



Organización de los Estados Americanos
Organização dos Estados Americanos
Organisation des États américains
Organization of American States

The Sixth Special Meeting of the Working Group was held at OAS headquarters from December 9 to 12, 2008. It was chaired by Ambassador Reynaldo Cuadros, Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the OAS. In attendance were 101 participants, including 80 representatives of the indigenous peoples who are members of the Caucus. It was possible through the indigenous fund to finance the attendance of 23 indigenous representatives from various OAS member states.

The agenda for the Special Meeting consisted of the following two points: Evaluation and strengthening of the process of negotiation of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and proposal of specific actions to address consideration of the fundamental topics of the Declaration (GT/DADIN/doc.351/08, of October 29, 2008).

Prior to the Special Meeting, the Chair presented a reference document, dated November 24, 2008, containing the outcome of consultations ([GT/DADIN/doc.357/08 rev. 1 corr. 1](#)), as established in operative paragraph 3.b of General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2368 (XXXVIII-O/08).

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chair submitted a document of proposals emanating from the special meeting ([GT/DADIN/doc.360/08 rev. 1](#)), dated December 12, 2008. That document sets forth three main proposals:

1. To initiate the next Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus with those “semi-approved” articles on which agreement appears to be close at hand, as indicated in the document of the Chair.
2. To invite those states that presented observations on the articles approved as of the Tenth Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus to strive to withdraw their observations on those specific articles prior to the next Meeting of Negotiations.
3. To reinsert the preamble contained in the Chair’s Consolidated Text ([GT/DADIN/doc.139/03](#)). In addition, the text would have to be updated and discussed when the Working Group deemed it appropriate as this could help facilitate drafting of the articles and agreement thereon.

The Chair’s document of proposals also included a tentative list of the following distinctive characteristics of the region, for subsequent consideration by the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

1. The situation of the urban indigenous population and indigenous people from rural communities
2. The situation of indigenous migrants
3. The impact of climate change, environmental degradation, and natural disasters on indigenous peoples and territories
4. The persecution and detention of indigenous leaders for asserting their rights
5. The food security situation, including the loss of traditional food sources

6. Indigenous people with disabilities
7. Crosscutting aspects, such as education, health, habitat, and protection against discrimination.
8. Recognition of juridical personality, addressed in Article 9
9. Recognition of the right of indigenous peoples to remain in voluntary isolation or initial contact, addressed in Article 26

(It should be noted that the last two points are distinctive topics already considered in the OAS Draft Declaration.)