inclusion of groups and people in vulnerable situations such as, indigenous peoples, and persons of African descent including women, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, children and adolescents.

Equity, social and financial inclusion and access to fair credit are central to ensure overall access to justice, participation, well-being, and living well with a dignified life for Indigenous Peoples and for all.

CELAC recognizes that Indigenous Peoples play a significant role in sustainable development and recognizes also the importance of traditional sustainable agricultural practices, the preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and resources, their right to access to drinking and suitable water for irrigation, in keeping with the legislation of each country, and their traditional systems of land tenure, seed supply systems and access to financing and markets.

Our member States recognizes also that the economic empowerment, inclusion and development of indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women, including through



**CELAC**  
Comunidad de Estados  
Latinoamericanos y Caribeños



PERMANENT MISSION OF EL SALVADOR  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**EL SALVADOR**  
PPT - CELAC - 2017



the establishment of indigenous-owned businesses, can enable them to improve their social, cultural, civil and political engagement, achieve greater economic independence and build more sustainable and resilient communities, and noting the important contribution of indigenous peoples to the broader economy.

Madame Chair,

CELAC countries reaffirm the commitment made at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to consider ways to enable the participation of indigenous people's representatives and institutions in meeting of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them.

Finally, CELAC countries highlight the need to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, territories and resources are upheld in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a practical guidance.

Thank you