

5th MEETING OF AUTHORITIES OF GOVERNMENTS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

SANTA MARTA DECLARATION*

HIGHLIGHTING

that all Ibero-American States are parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which set out universal fundamental rights and freedoms, which are further developed for Indigenous Peoples through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that has been endorsed as well by all Ibero-American States,

that the progress on recognizing Indigenous Peoples in International Law, the establishment of international and regional mechanisms with mandates regarding the promotion of their rights and the presence of Indigenous Peoples' leaders in international arenas and platforms, strengthen multilateralism, contribute to peace, global coexistence and sustainable development,

RECOGNIZING

that Indigenous Peoples have been in possession of their territories and have been practicing diverse cultures with their own value and normative systems for millennia, with which they contribute to the identity of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as to the strengthening of democracy and pluralism,

that the own knowledge and intrinsic relationship of Indigenous Peoples with their territories, mother earth and livelihoods, have proven to be effective in protecting and preserving biodiversity and are therefore determinants for Latin America and the Caribbean to be one of the regions of the world contributing the most to global climate stability and the least to pollution of the planet,

RECALLING

that the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognized in the United Nations Declaration and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in Convention 169 of the International Labour Organization (ILO), in the instruments of the Ibero-American Conference and the case law of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court H.R.), are the basis to ensure compliance with the commitments taken on in good faith by the States to guarantee their rights,

that the decision of the Heads of State and Government at the 29th Ibero-American Summit to institutionalize the Meeting of Authorities of Governments and Indigenous Peoples,

* Adopted by the representatives of the Governments and Indigenous Peoples. Annex

follows on from the Iximuleu Declaration (Antigua, Guatemala, 5 April 2018) and the Declaration of the 26th Ibero-American Summit in Antigua, Guatemala, in which the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to support the Ibero-American Action Plan for the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with its respective biannual evaluation,

that the Ibero-American Action Plan systematizes the international instruments on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and identifies priorities to be taken into account in order to improve the adaptation of national legal frameworks and public policies and lays down guidelines for other institutions,

KEEPING IN MIND

that the international standards on the rights of Indigenous Peoples incorporated into national laws require further institutional, budgetary and regulatory efforts to ensure their full implementation,

that several places continue to be affected by persistent historical factors of exclusion, inequalities, inequities and discrimination affecting Indigenous Peoples, particularly as regards access to relevant health and education services, drinking water and sanitation, and the administration of justice in accordance with their own norms, systems and worldviews, among other public goods and services, including disproportionate impacts on indigenous women,

that climate change, the loss of biodiversity and pollution, dynamics associated with the energy transition without due participation and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, the increased human mobility and new technologies lacking relevant regulations, pressure from illegal armed or multi-crime groups in some regions, and other emerging phenomena, heighten the risks to the territories, value systems, knowledge, indigenous self-governance, and the social and cultural fabric of the Indigenous Peoples,

that the realization of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, overcoming historical conditions and confronting the current emerging challenges, requires coordinated efforts, including access to funding from public or state sources and international agencies,

CONSIDERING

that the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are addressed at both the national and international level, which is why it is essential to strengthen the coordination between the institutions responsible for promoting and guaranteeing realization thereof, the representations in multilateral spaces and the Ibero-American countries, in order to ensure their full alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

that Indigenous Peoples must be in control of the events affecting them and their lands, territories and livelihoods, maintaining their own institutions, normative systems, as well as a

comprehensive approach regarding their issues, in line with their cultures and traditions, meaning that the States must strengthen their capacity to engage with said Peoples, through processes focusing on the articulation of sectoral approaches and issues and other relevant institutional arrangements, with a view to ensuring the effective exercise of their rights.

