



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
Inter-American Council for Integral Development
(CIDI)



**FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND
HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

December 4 to 5, 2006

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

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**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROUNDTABLE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FIRST
INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

(Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, December 4, 2006)

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I. INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

1. The member states should establish, in the OAS framework, an inter-American committee to study surface and ground water in the region, and facilitate participation by civil society and indigenous peoples therein.
2. The member states should promote the planning of water resources management systems to study and identify solutions in connection with the causes of water shortages, with participation by directly affected populations, environmentalists, researchers, and civil society organizations.
3. The member states should recognize that water is essential to life, and should take measures to increase civil society participation in water resources management. Such participation should be inclusive. Civil society should also be included in consultations on public policy adoption.
4. The member states should take account of participation by indigenous peoples and peoples of African descent in both consultations and decision-making in connection with integrated water resources management.
5. The member states should enact domestic legislation establishing that water is a resource essential to life and guaranteeing full access to water and sanitation.
6. The member states should incorporate a concept of sustainability that takes account of the value of water to current and future generations.
7. The member states should include the concept of the importance of land use planning in water resources management, in a process that respects the diversity and interests of communities.
8. Public policies should be put in place that enhance governance, develop capacities, promote decentralization, and include water as a cross-cutting theme.
9. National strategies should be strengthened, regional cooperation in water resources management stepped up, and additional public water and sanitation investment programs put in place. The OAS should complement the work of the United Nations system in this area.

10. The member states should recognize the efforts made by indigenous peoples and communities to protect natural resources and should take account of their participation in decision-making regarding water resources use.
11. The member states should focus on promoting integrated watershed management policies, research to gain an understanding of the different societal issues in integrated watershed management, enhancement of the quality of agricultural life, additional conservation measures, training, and water resources control.
12. Civil society organizations and indigenous peoples have underscored the need for state policies to protect the headwaters and springs on which their communities depend.

II. NATURAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

13. The member states should implement policies that accord greater attention to and respect for natural resources, as any alteration thereof has serious consequences and attendant climatic impact.
14. Decisions taken by states should take account of policies to prevent, address, and mitigate natural disasters that contain appropriate prevention measures taken with participation by multidisciplinary teams of societal stakeholders, indigenous representatives, multilateral organizations, and governmental agencies.
15. The member states should include in policies they formulate promotion of mechanisms for local societal control to mitigate the impact of natural disasters at every level.
16. The member states should promote programs to encourage and follow up on consultation processes, as well as national and regional media and educational natural disaster prevention programs.
17. In view of the evident relationship between natural disasters and the problems that generate them, such as deforestation and climate change, the member states should promote action plans, urban development programs, and education and land use programs that, in addition to quantifying the costs of disasters, provide for adoption of legal instruments and their effective enforcement.
18. The member states should adopt regional forest conservation policies and take them into account in a framework of viable processes and strategies for participation in planning.
19. The member states should implement land use tools and/or policies.
20. The member states should also consider establishing limited access and use areas around rivers and lakes to prevent calamities suffered by those living along rivers

that ensue from natural disasters. In addition, water supply protection legislation should be enacted and riverbank clearing prohibited.

21. The member states should make efforts to formulate and adopt land use provisions.
22. The member states should adopt measures that take account of participation by indigenous peoples in disaster prevention and mitigation programs.

III. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT, AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

23. Biodiversity information systems are essential tools in supporting and influencing decision-making and policy formulation at the governmental, sectoral, and individual levels. Therefore, member states should continue to work on and expand the scope of such systems, incorporating the knowledge of original indigenous peoples and communities.
24. The member states should promote inter-American information networks, such as the Inter-American Biodiversity Network (IABIN), the Migratory Species Initiative, and other such networks that strengthen conservation of biodiversity in the Western Hemisphere.
25. The member states should promote local participation, as it is essential to biodiversity conservation and sustainable biodiversity use. There is increasing evidence of further integration of local communities and authorities resulting from successful experiences based on their organizational and institutional strengthening, interaction of traditional and scientific knowledge, participatory planning, strategic alliances, and education.
26. The member states should promote generation of financial resources, as they reinforce a sense of identity and imply that inhabitants need not migrate to seek other sources of livelihood. The financial sustainability of such processes may be achieved by means of different mechanisms, such as consolidation of trust funds, biocommerce, ecotourism, climate change mitigation programs, and other environmental services.