

**DECLARATION OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SEMINAR ON THE MECHANISMS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PARTICIPATION IN THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), Washington D.C.**

We, representatives of the indigenous organizations and peoples of Abya Yala, in response to the call of the Organization of American States pursuant to the mechanisms for the participation of indigenous peoples in that system:

**CONSIDERING:**

That we, the united Peoples and Nations of Abya Yala, are peoples who existed before the creation of the States, and that we have suffered systematic violations of our collective rights at the hands of those States;

That we, the indigenous peoples, are not civil society; we are peoples, as recognized by international law;

Bearing in mind the Declarations of the Indigenous Peoples Summits of the Americas of Ottawa in 2001, Buenos Aires in 2005, and Panama City in 2009, at which we, the indigenous peoples, set out our position regarding our right to full and effective participation in the Organization of American States;

Bearing in mind the Declarations of the Summits of the Americas, which note the need to strengthen democracy in the Americas through the genuine and effective participation of indigenous peoples within the OAS;

**RESOLVE:**

1. To support the Declarations of the Indigenous Peoples Summits of Ottawa in 2001, Buenos Aires in 2005, and Panama City in 2009, and we request that the OAS implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
2. To request the establishment of a PERMANENT FORUM of indigenous peoples within the OAS, as part of the peoples' diplomacy and mechanisms for binding consultation with the Indigenous Peoples of Abya Yala.
3. We request that regional consultations be organized on the mandate, composition, and participation methods of this Forum, or in coordination with the Indigenous Peoples' Summits of the Americas.

4. Bearing in mind resolution AG/RES. 2612 (XL-O/10) "Increasing and Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process", the Resolution CP/RES. 759, which establishes the guidelines for civil society participation, should be amended to include guidelines for the participation of indigenous peoples, and to ensure that indigenous peoples' organizations can participate in the General Assemblies, Ministerial Meetings and the Summits of the Americas, the Department of International Law, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and other areas that discuss important topics that affect indigenous peoples in accordance with our identity.
5. We urge the adoption, by no later than 2011, of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with the minimum standards of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the guaranteed expansion of participation by the representatives of our indigenous peoples, and we call on the States to show the political will to join the consensus.

Washington, DC. June 24, 2010