

**19th Model of the Permanent Council
for OAS Interns – 19th MOAS/PC
August 14-15, 2014**

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

(With style revisions by the MOAS Program)



**MOAS PROGRAM COORDINATION
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL**

**MECHANISMS FOR INCREASING MINORITY GROUPS' PARTICIPATION IN
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS**

Resolution presented by the delegations of: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela, participating in the 19th Model of the Permanent Council for OAS Interns (19th MOAS.PC)

THE 19TH MOAS/PC GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

UNDERSTANDING the need to ensure that minority groups are truly participating and that their voice is being heard;

RECOGNIZING the important role of the Member States in promoting a more just and transparent democracy by acknowledging the proposals and concerns of their minority groups in order to achieve more equal opportunities and wealth for all;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to strengthen the institutions created by the international community in agreement with the principles of social inclusion, having in sight cooperation for development;

CONSIDERING sustainable tourism and culture as tools for social inclusion as well as community strengthening in rural areas along with the relevance it has for development;

PROMOTING community strengthening and participation of local and vulnerable communities and minimizing negative effects in the ecosystem through capacity building and environmental education tools, such as environmental impact statements;

CONSIDERING the definition of minority in Article 1 of the Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance;

EMPHASIZING the need to improve the educational programming and skills training of minority groups in collaboration with Member States, and in alliance with the private sector, civil society and other social actors;

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage Member States to allocate a portion of their existing programs for micro, small, and medium sized enterprises to support existing and new projects submitted by minority groups in rural areas. These projects should be transparent and equitable, as well as developed, executed and managed by those who will directly benefit from the projects.
2. To recommend the General Secretariat to create a Section within the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions for the political participation of minority groups composed of a multidisciplinary team of specialists on the subject. Its main objective would be to coordinate the efforts of the Member States for effective political participation of the minority groups. Accordingly this Section may:
 - a. Encourage informal mechanisms of political participation of minority groups within decision-making institutions, and
 - b. Create awareness in rural populations regarding the importance of political participation in their own development projects.
3. To recommend the establishment of a Section within the OAS to analyze, upon request by the Member States, projects in rural areas and their impact on minority groups, from different economic, cultural and political perspectives. Every Member State is encouraged to request this analysis. This Section will be responsible for delivering an annual report to the Member States regarding the progress and the challenges of their projects.
4. To encourage the corresponding institutions of each Member State and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to exchange information regarding potential development opportunities of rural areas where minority groups and vulnerable populations reside, in order to promote environmental, social and economic long-term sustainable projects.
5. To support the creation and strengthening of community tourism networks that, through sustainable management, favor the preservation and conservation of natural and cultural resources of the region and place value in these assets. At the same time, to promote the participation of minority groups and local communities in the management and administration of such networks, therefore achieving the objectives of social inclusion.
6. To promote the decentralization and local participation of micro, small, and medium enterprises in rural areas, by implementing public policies that accompany strategies and aspirations for rural development, generating more and better opportunities with the objective of reaching higher levels of development based on economic, social and environmental sustainability with the participation of minority groups that inhabit rural areas.
7. To encourage Member States to promote coordination among their different branches, executive, judiciary and legislative, to ensure an effective judicial and regulatory

framework that aims at consistently protecting minority groups from violations of their fundamental human rights.

8. To promote the development of entrepreneurial skills in rural communities that would enable further integration of minority groups into the economy.
9. To enhance skills certification systems and apprenticeship programs that would expand access to education and technology for minority groups in rural areas.
10. To invite the Member States, as well as other willing relevant donors, to dedicate specific funds towards the Sections created within the framework of this resolution.

