
SPECIAL DECLARATION OF ACTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES 2022-2032

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, on the occasion of the VII Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on January 24, 2023, in Buenos Aires, Republic of Argentina;

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Agreement on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and the proclamation of the period 2022-2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages of the World through Resolution A/RES/74/135 by the General Assembly of the United Nations;

Recognizing the deep concern for the large number of languages, in particular indigenous languages, that are in danger of disappearing and that despite ongoing efforts, there is an urgent need to conserve, promote and revitalize languages in danger of extinction, particularly, indigenous languages;

Welcoming United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/77/203 on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which encourages States to adopt national action plans with an intergenerational approach to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages, including sign languages; and recognizes the importance of creating international, regional and national initiatives to promote the use of indigenous languages, such as the Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages;

Highlighting the Official Launch of the Decade of Indigenous Languages at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on December 13, 2022, as well as the convening of the United Nations General Assembly High Level event, on December 16, 2022, and the CELAC Launch of the Decade of Indigenous Languages in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on August 9, 2022;

Acknowledging and commending the work of the Global Task Force for the Development of a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages, which has been guided by the principles essential to undertake the necessary actions towards the preservation, revitalization and promotion of the world's indigenous languages, and UNESCO as the coordinating body.

1. Reiterate their commitment to adopt and implement standards, public policies, programs, action plans and other initiatives with the active participation of Indigenous Peoples based on intercultural dialogue with the aim of preserving, revitalizing and promoting indigenous languages, within the framework of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.
2. Endorse their commitment to the provisions of the Special Declaration on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032, issued in the framework of the VI Summit of CELAC, held on September 18, 2021 in Mexico City, which recognizes their individual and collective rights, including their right to revitalize, use, promote and transmit to future generations their oral and philosophical languages and

traditions, their writing systems and their literature, and therefore recognize the importance of establishing alliances to coordinate joint actions in this regard.

3. Welcome the creation of the Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages to promote the use, conservation and development of the indigenous languages spoken in Latin America and the Caribbean, supporting indigenous peoples and States in the exercise of cultural and linguistic rights; and invite the Member States of Latin America and the Caribbean to become part of the aforementioned. These actions seek to guarantee the recognition and protection of indigenous languages, thereby vindicating ancestral knowledge, as a cord that feeds and strengthens the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and the hope of a good life for humanity, since indigenous languages are knowledge systems, which for millennia have guaranteed the coexistence of each of the forms of life. Therefore, to claim and protect indigenous languages is to preserve the organic-spiritual relationship of the human with Nature.
4. Urge to continue working together in this International Decade of Indigenous Languages, with the purpose of consolidating the empowerment of the speakers of indigenous languages, through the different actions that contribute to stopping the disappearance of indigenous languages in the world.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, January 24, 2023