

Resolution of the Climate Alliance (Klima-Bündnis / Alianza del Clima e.V.) General Assembly on ratification by the states of the European Union of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization, and on the implementation of the Convention's provisions in the policies of the European Commission



Text of the resolution

The General Assembly of the Climate Alliance, convening in Brussels, calls upon the states of the European Union to signal their responsibility vis-à-vis the indigenous peoples of the world by ratifying or resolving to ratify within 2004 – the last year of the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous People – the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries.

The European Union, which, due to the structure of the International Labour Organization, cannot ratify ILO Convention No. 169 itself, should implement the Convention's provisions in all of its policy fields that affect indigenous peoples directly or indirectly.

CLIMATE ALLIANCE
KLIMA-BÜNDNIS
ALIANZA DEL CLIMA e.V.

Resolution to ILO-
Convention No. 169
12th General Assembly
Brussels, 14.10 2004

Explanation

The European Union and most of its Member States are at risk of letting the UN International Decade of the World's Indigenous People pass by at the end of 2004 without having taken action, failing to give indigenous peoples the recognition due to them and failing to recognize their basic rights. Not only those states within whose sovereign territories indigenous peoples live/survive bear responsibility for the fate of such peoples, but rather the members of the international community as a whole. International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169 is at present the only instrument binding in international law that provides protection for indigenous and tribal peoples. It was adopted in 1989, but until now has only been ratified by 17 states party to the Convention. The European Parliament and Development Commissioner Poul Nielson have repeatedly called upon the European Union's Member States to ratify the Convention.

Building upon a resolution adopted by the Council of Development Ministers, the European Union started in 1998 to formulate a strategy of its own on development cooperation with indigenous peoples, and conducted a first stocktaking exercise in 2002. The results are not yet satisfactory. In many international policy fields (e.g. industry, trade, environment or common security policy) inadequate consideration is given to indigenous concerns and the international standards established by ILO Convention No. 169.

Adopted by the General Assembly of 14th October 2004 in Brussels.