

August 9, 2013

The International Land Coalition on the International Day of the Worlds' Indigenous Peoples

On the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the International Land Coalition affirms its commitment to support the efforts of Indigenous Peoples' movements and organisations at global, regional and national levels to secure their territorial rights and gain recognition of their role as custodians of land, water, biodiversity and other natural resources on behalf of humanity.

During our Assembly of Members in the city of Antigua, Guatemala, we restated the fact that land rights are fundamental to addressing the common challenges of humanity, including overcoming poverty and hunger, recognising the rights of indigenous peoples, mitigating and adapting to climate change, reversing desertification and land degradation, as well as promoting sustainable development and peace-building.

In this spirit, on April 27th 2013, our members unanimously adopted the Antigua Declaration, which voices their concern at the extreme vulnerability of many Indigenous Peoples to land grabbing and criminalisation of customary forms of land and natural resource use, particularly in contexts of extractive industries, conservation areas and commercial agriculture. Moreover, our Coalition committed to working together more effectively to support Indigenous Peoples in their struggle for territorial rights and the protection of their environments.