



INDIGENOUS YOUTH DECLARATION OF THE SECOND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
OCTOBER 26, 2005

STATEMENT

TO OUR INDIGENOUS LEADERS, TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, FATHERS, MOTHERS AND ELDERS, AND TO THE CHILDREN WHO ARE YET TO COME, TO EACH AND ALL OF YOU WHO ARE THE BEINGS WHO SHAPE OUR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:

We recognize the diversity of the peoples who make up the American continent.

We thank our ancestors, and our Creator, today, to have given us the opportunity to meet and share our ideas, our needs, and more than anything our feelings as young Indigenous People.

Through workshops realized with each of the regions; North America, Central America and South America, we have come to the conclusion that each region suffers from distinct necessities however we have a cosmo-vision specific to our culture.

As Indigenous Youth we aspire to collaborate in recovering our peoples' rights, such as the right to envision, in all its diversity, the world as an Indigenous cosmo-vision.

Indigenous cosmo-vision is radically different from occidental culture in that we cannot envision any aspect of life that is independent or disconnected. The economical, political, religious, linguistic, cultural, gender and inter-generational relations are all intertwined in that every element of life is fundamentally important and distinct. By respecting every aspect and function of this vision, harmony and



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balance become possible. We are not speaking from opposing and exclusive perspectives but rather celebrating life from the differences that exist.

As Indigenous Youth, we consider all initiatives and proposals, whether they are political or not, to be rooted in our cultural specificities. Therefore we are asking for development integrally coming from our cultural origin - (meaning a development from an identity point of view, to reinforce it and fight homogenization) – taking into account each community, organization and people’s necessities necessary to fully exercise our autonomy as peoples.

WE PROPOSE:

To consolidate communication and exchange in our communities from a grassroots level, and to bring it up to the pan American level.

To promote creation of communication channels and exchange of proposals, questions, and experiences as youth to broaden our vision and thus certify our native identity. We can comprehend that our condition of Indigenous goes beyond a cultural specificity, which also encompasses all the brothers with the simple essence of the Indigenous being.

This communication and exchange will permit us to get to know each other, and support each other mutually in joint actions which will define themselves through intercultural contact.

We should be given the recognition of peoples in the time and space deemed necessary. This, at the legal level of recognition is to diversify the progress in legislation which varies from country to country. But which ends coexistence for a universal need for the autonomous management of our peoples.

We ask our leaders for support in discussing the process of choosing representatives that will be a part of this collective of Indigenous Youth of the Americas. This collaboration is intended to establish a strong youth voice in the next Indigenous Summit of the Americas and will work in cooperation with our leaders and Elders on the issues facing our Peoples. We are proposing that we use our time to strengthen our existing and future relationships, to dig a hole today and plant a seed tomorrow. With your support and guidance, we see potential in ourselves as future leaders, to strengthen our relationship with our land, our Elders, our leaders, and our brothers and sisters from different nations.

We thank you for allowing us our time here today to share our thoughts and ideas with you about how we feel we can be better represented as Indigenous Youth within our own organization as Indigenous Peoples.



We thank the organizers of this event as well as every Indigenous nation that is represented in this summit, the opportunity that we have to reunite as youth.

We thank you for the opportunity that we have today to express our desire to add to this struggle in defending our rights as ancestral nations. We recognize that we are all important and necessary in this task because of our distinctive virtues. As youth we need the support and guidance of our elders and ancestors so we can continue to grow from our identity.

“From what we are, from our roots and to our future.”

