



PERMANENT MISSION OF EL SALVADOR
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations on behalf of
the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

ITEM 71: RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

GENERAL DISCUSSION

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Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

We highlight the valuable work undertaken by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and its Secretariat, by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and by the Mechanism of Experts on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

CELAC reaffirms its commitment with the implementation of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. And in this regard welcomes the General Assembly Resolution 72/155 which urges Governments and the United Nations system, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples to realize the commitments made in the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

Our countries encourages further efforts to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, inter alia, through the inclusion of Indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in modalities for relevant conferences, summits and other meetings convened by the United Nations.

Mr. Chair,

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

We welcome the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2019 as the International year of Indigenous Languages, and we commit ourselves with the implementation of programs for the recovery, conservation, development, learning and dissemination of the different indigenous languages that are part of our cultures.

Also, our countries reaffirm the right of indigenous peoples to their own histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, systems of knowledge, writing and literature, and to designate and maintain names they choose for their Communities, places and individuals.



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We recognized that traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods and we reaffirm that indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

We recognize the importance of access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and individuals and the need to examine and take steps to remove obstacles to justice, especially for indigenous women, indigenous children, youth, older persons and indigenous persons with disabilities.

Equity, social and financial inclusion and access to fair 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.

We reaffirm the right of indigenous peoples to participate in decision-making processes in matters which would affect their rights and the duty of States to consult the peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, whenever consideration is being given to legislative or administrative measures which may affect them directly, in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent. Measures to promote awareness and understanding of the rights of indigenous peoples are also important.

We recognize also that the economic empowerment, inclusion and development of indigenous peoples, including through the establishment of indigenous-owned businesses, can enable them to improve their social, cultural, civil and political engagement, achieve greater economic independence and build more sustainable and resilient communities, and noting the contribution of indigenous peoples to the broader economy.

Mr. Chair,

We decided to strengthen, in a comprehensive manner, the productive basis, placing emphasis on traditional sustainable local and cultural practices of indigenous peoples for integrated management with a view to optimizing the use of and access to water for irrigation purposes the recovery of soil fertility and the preservation and increase of biodiversity through the recovery and production of native seeds.



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We support the empowerment and capacity-building of indigenous women and youth, including their participation in decision-making processes in matters that affect them, with their free, prior and informed consent., in particular in the areas of health, education, employment, the protection of their territories and natural resources and the transmission of traditional knowledge, languages and practices.

Mr. Chair,

CELAC countries want to stress the need to pay particular attention to the rights and special needs of indigenous women, children, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development gives us the opportunity to address gaps in implementation of the Declaration as well as the uneven progress in the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples.

I thank you,