**BALANCING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES IN THE CREATION OF
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

Resolution presented by the delegations of: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador United States, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela, participating in the 19th Model of the Permanent Council for OAS Interns (19th MOAS.PC)

THE 19TH MOAS/PC GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING that the various indigenous peoples of the Americas constitute an organized, distinctive and integral segment of their population and are entitled to be part of the national identities of the countries of the Americas, and have a special role to play in strengthening the institutions of the state and in establishing national unity based on democratic principles;

RECOGNIZING the respect for the environment accorded by the cultures of indigenous peoples of the Americas and considering the special relationship between indigenous peoples and the environment, lands and territories on which they live and their natural resources, and the right to decide the priorities for their development;

KEEPING IN MIND article 6.1 of the International Labor Organization Convention No. 169;¹

CONSIDERING, that the developments that have taken place in international law, as well as developments in the situation of indigenous and tribal peoples in all regions of the world, have made it appropriate to adopt new international standards on the subject with a view to harmonize national and international policies on indigenous peoples;

KEEPING IN MIND that different countries implemented information and learning systems which should have been previously known in indigenous communities and to which they should have access;

¹ Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Peru, United States, and Saint Kitts and Nevis would like to note that their respective countries have not ratified this treaty.

FURTHER CONSIDERING principle II of the Inter-American Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, which states that “Every person has the right to seek, receive and impart information and opinions freely under terms set forth in Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights. All people should be afforded equal opportunities to receive, seek and impart information by any means of communication without any discrimination for reasons of race, color, sex², language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, economic status, birth or any other social condition.”;

CONSIDERING ALSO the right to the benefits of culture on Article XIII of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, which reflects that “Every person has the right to take part in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts, and to participate in the benefits that result from intellectual progress, especially scientific discoveries.”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that based on the standards of the Inter-American system, indigenous peoples should have access to information on the projects that are developed in their communities;

CONSIDERING that economic, social, and cultural rights are equally important to civil and political rights for the development of all peoples;

REAFFIRMING the interdependence, indivisibility and interrelatedness of human rights;

RECOGNIZING the Member States’ obligations of respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of the indigenous peoples in the Americas;

RECOGNIZING that indigenous peoples have been historically, socially, economically, and culturally marginalized, discriminated against and excluded;

BEARING in mind that the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples depends on taking urgent measures on their health and education;

NOTING that the development of indigenous peoples is linked to the respect and promotion of their culture and self-determination, and

ACKNOWLEDGING the special relationship of indigenous peoples to their lands, customs, institutions and traditions,

² Regarding the aspect on sex, Member States would like to make specific reference to gender identity and sexual orientation. In addition, this list should also include persons with disabilities.

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage Member states to support and respect indigenous ways of life, customs, traditions, forms of social, economic and political organization, institutions, practices, beliefs and values, use of dress, and languages, in respect of legality and human rights.
2. To recommend the creation of a permanent Inter-American Institute of Indigenous Culture to promote, defend, and learn from the different indigenous cultures in the Americas, which would actively involve the participation of representatives for indigenous peoples. This institute shall also:
 - a. Ensure access to education targeted towards maintaining indigenous heritages and languages;
 - b. Ensure education that would enable indigenous peoples to actively participate in, and be knowledgeable of, government systems and societies;
 - c. Organize an annual summit of indigenous cultures of the Americas to share and exchange cultural practices, and
 - d. Receive financial support from Member states who have dedicated specific funds for this cause and, if necessary, by external funds from Permanent Observer countries.
3. To encourage Member states with indigenous communities to adopt internal public policies, legislations and programs with the participation and collaboration of indigenous peoples, taking into account their needs and priorities for development.
4. To invite the Member States to adopt the ILO Convention No.169; to approve the American Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to adopt standards for previous consultations on matters that might affect the interests of indigenous communities.
5. To request that the Department of International Law of the Organization of American States adopts a Model Law concerning the indigenous communities and economic projects, to be presented to the Member States and civil society.
6. To encourage each Member State to consider under this Model Law the following basic principles:
 - a. That the Member States conduct a previous consultation and provide complete information whenever a project might affect the interests of an indigenous community, to the involved indigenous community, so that they may be well informed about the proposed projects.
 - b. That all information and previous consultations should be in the language that the indigenous community chooses;
 - c. Indigenous communities should have the right to agree or amend any project that will affect their wellbeing in their lands or territories, and

- d. Involved entities and the state must avail themselves of all possible means prescribed in the law and legislation to generate dialogue.
7. To make sure that any policy, plan, or project on health, education and culture will be designed with the participation of the authorities, leaders, and other actors of the indigenous communities.
8. To take into account indigenous experiences, knowledge and priorities of development when implementing development projects in indigenous territories.
9. To ensure indigenous peoples' participation in the creation, control, management, implementation and sharing of benefits of development projects.