WE AGREE

1. to welcome the fact that the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Ibero-American Conference has included the Meeting of Authorities of Governments and Indigenous Peoples as part of the official calendar of preparatory meetings, which is already part of the official periodic meetings of the Ibero-American Summit;
2. to extend the Ibero-American Action Plan for the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through 2038, prioritizing actions to address persistent and emerging challenges, enhance the protection of territories, lands and livelihoods, advance the exercise of self-determination and political and economic autonomy, improve access to healthcare, education, and the management of drinking water and sanitation, in culturally-sensitive conditions, as well as to strengthen the recognition of indigenous knowledge systems in decision-making scenarios and processes regarding the energy transition and their contributions to biodiversity conservation and climate stability, including the Rights of Indigenous Women and Youth;
3. to strengthen implementation of the Action Plan by mainstreaming the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the thematic axes guiding the ministerial and sectoral meetings of the Ibero-American Summit, as a strategy to push forward relevant public policies, in the different sectors, enhancing the participation and leading role of Indigenous Peoples, recognizing their knowledge systems in the different matters affecting them;
4. to strengthen regional articulation to include the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in multilateral platforms on climate change, biodiversity, desertification, agriculture and food, and in the different spaces for monitoring accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among others;
5. to highlight the importance of the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC), as a multilateral organization specialized in the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to strengthen its capacities to continue carrying out its mandate, including technical assistance for implementation of the Action Plan, to promote national mechanisms aimed at ensuring equal participation between

Indigenous Peoples and Governments, and to develop monitoring and information dissemination strategies;

6. to urge Governments to make headway with the creation of joint national mechanisms with Indigenous Peoples, to put in place the results frameworks of the Action Plan, with the respective actions and initiatives for its realization, and implementation follow-up processes;
7. to commend the regional cooperation efforts between FILAC and the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), which contribute to the dissemination of General Recommendation No. 39 on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
8. to encourage SEGIB and FILAC to continue strengthening their institutional coordination, with the jointly developed proposed instrument for triangular cooperation by and for Indigenous Peoples, aimed at supporting the realization of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
9. to urge the parties to take ownership of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 39 on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls and develop it in accordance with the operational guide provided by FILAC, UN Women, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other institutions committed to this topic;
10. to welcome the report titled "*Voices of Indigenous Children and Adolescents from Latin America and the Caribbean*", prepared in coordination with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and UNFPA, as an effort to generate evidence and inputs for public policymaking aimed at guaranteeing the comprehensive development, protection and well-being of indigenous children in the region;
11. to continue to develop actions related to the preservation, promotion and revitalization of indigenous languages in the context of the Indigenous Languages Decade 2022-2032, including efforts to strengthen the Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages (IIALI), and to encourage the earliest possible implementation of its Indigenous Peoples Advisory Council;
12. to request that SEGIB progressively incorporate the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into the different areas or secretariats, guided by and in coordination with FILAC;
13. to encourage States, entities of the United Nations System, international organizations, multilateral development banks, as well as climate and cooperation

funds to work jointly with FILAC, as a regional mechanism for coordination, cooperation and channeling of resources aimed at realization of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

14. to submit this Declaration to the 30th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government for its consideration and eventual adoption.

WE EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE

to the Government of the Republic of Colombia, the District of Santa Marta and the INVEMAR Marine and Coastal Research Institute (Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras José Benito Vives de Andrés), for hosting and supporting the organization of the Official Meeting of the Ibero-American Summit: 5th Meeting of Authorities of Governments and Indigenous Peoples,

to the Indigenous Peoples of Colombia and the Latin American and Caribbean Region,

to the Government of the Kingdom of Spain, in its role as Pro Tempore Secretariat, for following up and putting the Meeting of Authorities of Governments and Indigenous Peoples on the official calendar of the Ibero-American Conference,

to FILAC, SEGIB and all entities of the United Nations System, international cooperation agencies and bodies, and multilateral development banks for their contributions in the context of the meeting.

Santa Marta, 27 March 2026.

**IBERO-AMERICA TOGETHER WE BUILD OUR COMMUNITY, LOOKING TOWARDS THE
FUTURE AND THE WORLD.**