

# **"Statement by the representatives of the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group"**

Santiago, Chile

7 September 2011

Representatives of the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group, from Abya Yala (Caribbean, Central America and South America) in how to engage and contribute effectively in the preparatory processes and the conference proper of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development or "Rio + 20", offer these proposals and recommendations based on the experiences and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples.

## **Recommendations**

1. We request that States open up an accreditation process for the Rio + 20 Conference and its preparatory processes as soon as possible for Indigenous Peoples organizations.
2. We recommend that an assessment of the themes to be addressed at Rio + 20 as well as the process being implemented for participation by Indigenous Peoples be assessed and revised as needed in light of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
3. We recommend, that Indigenous Peoples' rights to their lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge be essential prerequisites for the development and planning of any and all adaptation and mitigation measures in response to climate change, environmental conservation (including the creation of "protected areas"), sustainable use of biodiversity and measures to combat desertification.
4. We recommend that Indigenous Peoples define their own concept of "sustainable development" and "living well" to be presented at Rio + 20 that takes into account a range of human rights, cultural, traditional use and equity principles.
5. We recommended that Rio + 20 promote, define and implement effective and formal structures for Indigenous Peoples' participation, including women and youth, in decision-making processes within UN Convention and standard-setting processes and bodies addressing environment and development. These include the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Rotterdam Convention (on international trade in chemicals), and the Basel Convention (on transport of toxic wastes).
6. We recommended that the "Cultural Pillar" be adopted at Rio + 20 as the missing "4<sup>th</sup> Pillar" of Sustainable Development based on the perspectives, rights, traditional knowledge, cultural integrity, identity and sustainable practices of Indigenous Peoples which are integral to our vision, practice and understanding of development.

It is the intention of IP MG to further elaborate on these and other pertinent issues.