



BULLETIN



In the light of the closure of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, claimed in 1993 by the United Nations Organization, 25 indigenous leaders of America elaborated the Tepoztlán's Declaration. After the Decade on the indigenous people: reunion and horizons, which marked the beginning of a systematic program of evaluation from the initiative approved by the United Nations for the period 1995-2004.

These 25 indigenous leaders, invited by the Rigoberta Menchu Tum's Foundation and National Autonomous University of Mexico, considered that the Decade constituted "a very significant step, an opportunity to generate and practice new social, economic, political and cultural equitable relations among States, indigenous peoples and society in general". But at the same time, many obstacles had to be overcome, for they expressed the need to keep up the fight flag on the construction of more democratic, inclusive and intercultural states. Because from the indigenous perspective, this period produced very important highly valued novelties for the indigenous people, such as the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the very core of the ECOSOC, or even the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, but also shown its well intentioned but scarce condition.

This is clear in the Peace Nobel Prize's words, Rigoberta Menchu: "Whit great disappointment, I see that 10 years have passed over and there has not been any evident results in everyday life. Analphabetic, extreme and excessive children women and young indigenous malnutrition still goes on, we don't see an end to land plunder or negotiation by trasnational companies over indigenous territories, whom denude our altars, sacred sites of mother nature, our natural resources, we don't see an end to racism and discrimination".

"In many countries, indigenous peoples are the majority of the population; however, they still represent a minority in political and full participation. There is no way to supervise the racial conduct of states or political parties in order to give liberties to indigenous peoples in leading their own programs and projects".

"So I think the Second Decade must be a truly confrontative period to the politics that exclude or destroy indigenous people. If there's no balance between these ideas, another decade is going to pass and the



BULLETIN



discussion about the indigenous rights will continue; besides, every time the indigenous people will be less because the extermination continuous”.

The Evaluation of the First International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People 1995-2004 gathers relevant information on the agreed balance, specially for America, within a very significant effort of cooperation among Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation and the National Autonomous University of Mexico. It also manifest the purpose of keeping rigorous following to the Second Decade activities and above all to show the validity and legitimacy of indigenous demands in America and the world.

The National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), through its University Program: Mexico, Multicultural Nation, lead by ethnologist Jose del Val, in coordination with Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation, will present the Evaluation of the First International Decade of the World`s Indigenous People Report, during the Sixth Session of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues, to be held on May the 18th 2007, in the Conference Room No. 2 UN Headquarters, in New York.

The executive version of the Report is available at www.nacionmulticultural.unam.mx, and from may the 18th, it will be possible to consult the complete version.