



Organization of  
American States

**SOCIAL ACTORS PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS**

Social Actors Forums  
March 15-16, 2011  
Bogota, Colombia



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**RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE SUB-REGIONAL MEETING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF  
MESOAMERICA AND SOUTH AMERICA**



O.N.I.C.

**NATIONAL INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATION OF COLOMBIA**  
**ONIC**  
**NIT. 860.521.808-1**

Bogotá, Colombia, May 19, 2011

Note XXX/ 2011

Ms. Sherry Tross  
Executive Secretary  
Summits of the Americas Secretariat  
Organization of American States (OAS)

Dear Ms. Tross:

The National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) has the pleasure of addressing you in your capacity as Executive Secretary of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the Organization of American States and of requesting that you kindly distribute, among all the stakeholders and/or other parties interested in the Summits process—specifically, the member states, Colombia as the host country of the Sixth Summit of the Americas, the indigenous peoples in your databases, the Joint Summit Working Group, civil society organizations, and other parties you deem necessary—the final document of the Subregional Meeting of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America following up on the Third Summit of Indigenous Leaders of the Americas, titled “RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBREGIONAL MEETING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF MESOAMERICA AND SOUTH AMERICA,” held in Bogotá, Colombia, on March 15 and 16, 2011, the text of which, in the English and Spanish languages, is attached hereto.

Thanking you in advance for the kind attention paid to this request, I avail myself of this opportunity to extend to the OAS General Secretariat the assurances of our highest consideration.

**LUIS FERNANDO ARIAS ARIAS**  
Counselor Secretary General  
National Indigenous Organization of Colombia

CC: Andrea Montilla  
Secretariat for the Summit Process

**RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE SUB-REGIONAL MEETING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
OF MESOAMERICA AND SOUTH AMERICA<sup>1</sup>  
BOGOTA, COLOMBIA. MARCH 15-16, 2011**

We, the indigenous peoples of Mesoamerica and South America, gathered together in Bogotá on March 15 and 16, 2011, offer the following **recommendations** from the sub-regional meeting in preparation for the IV Indigenous Leaders' Summit of the Americas.

**I. Principles:**

Reaffirm the spirituality of indigenous peoples, so that our participation in scenarios such as the Indigenous Leaders' Summits of the Americas (ILSA), the General Assembly, the Summits of the Americas, and others within the OAS, is based on our laws of origin and on our own views of the world.

Colombia will be the location to celebrate the Fourth Indigenous Leaders' Summit of the Americas, and the participation of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) as host will be fundamental for its success.

**II. Background to indigenous participation in the OAS:**

Since 1999, indigenous peoples have been demanding participation, in matters of our interest, within the Organization of American States (OAS). Our first participation was in the discussions of the Working Group on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which has been acknowledged by the OAS General Assembly from 2000 to date.

At the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City in 2001, a process began for the indigenous peoples to participate in the States' declarations. On that occasion, and in parallel to the Third Summit, the indigenous peoples met in Ottawa and organized the First Summit of Indigenous Leaders of the Americas (ILSA).

Since then, the subsequent Summits of the Americas have stressed the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the OAS. Paragraph 86 of the Declaration of Commitment, adopted at the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago, establishes by mandate the commitment of "respect for and participation of indigenous peoples."

Bearing in mind the Declarations of the Summits of Indigenous Leaders of the Americas (ILSA), and following up on them, this document sets out the views of the indigenous peoples of Mesoamerica and South America regarding the steps necessary to ensure and make effective the participation of indigenous peoples at the IV ILSA.

**1. FOLLOW-UP TO THE INDIGENOUS LEADERS' SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS (ILSA)**

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<sup>1</sup>The name of the event was "Sub-regional Meeting of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America: Following up on the Third Summit of Indigenous Leaders of the Americas" (March 15-16, 2011, Bogotá, Colombia).

Within the framework of the Sixth Summit of the Americas, in order to follow up on the Declarations and Plan of Action of the ILSAs, and looking forward to the IV Indigenous Leaders' Summit of the Americas, to be held in Colombia in 2012, we recommend:

Strengthening the Planning and Follow-up Committee of the Summits of Indigenous Leaders of the Americas, which will ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous organizations and peoples.

#### **1.1. ACTIVITIES OF THE PLANNING AND FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH ILSA:**

- a) The Planning and Follow-up Committee of the IV ILSA, in coordination with the OAS Summit of the Americas Secretariat, will meet beforehand to prepare the participation of indigenous peoples at the OAS General Assembly to be held in June 2011 in El Salvador. This meeting will be coordinated and attended by the indigenous organizations of El Salvador.
- b) The Planning and Follow-up Committee of the IV ILSA will distribute the declarations and plans of action of the ILSAs to the indigenous organizations in order to ensure broad participation at the Fourth Indigenous Summit, to be held in Colombia in 2012.
- c) The Planning and Follow-up Committee of the IV ILSA will organize a working meeting with the indigenous caucus to review the mechanisms for participation by indigenous peoples in the OAS.
- d) Prepare the inputs needed for the IV ILSA and negotiate the funding necessary to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples. To this end, the Committee will prepare a directory of indigenous organizations and contact them to ensure their inclusion in these processes.
- e) Provide follow up on the process of indigenous participation at the Sixth Summit of the Americas, at the ministerial meetings, and at SIRG meetings, in coordination with the Summit of the Americas Secretariat.

#### **1.2. COMPOSITION OF THE PLANNING AND FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE IV ILSA:**

The Committee will have the following composition, in accordance with criteria of regional participation and gender representation.

For South America:

- a) The National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC), Mr. Jaime Arias elected.
- b) The Brazilian Wara Indigenous Institute, Ms. Azelene Inacio elected.
- c) The CJIRA indigenous organization of Argentina, Mr. Eduardo Nieva elected.

For Mesoamerica:

- a) The UNAIPA indigenous organization of Panama, Mr. Héctor Huertas elected.
- b) The National Panel of Nicaragua indigenous organization, Ms. Lisseth Rodríguez elected.

The Committee will also have, among its members, a young indigenous person, a woman, and an elder, to guarantee the presence, thoughts, and proposals of those groups. The names of those people will be determined by the Planning and Follow-up Committee of the IV ILSA.

This Planning and Follow-up Committee will be assisted by the participation of our indigenous brethren from North America and the Caribbean.

## 2. MECHANISMS FOR PARTICIPATION BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES<sup>2</sup>

- a) Since the current rules for participation in the OAS do not include our peoples, we recommend that the OAS, with the full participation of indigenous peoples, define and institutionalize the rules for our participation AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES in its political decision-making bodies.
- b) We recommend that the OAS establish a participation mechanism, such as an **Indigenous Parliament**, an **Inter-American Forum**, or a **Council of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas**.
- c) We recommend the creation of a Group of Indigenous Experts who, in coordination with the OAS, will propose guidelines on the mechanism for participation by indigenous peoples in the OAS. This group of experts will present its conclusions to the Planning and Follow-up Committee of the IV ILSA and to the organizations of indigenous peoples for their later referral to the Sixth Summit of the Americas and the OAS General Assembly.

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<sup>2</sup> The main documents presented by the participants at the meeting may be seen on the internet at: [www.summit-americas.org/cs\\_meet.html](http://www.summit-americas.org/cs_meet.html). These documents are:

- *Recommendations from young leaders gathered at the National Indigenous Youth Seminar, in Chiapas, Mexico.*
- *Proposals for following up on the process of indigenous participation in the OAS and development of the Summit of Indigenous Leaders.*
- *Recommendation (participant from Bolivia).*