

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

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DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE PERMANENT FUND OF
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
FOR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

(Proposal presented by the Indigenous Peoples on March 15, 2002)

PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE PERMANENT FUND
OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
FOR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,

TAKING NOTE of resolution AG/RES. 1610 (XXIX-O/99), in which it was decided to establish a working group of the Permanent Council to continue consideration of the Proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Populations;

CONSIDERING the fourth operative paragraph of resolution AG/RES. 1780 (XXX-O-01), which recommends to the Permanent Council the establishment of a specific fund consisting of voluntary contributions to support the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples in the processes related to the drafting of the Draft Declaration, and that mechanisms be sought to ensure indigenous participation in the utilization of the fund;

CONVINCED that the establishment of a permanent fund made up of voluntary contributions for indigenous peoples would constitute a concrete mechanism in the inter-American system for fostering the participation of representatives of the indigenous peoples in the deliberations of the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples until it is adopted, as well as in any other bodies that may be created to monitor that Declaration effectively or to address the rights of indigenous peoples,

RESOLVES:

1. To establish a fund made up of voluntary contributions, based on the following considerations:
 - a. The name of the fund shall be the Permanent Fund of Voluntary Contributions of the Organization of American States for the Indigenous Peoples, hereinafter the Fund;
 - b. The purpose of the Fund shall be to provide financial support for the participation of the representatives of indigenous peoples in the deliberations of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in any other bodies in the inter-American system keeping track of that Declaration or addressing the issue of the rights of indigenous peoples. This financial support shall take the form of defraying the travel and per diem expenses of the representatives of the indigenous peoples attending meetings of the aforementioned bodies.
 - c. The beneficiaries of the Fund shall be selected in accordance with the following criteria:
 - i. They must represent a geographically equitable cross-section of indigenous peoples' organizations and communities.

- ii. The representatives of the indigenous peoples must need assistance from the Fund in order to be able to attend, for lack of own resources or because they are not able to tap other sources of financing.
 - iii. There may be no more than two representatives per indigenous peoples' organization or community.
 - iv. Indigenous organizations and communities should take gender equity and equality into account.
 - v. When submitting their applications for assistance, the indigenous peoples' organizations and communities must attest the formal appointment of the candidate.
 - vi. Indigenous peoples' organizations and communities may submit their application for assistance in any of the official languages of the Organization (Spanish, English, Portuguese, and French).
- d. The Fund shall comprise voluntary contributions of the member states and permanent observer states of the Organization, as well as of public or private, national or international persons or entities that wish to contribute to the fulfillment of the purpose referred to in Article 1.b.

2. To instruct the Secretary General to administer the Fund, in accordance with the provisions of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat and other provisions and regulations of the Organization, with the support of a Board of Trustees composed of seven members, of recognized experience with indigenous issues, six of whom shall be indigenous: two from South America, two from Central America and the Caribbean, and two from North America (Mexico-USA-Canada), who shall act in their own capacity, plus the Chair of the Working Group. The members of the Board shall be appointed by the Secretary General for a renewable term of three years, in consultation with the President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Chair of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Board of Trustees shall establish, by consensus, the specific criteria to govern applications by and selection of beneficiaries, based on the general criteria stipulated in subparagraph c) of foregoing operative paragraph 1.