

Working Group to Prepare
the Draft American Declaration on
the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

WORK PLAN
WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE THE DRAFT
AMERICAN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
(2014-2015)

(Approved at the meeting of December 16, 2014)

I. INTRODUCTION

At its forty-fourth regular session, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) adopted declaration AG/DEC.79 (XLIV-O/14), which identifies the effective promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples as a priority of the OAS; and resolution AG/RES.2867 (XLIV-O/14), which reaffirms the OAS member states' determination and their commitment to the process surrounding the Draft Inter-American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In the aforementioned resolution, the General Assembly also renewed the Working Group's mandate so it can finish drafting the Declaration, using the "Record of the Current Status of the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" (GT/DADIN/doc.334/08 rev. 7) as its basis, and taking into consideration the "Compendium of Proposals of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus Held by the Working Group," issued by the Thirteenth Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus (GT/DADIN/doc.255/06 add. 5) and other pertinent documents of the Working Group.

II. OFFICERS

At its meeting on October 17, 2014, the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) elected the Permanent Representative of Bolivia, Ambassador Diego Pary Rodríguez, as Chair of the Working Group. The Working Group's Vice Chair will be elected when the Group holds its first meeting.

III. MANDATE

For the Working Group to do its work pursuant to the mandates issued by the OAS General Assembly held in Asunción in June 2014 and contained in resolution AG/RES. 2867 (XLIV-O/14), it would be useful, among other things:

1. To renew the mandate of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to continue its meetings of negotiations in the quest for points of consensus in order to complete the drafting of the Declaration on the basis of the document “Record of the Current Status of the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” ([GT/DADIN/doc.334/08 rev. 7](#)) and taking into consideration the “Compendium of Proposals of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus held by the Working Group” ([GT/DADIN/doc.255/06 add. 5](#)), issued by the Fourteenth Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus, and other pertinent documents of the Working Group.
2. To request the Permanent Council to instruct the Working Group to:
 - a. hold three-day meetings of negotiations in the quest for points of consensus prior to the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly;
 - b. Convene meetings of negotiations in the quest for points of consensus on the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and
 - c. Take the appropriate measures to ensure effective participation by representatives of member states and of indigenous peoples in these meetings.

IV. MEETINGS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN THE QUEST FOR POINTS OF CONSENSUS (2014 - 2015)

The Chair for the 2014 - 2015 period, mindful of the financial difficulties the Working Group had been experiencing, decided to hold at least four Meetings of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus, which would be public and open, and always attended by one indigenous representative per region, in keeping with the Indigenous Caucus’ selection mechanisms – that is, the Indigenous Fund will cover the participation of four persons.

Member states are also invited to support the participation of indigenous representatives from their respective countries, so they can participate in the Meetings of Negotiations. Indigenous peoples’ representatives wishing to participate as well as indigenous organizations that are interested may also fund their own attendance.

The negotiations are based on the document “Record of the Current Status of the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” ([GT/DADIN/doc.334/08 rev. 7](#)), with an emphasis on consideration of the proposals made by the member state delegations and by the representatives of indigenous peoples.

During the discussion, the Chair will submit for consideration the article to be negotiated, depending on the status of negotiations at that time, as noted in the preceding paragraph.

The relevant article of the base document for the negotiations will be projected on screens in Spanish and English, to facilitate the negotiations and to find consensus.

After reading aloud the article under consideration, the Chair of the Working Group will invite the delegations of indigenous peoples and of member states to comment on the article in the interest of achieving consensus, stressing the need to find compromise solutions that address the most pressing concerns of indigenous peoples, as well as the needs of all member states in preparing the Draft Declaration.

Should the states or the Indigenous Peoples Caucus have alternative proposals on the text being considered, these should be submitted to the Working Group for consideration. Any such proposals must be confirmed in writing. If the consensus required is not reached, proposals received in writing will be included in official documents containing the proposals submitted during the respective Meeting of Negotiations.

The basis and point of reference for those articles of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that have so far failed to garner consensus should be the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

If no consensus is reached, the Chair of the Working Group will urge the delegations to hold informal consultations through drafting groups composed of representatives of states and of indigenous peoples, to craft language acceptable to the parties.

If disagreement persists, the Chair will present an alternative proposal for the Working Group to consider.

If after all these efforts consensus is still not reached, the word, phrase, or paragraph still outstanding will be kept in square brackets.

This work plan will be understood to be a guide that may be adapted depending on the needs that the Working Group might have to address, or as progress is made on the tasks assigned, in order to ensure optimal results.

Ambassador Diego Pary Rodríguez
Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the OAS and
Chair of the Working Group to Prepare the
Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

V. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

(December 2014 to June 2015)

DECEMBER 2014	
GT/DADIN December 16, 2014 2:30 p.m. Padilha Vidal Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Election of the Vice Chair of the Working Group• Status report on the Fund• Presentation of the Work Plan of the Group• Preparations for the Fifteenth Meeting of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus• Other business
FEBRUARY 2015	
GT/DADIN February 9 to 11, 2015 Padilha Vidal Room	FIFTEENTH MEETING OF NEGOTIATIONS IN THE QUEST FOR POINTS OF CONSENSUS

MARCH 2015	
GT/DADIN March 9 to 11, 2015 Padilha Vidal Room	SIXTEENTH MEETING OF NEGOTIATIONS IN THE QUEST FOR POINTS OF CONSENSUS
APRIL 2015	
GT/DADIN April 22 to 24, 2015 Padilha Vidal Room	SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF NEGOTIATIONS IN THE QUEST FOR POINTS OF CONSENSUS

MAY 2015	
GT/DADIN May 14 to 15, 2015 Padilha Vidal Room	EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF NEGOTIATIONS IN THE QUEST FOR POINTS OF CONSENSUS
GT/DADIN May 19, 2015 10:00 a.m. Guerrero Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation and analysis of the Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth Meetings of Negotiations in the Quest for Points of Consensus• Consideration of draft resolution of the General Assembly• Oral report on the Special Fund to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples• Consideration of the draft report of the Chair of the CAJP• Adoption of draft resolution• Conclusion of the work of the Working Group• Other business