



## INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON: **PARLIAMENTS AND THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

Jointly organized by the Plurinational Legislative Assembly of Bolivia and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

**7 - 9 April 2014 – Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia**

### Recommendations for parliamentary action

These recommendations should inform future constitutional and legislative reforms, actions taken in parliament to ensure transparency and accountability, and other parliamentary measures to ensure respect for the rights of indigenous peoples.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples should serve as the point of departure in all follow-up activities, together with the Chiapas Declaration and the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra that was adopted at the International Parliamentary Conference.

### **Promote the political participation of indigenous peoples by:**

- Launching a broad sensitization campaign on the rights of indigenous peoples;
- Advocating the participation of indigenous peoples in political processes;
- Placing special emphasis on indigenous women's participation;
- Introducing special legislative measures to facilitate their election;
- Providing training for indigenous candidates;
- Introducing capacity-building programmes for members of parliament on issues related to indigenous peoples;
- Encouraging parliaments to conduct a survey/study on the political participation of indigenous peoples;
- Making every possible use of parliament's oversight role to ensure the effective implementation of laws pertaining to the rights of indigenous peoples;
- Creating all-party groups in parliament on issues related to indigenous peoples;
- Promoting bilateral exchanges between such groups; and

- Encouraging UN agencies, funds and programmes to use all available channels to support parliaments on issues related to indigenous peoples.

**Ensure respect for the principle of free, prior and informed consent by:**

- Incorporating the principle of free, prior and informed consent in domestic legislation and ensuring its implementation;
- Making sure that indigenous peoples are involved at all levels of the decision-making process relating to their rights and, in particular, implementation of the principle of free, prior and informed consent;
- Paying special attention to the full implementation of free, prior and informed consent in relation to the extractive industries;
- Encouraging the use of guiding principles on business and human rights and the UN Global Compact Business Reference Guide;
- Disseminating information about the work done by parliaments on free, prior and informed consent among other parliaments, the United Nations and the IPU;
- Requesting that the World Conference adopt a general standard on free, prior and informed consent;
- Encouraging National Human Rights Commissions to report to parliaments about the status of implementation of the principle of free, prior and informed consent; and
- Fostering parliamentary involvement in international human rights reporting mechanisms.

**Prepare and adopt National Action Plans to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by:**

- Taking ownership of the United Nations Declaration;
- Organizing sensitization campaigns for different stakeholders on the Declaration;
- Incorporating the five recommendations issued by the Chiapas Declaration in the national action plans drawn up by parliaments;
- Setting up a multi-sectoral national committee (including civil society) to assist in drawing up such a plan;
- Setting a baseline to be able to gauge progress; and
- Identifying a funding mechanism to ensure implementation of national action plans.

**Take other measures in support of indigenous peoples' rights, such as:**

- Encouraging parliaments to discuss the post-2015 agenda and to promote the inclusion of indigenous peoples' concerns in the agenda;
- Promoting a third UN Decade on indigenous peoples;

- Taking action on the existing declarations and recommendations at the United Nations and country levels;
- Ensuring respect for nationality, biodiversity and the right to natural resources;
- Working with different parliamentary organizations and mechanisms to debate and develop common legislative proposals concerning indigenous peoples, following the example of UNASUR and PARLATINO, and to promote them through different forums;
- Working with the UN Indigenous Peoples Partnership;
- Promoting gender equality in parliament;
- Adopting a law to facilitate coordination between indigenous and ordinary justice systems;
- Setting up a Secretariat to draft, implement and follow up a binding resolution for countries to respect the rights of indigenous peoples;
- Becoming familiar with international instruments related to indigenous peoples such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and ILO Convention No. 169; and
- Highlighting respect for self-determination, freedom of expression and peace in the world.

**Request the IPU to pursue its involvement in support of indigenous peoples' rights by:**

- Facilitating a parliamentary presence at the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and transmitting a common parliamentary message to the World Conference;
- Providing capacity-building support to parliaments based on the Handbook for Parliamentarians on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Collecting and disseminating good practices on the political participation of indigenous peoples;
- Mapping the presence of indigenous peoples in parliaments (initially in 72 countries);
- Conducting an audit of parliamentary mechanisms that address issues related to indigenous peoples;
- Working closely with UN agencies, funds and programmes in all activities in support of indigenous peoples; and
- Convening future parliamentary meetings to track and follow up progress in implementing the Chiapas Declaration, the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the outcome of the 2014 World Conference.