

## **Indigenous Peoples' Declaration**

**Indigenous Preparatory Meeting  
16-17 JUNE, 2002**

**- International Association Centre- Brussels, Belgium**

Recognizing the growing international recognition of the need for a full, equitable and direct role of indigenous peoples in the development process, including in the resolutions and decisions of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission,

Recalling the European Commission's *Working Document* of 11 May 1998, the Council of the European Union's *Resolution* of 30 November 1998 and the *Report from the Commission to the Council: Review of Progress of Working with Indigenous Peoples* of 11 June 2002,

Encouraged by the acknowledgement in the aforesaid Working Document and Resolution of the right of indigenous peoples to self development and *Prior Informed Consent*, including their right to object to projects affecting their lands, territories and the resources their on, which draw upon the inherent right of self-determination of all peoples, including indigenous peoples.

Emphasizing the importance of the clear recognition of the indigenous peoples' land and territorial rights and their capacity for their sustainable resource-use knowledge, practices and usages diversity,

Reaffirming our commitment to the goals of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, including the adoption of the UN Declaration on Rights of the indigenous peoples within the period of the Decade,

Recalling the responsibilities of the International Community to ensure the economic, social and cultural well-being of indigenous peoples, and their enjoyment of the fruits of sustainable development and their full and free participation in all aspects of society,

Encouraged by the European Community's growing role in including indigenous peoples' issues in its policy dialogue with partner countries of development cooperation on such vital matters as their identity, culture, political, social and economical development,

Emphasizing the importance of all relevant international, regional and national agreements, treaties and other constructive arrangements in relation to the rights of indigenous peoples and the need to observe and implement such agreements, treaties and other constructive arrangements,

Recalling the European Council's Resolution on the need for the adoption of comprehensive policy on indigenous peoples and deeming it to be vital to take forward the process as recommended in the Working document.

We, the representatives of different organizations and institutions of indigenous peoples meeting before the conference on *Speaking Out: Indigenous Views of Development and the Implementation of the EU Policy on Indigenous Peoples* meeting in Brussels, on 16 and 17 June, 2002 adopt this declaration and make the following recommendations to the European Union, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission:

**Dialogue, policy and mainstreaming:**

1. To adopt a comprehensive policy on indigenous peoples, which applies to indigenous peoples in all parts of the world, based upon existing and emerging standards of international law with regard to the rights of indigenous peoples.
2. To enable the holding of regular policy dialogues between the European Community and indigenous peoples.
3. To institutionalize the process of dialogue between the European Community and indigenous peoples to enable an ongoing, direct and substantive dialogue.
4. To mainstream indigenous peoples' issues into the European Union's policies, practices and work methods.
5. To involve indigenous peoples in a periodic review of the European Union policy on Indigenous Peoples and its implementation.
6. To provide financial and political support to the functioning of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues.
7. To distinguish indigenous peoples and their institutions and organizations from NGOs and other members of civil society.
8. To regularly include indigenous peoples' issues in the policy dialogue between the European Union and its partner countries of development cooperation.
9. To encourage Member States of the European Union to give priority to indigenous peoples' issues in furthering the goals of the UN International Decade for the World's Indigenous Peoples.

**Projects:**

10. To ensure that indigenous are able to fully participate at all stages of the project cycle, from design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of European Commission-funded projects affecting their lands, territories and the resources thereon.
11. To prevent indigenous peoples from being subjected to being exploitatively treated as mere objects of scientific research and folkloric studies.
12. To recognize and respect the ancestral land and cultural rights of indigenous peoples in projects on indigenous peoples' lands and territories.
13. To simplify funding procedures of the European Commission to enable indigenous peoples to obtain adequate funding from the Union for the protection and promotion of human rights and for development activities.
14. To allocate specially earmarked funds to European Union country delegations to be allocated for indigenous peoples' projects.
15. To take appropriate measures to raise the capacities of the European Commission and the country delegations of the European Union and with regard to indigenous peoples' issues.