



MISSION PERMANENTE
DEL ECUADOR ANTE LAS
NACIONES UNIDAS

Presidency Pro Tempore



Statement by the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations on behalf of the
Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural
Committee (Third Committee)

ITEM 69: Rights of indigenous peoples
70 Session Of the General Assembly, New York

Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the member states of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

CELAC welcomes the organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples, held on 22 and 23 September 2014 in New York, and its outcome document.

CELAC reaffirms its commitment with the implementation of the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. In this regard, CELAC welcomes the Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/30/L.9 that requests the review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and invites all stakeholders to contribute to the consultation process aimed at modifying and improving the Expert Mechanism so that it can more effectively promote respect for the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, CELAC recalls the commitment made in the Outcome document to consider ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them.

CELAC further welcomes the General Assembly Resolution 69/159 which urges Governments and the United Nations system, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples through their representatives and institutions, to implement, when necessary, appropriate measures, concrete policies, plans, programmes, projects and other measures to realize the commitments made in the outcome document.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes and reaffirms that indigenous individuals are entitled without discrimination to all human rights recognized in international law, and that the indigenous peoples possess collective rights for their existence, well-being and integral development as peoples;

Mr. President

In the "Addis Ababa Action Agenda", we encouraged knowledge-sharing and promotion of cooperation and partnership between stakeholders. At the same time, we recognized that traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods and we reaffirmed that indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

We believe that the eradication of poverty and sustainable development with social, economic and financial inclusion are challenges that require global, regional and national efforts, as well as that of our local governments and our communities. The irreversible eradication of poverty is a prerequisite for sustainable development and to ensure the equality of opportunities of progress for the societies. Sustainable development cannot be attained without the inclusion of groups and peoples in vulnerable situation such as, indigenous peoples, and afro-descendants, including women, elderly, persons with disabilities, migrants, children and adolescents.

In this regard, CELAC countries welcome the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes the link between eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, combating inequality within and among countries, preserving the planet, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion, with the pledge that no one will be left behind.

Equity, social and financial inclusion and access to credit are central to ensure overall access to justice, participation, well-being, and living-well with a dignified life for Indigenous Peoples and for all. The promotion a culture of peace and non-violence are also fundamental elements for the attainment of sustainable development.

We reaffirm the importance of disaggregated statistics and indicators to monitor and follow up on the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, as well as to place particular emphasis on dialogue between producers and users of data and promote the allocation of adequate resources from all sources in order to compile pertinent, timely and reliable information.

CELAC recognizes that Indigenous Peoples play a significant role in sustainable development and recognizes also the importance of traditional sustainable agricultural practices, associated with biodiversity and the exploitation of their resources, their right to access to suitable water for irrigation, in keeping with the legislation of each country, and their traditional systems of land tenure, seed supply systems and access to financing and markets;

We decided to strengthen, in a comprehensive manner, the productive basis, placing emphasis on sustainable local and cultural practices of indigenous peoples and local communities for integrated management with a view to optimizing the use of and access to water for irrigation purposes by proper management of basins, the recovery of soil fertility by replenishing green cover, compost production, terrace cropping, and the preservation and increase of biodiversity through the recovery and production of native seeds and improved seed production, according with the legislation of each country;

CELAC recognizes the importance of taking into consideration the essential role of the collective action of indigenous peoples and local populations in the preservation and sustainable use of biological diversity as a significant contribution to the planet.

CELAC reiterates the need to take steps to protect the patents on traditional and ancestral knowledge of indigenous and tribal peoples and local communities to prevent violation by third parties by registrations that ignore their ownership, and to promote their fair and equitable share of the benefits derived from their use. We support in this regard the on-going negotiations taking place in the relevant multilateral forums.

CELAC has constantly promoted the rights and dignity of women and girls, indigenous peoples, people of African descent, children, youth, older persons, migrants, persons with disabilities and all persons in

vulnerable or marginalized groups, since they are often excluded from the gains of national development and still subjected to discrimination and social exclusion.

We support the empowerment and capacity-building of indigenous women and youth, including their participation in decision-making processes on matters that affect them, in particular in the areas of health, education, employment, the protection of their territories and the transmission of traditional knowledge, languages and practices. Measures to promote awareness and understanding of their rights are also important.

Mr. President

With the General Assembly resolution 69/327, we recognized, the positive contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities, including through some of their traditional values and principles, to strengthening individual and societal commitments in order to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of public administration and promote inclusive and accountable public services for sustainable development, including the Andean principles of *ama suwa* (do not be a thief), *ama llulla* (do not be a liar) and *ama qhilla* (do not be lazy), among others, while recognizing that it is a duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

CELAC countries have committed to cooperating with indigenous peoples, through their own representative institutions, to develop and implement national action plans, strategies or other measures, where relevant, to achieve the ends of the Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and therefore welcome the inclusion of this important item on the agenda of this seventieth session.

Finally, CELAC countries look forward to actively participate in the high-level event to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to be held during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, in 2017. That event will take stock of the achievements of the preceding 10 years and assess the remaining challenges for the rights of indigenous peoples.

I thank you