RESOLUTION ON THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FOR MEDIATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

ADOPTED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION, PEACE BUILDING, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
Organized by the TEBTEBBA Foundation (Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education) held in Manila, Philippines, from 6-8 December 2000

We resolve:

We resolve to create the INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FOR MEDIATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION, whose mission shall be to promote and defend the rights of the indigenous peoples, while denouncing the aggression, conflicts and abuses of the rights of the indigenous peoples in different parts of the world.

Composition of the Commission:

The Commission shall be made up of representatives of organizations of indigenous peoples that have the expressed a will to defend and promote their rights as indigenous peoples anywhere in the world.

Nature of the Commission:

It shall be an autonomous Indigenous Peoples’ Commission, acting on behalf of the indigenous peoples anywhere in the world to ensure that the right to self-determination is protected.

Minimum Requirements for Commission Members:

The members of the commission shall meet at least two of the following requirements:

• Shall be an indigenous person with the support of her/his peoples or organization.
• Shall have served her/his community and have had experience in the defense and the promotion of the rights of the Indigenous Peoples.
• Has knowledge and experience in international, regional and national intergovernmental institutions and processes and has the ability to lobby and influence these arenas.
• Has an integral vision and approach in dealing with Indigenous Peoples’ problems. Had experience and the ability to contribute to the solutions of conflicts and problems whether in his/her country or at the international level.
• Has certain legal, technical and professional abilities to fulfill their role.

Mandate:

• At the request of indigenous peoples, to make on-site visits to a territory, country or State to verify and determine the situation faced by said People.
• To prepare reports concerning the situation in regard to the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples visited and submit these reports to various institutions such as the governments of the countries visited, the High Commissioner on Human Rights, the Commission on Human Rights of the
United Nations; the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues of the United Nations; the International Court of Justice at the Hague, intergovernmental agencies, regional Human Rights entities of the States, NGOs and other bodies that may contribute to the improvement of the situation of the Indigenous Peoples.

- Intervene in conflict mediation where indigenous peoples are involved, when they so request.
- Develop political pressure and publicly denounce States which blatantly violate the rights of indigenous peoples.
- Conduct studies and research on the history of multinational corporations and of the damage they have inflicted upon indigenous peoples, their resources and their territories.
- Follow up on the resolutions of the International Conference on Conflict Resolution, Peace Building, and Indigenous Peoples.
- Coordinate actions with other similar entities now in existence or that are created in the future.

*Adopted 08 December 2000, Manila, Philippines*