Toward the 26th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government

1st MEETING OF IBERO-AMERICAN HIGH AUTHORITIES ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

IXIMULEU¹ DECLARATION

“For a prosperous, inclusive, sustainable and intercultural Ibero-America”

“Let us all rise up, let no one be left behind,
let there be neither one nor two of us, but all of us.”

Popol Vuh

The High Authorities of Ibero-America and Indigenous Peoples

In consideration of

The significant progress made in recognizing and progressively restoring indigenous peoples’ historical rights in national legal frameworks on the American continent, by adopting and applying various international instruments such as the International Labor Organization’s Convention 169 concerning International and Tribal Peoples, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the action of monitoring mechanisms for human and indigenous peoples’ rights, and the legal precedents and teachings that originate from associated bodies.

The significance of the idea of Good Living-Live Well (Buen Vivir-Vivir Bien) as a paradigm for a dignified life for indigenous peoples, achievable through the full exercise of their human and collective rights and the construction of intercultural relationships as an ideal form of coexistence between different peoples.

Further emphasizing

That indigenous peoples’ values, worldviews, identities, ways of life, ways of protecting ecosystems, and strong ties to traditional territories and natural resources represent a guarantee and a protection of our peoples’ food security and the development of humanity.

That indigenous peoples have been able to retain their identity, way of life, and languages in their territories as well as in urban areas where many have relocated to survive, which encourages interculturality and new forms of relationships between states and indigenous peoples.

¹ IXIMULEU, K’iche Mayan name for the territory known today as Guatemala.
That in spite of the poverty, discrimination, racism, inequality gaps, exclusion, and criminalization indigenous peoples experience, they have demonstrated that they play a key role in generating development processes, from their own worldview, with the necessary capacity, commitment, and sense of responsibility.

In view of

The resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UN) at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (New York, September 2014), by which member states undertook to adopt, in cooperation and consultation with indigenous peoples, country-level measures to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and define and implement action plans, strategies or other national measures, as appropriate, to this effect (2007);

The resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States by which the 2017-2021 Plan of Action for the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2017) was approved;

The resolution by the General Assembly of the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, FILAC (Madrid, July 2017), which committed members to pushing forward a process leading to the preparation and adoption of an Ibero-American Action Plan for the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that incorporates agreements and commitments made by member states in this field, within the framework of the Roadmap to the 26th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government (RESOLUTION XIV AG/FILAC/005);

The support for the Action Plan initiative expressed by representatives for governments, indigenous peoples and other actors and institutions participating in preparatory consultative meetings held in Panama (December 2017) and Lima (February 2018), their commitment to carry it forward jointly, and their significant contributions to define the nature and scope of the plan;

Comments made by heads of state and government at the 25th Ibero-American Summit (Cartagena de Indias, October 28th and 29th, 2016) restating their commitment to the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, and their social, economic and cultural self-development, and keeping in mind the request made to SEGIB to strengthen efforts to incorporate their perspective into Ibero-American cooperation;

The relevant role of FILAC as an international organization in which space is shared between representatives of indigenous peoples and states, with extensive experience in promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and providing assistance to governments and indigenous organizations of states, to establish public policies and make concerted efforts to achieve Good Living-Live Well among our peoples, and by extension, the development of societies.

We agreed

To endorse the Ibero-American Action Plan for the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with the aim of contributing to the full realization of their rights, promoting common objectives and consistent, coordinated action planning between national authorities, indigenous
peoples and regional and global cooperation organizations present in the region, the progress of which will be assessed by the organizations of the Ibero-American Conference every two years.

To urge Ibero-American heads of state and government to provide sufficient resources to support the Action Plan, including the development of culturally relevant information systems based on international standards.

To restate our commitment to promote and protect indigenous peoples’ rights and social, economic, and cultural self-development, and work in coordination with the Pro Tempore Secretariat and Ibero-American General Secretariat – SEGIB – to integrate development with identity and indigenous peoples’ rights into Ibero-American cooperation, and contribute to the construction of intercultural societies.

To promote the adjustment of national regulatory and institutional frameworks to international standards for indigenous peoples’ rights.

To establish mechanisms for indigenous peoples’ engagement in the implementation and monitoring of national plans to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda, in keeping with their worldview and culture and the reality of each country, ensuring that these plans include indigenous peoples’ perspective of Good Living-Live Well in planning, monitoring, and assessment instruments.

To establish and strengthen permanent dialogue and concertation mechanisms for indigenous peoples through their own forms of organization, with state institutionality, and to ensure free, prior and informed consultation procedures in all matters relating to the interests of indigenous peoples and their territories.

To promote indigenous men and women’s access to state institutionality so their realities, experiences, cultures, technical knowledge and know-how contribute, in a participatory and intercultural manner, to their countries’ inclusive and sustainable national development.

To foster the multidimensional empowerment of indigenous women, children and youth, who now reassert themselves as peoples with alternatives to ensure their historical continuity.

To take the necessary steps, together with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women, children, adolescents and youth enjoy full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination, and take steps to ensure the restoration of their rights.

To promote the adoption and application of relevant development with identity and public policy plans to promote and address priority issues for indigenous peoples, such as the situation of women and young people; legal certainty regarding their land, territories, basins, forests, and other resources; the effects of climate change; and their right to participate and be consulted.

To promote justice mechanisms against actions that have climate change-related impacts that affect our Mother Earth.
Demand justice, across all Ibero-America, in cases of violence against defenders of nature and indigenous peoples’ rights.

To promote indigenous peoples’ development with their own culture and identity, and the revitalization of their languages both in traditionally indigenous territories and urban areas, not just to enable them to preserve their own culture and education, but also to promote true interculturality and interaction between equals in the states they are part of.

To establish, within the framework of the Action Plan, the effective implementation of South-South cooperation for and between indigenous peoples, as part of a vision of intercultural fraternity, complementarity and reciprocity between peoples, and urge states to develop initiatives, programs and projects that promote the aforementioned Plan.

To call upon international organizations, agencies, cooperation funds, and the business sector to support the implementation of activities contained in the Ibero-American Action Plan for the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, within the framework of human rights instruments and guiding principles on business and human rights.

To support the work of FILAC so that, within the framework of its institutional mandate and by establishing the necessary institutional partnerships, it may coordinate the implementation of the Ibero-American Action Plan for the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, provide technical assistance to states and indigenous peoples for the implementation, monitoring, systematization and assessment of the work, and dissemination of its main outcomes and impacts.

To submit this Declaration to the consideration of the 26th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held in Antigua Guatemala on November 16th of this year, so that initiatives for indigenous peoples on the American continent may be incorporated in discussions among leaders and contribute to establishing a framework that includes their proposals when setting inclusive guidelines so the Sustainable Development Goals may also be implemented from an indigenous perspective.

To express gratitude for the offer by government delegates from Guatemala and Nicaragua to organize a Second Meeting of High Authorities and Indigenous Peoples in 2020.

“We put our purposes together and we agreed. Then we decided.” (Popol Vuh).

Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala, April 5th 2018