



**Organización de los Estados Americanos**  
**Organização dos Estados Americanos**  
**Organisation des États américains**  
**Organization of American States**

DIL /01/08

October 17, 2008

Dear Sir or Madam:

Greetings from the Department of International Law of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS). On behalf of the OAS Permanent Council's Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Department invites you to participate in the Special Meeting for evaluating and strengthening the negotiation and proposing specific actions for addressing the issues dealt with in the American Declaration, as mandated by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 2368 (XXXVIII-O/08), which requested the Permanent Council to instruct the Working Group to:

“Hold, between September 2008 and March 2009, up to three meetings, each of up to five days, one of them a special meeting for evaluation and strengthening of the negotiation process and for the proposal of specific actions for addressing the issues, and the two others Meetings of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus for negotiation of the document “Record of the Current Status of the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

The Special Meeting will take place at OAS Headquarters (Simón Bolívar Room, 17th and Constitution Ave, Washington, DC) on December 9-12, 2008. It will be preceded by the meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus, to be held on December 6 and 7, 2008. The Chair of the Working Group will also be able to meet with the Caucus on December 8.

In addition, the Chair of the Working Group, pursuant to the aforementioned resolution, is conducting informal consultations with those involved in the process. The conclusions of those talks will be presented to the Working Group for consideration during the Special Meeting.

In order to ensure the effective participation of the representatives of the indigenous peoples, the Department of International Law would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the deadline for acceptance of applications presenting candidacies for participation in the Special Meeting is Thursday, October 30, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. (Washington, D.C. time).

In accordance with CP/RES. 873 (1459/04) "Amendments to the Specific Fund to Support the Elaboration of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," your community or organization must send a letter addressed to the Department of International Law via fax (202.458.3293) or via email attachment (mveliz@oas.org).

This letter must be sent by the legal representative or president of the organization/community and should contain the name of the indigenous representative of your community or organization and the postal and electronic addresses and the telephone and fax numbers of both the organization/community and the nominated leader or representative. Please note that letters of application received after 6 p.m. (Washington D.C. time) on October 30, 2008, will not be considered by the Selection Board of the Specific Fund.

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For further information and documents related to the negotiation process for the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, please visit the OAS Department of International Law website: <http://www.oas.org/dil/esp/indigenas.htm>.

With kind regards,

Department of International Law  
Secretariat for Legal Affairs

