

**Declaration of Indigenous Youth from Abia Yala participating in the
IV Young Americas Forum**

"People who forget their origins lose part of their memory, killing their identity"
Jocabed R. Solano M

For many years, indigenous groups from Abia Yala have the strong conviction that all of us are part of it, if we lose this balance we lose everything.

The ancestral knowledge of indigenous peoples is a part of the wisdom that brings life to the world.

Everyone is part of the balance of the world, which makes all of us responsible of the well-being of humans and living organisms on the Mother Earth.

Indigenous peoples are working hard on the reconstruction of Abia Yala. We have a strong spiritual foundation of incorruptible principles and cultural values, which allowed us to survive in the midst of terrible cruelties, violence, injustice, abuse and genocide.

Despite this, throughout Abia Yala, an increasing number of our brothers and sisters are awakening in order to strengthen our identity and we are working in fostering relationships with all human beings around Mother Earth.

Indigenous peoples of Abia Yala have deep love for our land. We want to preserve and protect our natural resources, preserve them as sacred heritage of all generations present and to come.

It is because of this situation that all young people participating on the IV Young Americas Forum, official event of the VII Summit of the Americas in Panama, are working in order to develop a significant role as world leaders to protect natural resources from activities that are not sustainable with the environment. No matter the amount of profit that this represents, these activities should not be performed.

Our holy places and the healthy life of our beloved Mother Earth are not sold or operated under any price. Using new communication technologies digital and related green technologies, in harmony with our vast, economic, cultural and spiritual social skills, we are saying that we want to contribute to a future of social, environmental and economic justice for all humanity inhabiting our beloved Mother Earth.

The main challenges we face as indigenous youth are:

1. Lack of access to higher education with an emphasis in bilingual intercultural pluralism and knowledge of our indigenous peoples.
2. Lack of opportunities for participation in the decision-making process on social realities that affect us and spaces of participation from our particular contexts, in an intercultural way, from our spirituality, sharing alternatives and proposals to other indigenous peoples that may be helpful in their enrichment.
3. The dialogue between two worlds, so that young native people can make a bridge between our cosmology and spirituality with the modern society in which we live in. In doing so, our identity can provide and maintain who we are: sons and daughters of the Earth.
4. Continue fighting in defense of our territories so that thousands of indigenous children, adolescents, women and men can continue living in harmony with Mother Earth.

Proposals:

1. To hold a forum of indigenous youth across Abia Yala before the Young Americas Forum, where there is participation and representation of the hundreds of indigenous peoples. Thus, having a greater representation in the regional forum of youth of America and the Caribbean sponsored by the Organization of American States.
2. From the IV Young Americas Forum, set up a commission of indigenous youth who attended this forum with a team of experts that advice us how to carry out our dream to elevate the voices of young indigenous people.
3. That Governments allocate the necessary funds to ensure the participation of Indigenous Youth of America in the instances that are necessary to communicate effectively our needs.
4. That the Organization of American States and its youth department have spaces of participation for indigenous youth representatives who participated in the IV Young Americas Forum in the dialogue and decision-making process, in addition of being able to follow up on the statement .

This year the motto of the VII Summit of the Americas is "Prosperity with Equity: The challenge of cooperation in the Americas," to accomplish a region with prosperity, different voices must be heard actively. There will be no equity without concrete action, we can only be successful if

we have a comprehensive vision of prosperity, dialoguing and providing opportunities for participation and decision making for all social actors, such as indigenous youth.