

## COMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA

At the Sixth Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
New York, May 14-25, 2007

The Organizations of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America, adding to the recommendations of the First International Meeting on Communication and Development of Indigenous Peoples (September 2006) and the resulting achievements in the World Congress on Communication for Development (Rome, October 2006), found ourselves at the second international meeting in Santa Cruz, Bolivia on April 24 and 25, 2007, where we worked on *the Strategy of Communication, consolidated the Platform of Communication*, finalized our action plans, and made compromises where necessary to strengthen the platform.

A key recommendation we obtained from the congress in Rome established that *"while the right to communication pertains to all human beings, this right must be guaranteed in particular to Indigenous peoples, considering their invisibility and marginalization in processes of development and in their important contribution to the diversity of the human race."*

In the framework of the Sixth Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, we participated in a panel where we shared this process; based on this, we ask this distinguished Forum for inclusion of the following recommendations:

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We urge States, the United Nations, and development agencies to promote and guarantee Indigenous peoples' right to communication as an essential component of self-determined development based on the principles of respect, equality, humanity -- and not discrimination -- especially in places where this right has been denied.
2. To promote the focus and practices of communication for development from the perspective of Indigenous peoples, strengthening their capacity to control and manage communicative processes and guaranteeing the participation of Indigenous women.
3. To establish normative and regulatory frameworks, as well as public policies for the implementation of the right to communication and development of Indigenous peoples, guaranteeing adequate resources for implementation.
4. That before 2008, there should be mechanisms and platforms for participation, consultation, collaboration and interchange of experience among Indigenous peoples, in at least two regions, regarding communication for development. This would include mechanisms and platforms for monitoring and evaluation, with references listed and managed by Indigenous peoples' organizations, in collaboration with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in at least ten countries.

5. That the theme of **Communication and Development** of Indigenous peoples be taken by the Permanent Forum as a cross cutting fundamental theme, in the fulfillment of its mandate, and that mechanisms of coordination and follow-up with Indigenous peoples to support these activities, and as well as others, with the final recommendations stemming from the Forum be established in the framework of the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

**New York, May 17, 2007**