



Statement of the Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples delivered by Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico

Twenty-first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
ITEM 5 f) *Thematic dialogues: International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022 –2032*

New York, 25 April 2022

*FOR INTERPRETATION ONLY – A EXTENDED WRITTEN STATEMENT WILL BE SUBMITTED*

*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

*Words: 359. 3-minute time limit*

Thank you Mr./Madam Chair.

I make this statement on behalf of the Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples, a multiregional group of 21 States<sup>1</sup>.

The Group of Friends was key in the proclamation of the International Decade —as recommended by this Permanent Forum—, and will continue to work on the milestones achieved during the *International Year of Indigenous Languages*.

The International Decade is an important instrument to draw attention to the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages.

We renew our support to UNESCO, as the lead agency for the organization of the International Decade, through its Global Action Plan, in collaboration with UN DESA and the OHCHR.

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<sup>1</sup> The group is comprised by: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, the Kingdom of Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, New Zealand, Spain, Paraguay, Peru, the United States of America.

The International Decade can contribute to reaching the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals, and enhance our efforts for the effective promotion of human rights, as well as to advance the aims of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Group of Friends calls on all Member States to develop national actions plans to strengthen indigenous languages in line with the objectives of the International Decade.

We encourage all Member States to adopt public policies with an intercultural approach to promote indigenous languages, including through educational programmes that promote its use among children and youth through an intergenerational approach.

Furthermore, we recognize the important contribution that digital technologies can make to the promotion of indigenous languages when digital solutions are led by, and respect the autonomy of indigenous peoples.

We therefore suggest that UNESCO invite indigenous peoples and Member States to identify IT companies to be included in an on-going dialogue on the best use of digital technologies for indigenous-led digital inclusion and empowerment.

Mr./Madam Chair,

As we commence the International Decade, the Group of Friends renews its commitment to promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples to revitalize and transmit to future generations their languages as set out by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Thank you.