

Tarapoto Declaration, CISEI 2015

The VIII Forum of the Inter-American Council on Indigenous Spirituality (CISEI), "Rituality, healing and daily life" was held in the city of Tarapoto, Peru, on 28 November 2015, with representatives of civil society, indigenous communities and academics from Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Spain, the United States of America, France, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic, South Africa, Venezuela and Uganda.

Within the framework of this forum and based on its conclusions, the participants WE DECLARE that:

- We celebrate life in its broad meaning, which includes all forms of planetary existence, and we declare ourselves to be peace lovers and makers.
- We recognize intercultural dialogue and complementarity as a way to find answers to the Earth's degradation, stress, pollution and the emotional vulnerabilities that we currently suffer as human beings.
- We promote the equality of traditional and scientific knowledge and we believe that indigenous ancestral knowledge enriches our daily life and the possibilities of healing of all living beings.
- We are aware of the current need for prevention of physical, psychological and spiritual diseases that afflict all humanity, and that a holistic education that integrates all knowledge is essential to heal them.
- We recognize the therapeutic effectiveness of the good use of master plants of the indigenous peoples within sacred ritual contexts and advise their inclusion in medical programs, which are to be open to any person who chooses to exercise his human right to choose this option.
- We believe that we must build alliances with people and institutions at local, national, regional and international levels to move towards a culture of rights, respect for unity in diversity and multiculturalism, for the true well-being of all peoples and inhabitants of the planet.
- We recognize the progress of International law in the area of access to and exercise of different cultural and spiritual heritages that contribute to the full realization of the human being in the individual and collective spheres and we urge world's governments to respect and include them in their legislation and apply them effectively and immediately in their public policies.
- We acknowledge the advances that have been made for decades in Western science, which value the knowledge and wisdom of native peoples in the protection of Mother Earth and the care of seeds and crops, in their nutritious and balanced eating systems, in their methods of recovery and healing and in their daily sacred rituals that promote the reinsertion of every human being as part of the cosmos.
- We reaffirm our strong commitment to the new and future generations, to work for the general welfare, a culture of peace, responsibility towards life, unity in cultural diversity and daily and permanent spiritual growth.