

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP  
TO PREPARE THE DRAFT AMERICAN DECLARATION  
ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Hall of the Americas  
March 11-15, 2002  
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.K/XVI  
GT/DADIN-74/02  
26 March 2002  
Original: Spanish

DECLARATION  
INDIGENOUS CAUCUS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE THE DRAFT AMERICAN DECLARATION ON THE  
RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



## DECLARATION

### INDIGENOUS CAUCUS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE THE DRAFT AMERICAN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

In AG/RES. 1022 (XIX-O/89), the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) requested the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to prepare a juridical instrument relative to the rights of the Indian peoples.

As part of that process, in the context of the second meeting of government experts on November 8-12, 1999, a working group was installed to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples.

In the framework of this year's meeting, the representatives of the indigenous peoples analyzed, in their own internal meetings, various aspects of the process related to the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and came up with the following recommendations:

1. As regards the establishment of the Permanent Fund of Voluntary Contributions of the Organization of American States for the Indigenous Peoples, consideration should be given to making it:
  - A permanent fund to support our participation in the process of drawing up the American Declaration; and
  - A body composed of seven members, six of whom would be indigenous. They should represent an equitable geographical cross-section of indigenous communities:
    - 2 from North America (Canada, Mexico, and the United States),
    - 2 from Central America and the Caribbean,
    - 2 from South America, and
    - The Chair of the Working Group

Revised and corrected document attached.

2. With respect to national and regional consultations:
  - We request that the Chair of the Working Group include in his report a specific recommendation that national states implement national consultations in coordination with us as peoples and organizations.
  - We request that renewed consideration be given to the recommendations contained in the declaration of the Hemispheric Caucus of Representatives of Indigenous Peoples held in Guatemala City in January 2001 and the declaration of the Summit of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, held in Ottawa, Canada in March 2001; and that the Declaration of Heads of State and Government in Quebec City in April of the same year, as well as other

declarations or instruments related to our rights as indigenous peoples be effectively implemented.

- We request that the OAS recognize and facilitate the conditions for our peoples and organizations to partake in the consultation process in our countries.

Attached: each of the documents referred to.

3. Given the circumstances we indigenous peoples face, we request that the states solve the conflicts related to violations of our rights, and usurpation of our territory.
4. As for the good will shown by the Working Group in initiating an open, frank, and transparent dialogue, we trust that the recommendations and proposals we have put forward will be taken seriously and treated with respect.

Done in the City of Washington, D.C. on the fifteenth day of March in the year 2002.