



CELAC 2023
Saint Vincent
and the Grenadines

SPECIAL DECLARATION OF THE INDIGENOUS WOMAN PROTECTOR OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, on the occasion of the VIII Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on March 1, 2024, in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;

Consent that indigenous women play a crucial and indispensable role in the conservation and transmission of ancestral traditional knowledge, also fundamentals for the preservation of their identity, their world view, and their way of life that constitutes a central element to ensure the Good Living and Living Well of the indigenous Peoples and of society in general;

Recall the provisions of the "Special Declaration on the Promotion of Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality, a Pending Challenge in the CELAC Space" adopted in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on January 24, 2023, in order to promote the political and economic empowerment of all women; as well as the "Declaration on the Promotion of Gender Equality and Equity and the Eradication of Violence against Women", adopted during the V CELAC Presidential Summit held in 2017 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, and the Political Declaration adopted in the framework of the VI CELAC Presidential Summit held in Mexico City in September 2021, documents in which our States committed to adopt policies, strategies and all necessary measures to achieve a sustained process, until substantive equality without distinction of gender is achieved;

Reiterate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in relation to the individual and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples in which they have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as their right to maintain, control, protect and develop



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their intellectual property of such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, with Indigenous women playing a crucial role in the conservation and transmission of ancestral traditional knowledge;

1. We reaffirm resolution A76/A/CONF./1 adopted by consensus on May 23, 2023 at the World Health Assembly of the WHO, on Indigenous Peoples' Health, which mentions "the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions and the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including, inter alia, human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines and knowledge of the properties of flora and fauna"
2. We urge to continue working together on public policies for the strengthening and empowerment of indigenous women, through respect, protection and fulfillment of their human right who are the guardians of the culture of the peoples of our region; from weaving, clothing, songs, melodies, dances, crops, seeds, traditional medicine, care of flora and fauna, biodiversity, and indigenous mother tongues, as a means of preservation and intergenerational transmission, which also play a crucial role in the conservation and transmission of ancestral traditional knowledge

Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, March 1, 2024