

FIRST INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN  
Lima, Peru

April 13-17, 2008

DECLARATION

**Warmikunapa Rimanakuyninchik Llamkanapaq**  
(Agreements and dialogue of women concerning future work)

For centuries, we have been responsible not only for the support of our families, but also for the safeguarding of our cultures, either by our own will or by the obligation of our peoples' historical circumstances. We have been responsible for keeping our values and principles alive in our cultures. For this reason, we have made the decision to be active subjects and protagonists in history and to cease being objects of folklore.

The battles of indigenous women among our peoples have been and continue to be important. Our contributions in the elaboration and formulation of public policy at a national level have determined the course of our peoples. In the same way, we contribute to new ways of participation in multilateral organizations such as the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

As indigenous women aware of the reality of what is happening in our lands, we denounce the growing militarization and invasion of armed groups in our territories. This is resulting in some of the most grave and systematic violations of human rights in history, taking our bodies as spoils of war, lacerating our dignity, massacring our new generations. For this reason we make a forceful call for the United Nations to again take up their role in preserving the peace of humanity.

Many times our presence has not been well-received. Nevertheless, and in spite of the disadvantages we face in number, this presence has been extremely important. Because of this, we the indigenous women of Abya Yala, gathered in the city of Lima, Peru from April 14-16, 2008, make the following declaration:

1. To become a platform for the coordination of the political participation of indigenous women in important international transcendental processes, so that these processes produce results in all countries by promoting ethnic and gender equality and equity and so that our contributions continue to provide strength and soundness to our visions as indigenous people.
2. To request that financial institutions and organizations of international cooperation consult with indigenous women and in accordance with our agendas in the planning of the cooperative strategies that they make for our communities, so that the projects that they promote have a real impact, stemming from the reality that we live in our communities.
3. We call upon indigenous women's organizations to give strategic importance to the political and technical formation of their members, and we call upon institutions of cooperation to support these initiatives and efforts in order to strengthen our participation in international forums and national discussions in such a way that we have the appropriate tools for local impact.

4. We make an urgent call and reiterate to the governments of Abya Yala government that have not ratified Agreement 169 on Tribal and Indigenous Peoples in independent countries that they must do so in order to make international legislation consistent with national reality; and we remind those countries that have already ratified the Agreement that they must put such legislation into practice.
5. We urge the government of Abya Yala to support programs and policies for the protection of our languages as the foundation of our cultures, our identity and a way of transmitting our wisdom to future generations.
6. We demand that developed countries eliminate practices that contaminate the environment, and that they support indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous women's organizations, in our efforts to take care of Pacha Mama and in this way guarantee the survival of the human race, implementing programs that help us resolve problems created by neoliberal policies and globalization.
7. We commit ourselves to continue with this effort to reunite the indigenous women of Abya Yala and to organize the second International Forum of Indigenous Women in 2 years.

Lima, April 14, 2008.