

## **The International Conference on Cultural and Biological Diversity for Development**

### *The 2010 Declaration on Bio-cultural Diversity*

We, the participants of the International Conference on Cultural and Biological Diversity for Development, held from 8-10 June 2010, in Montreal, Canada:

*Expressing* our gratitude to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Canada Chair for Ethno-ecology and Biodiversity (University of Montreal), the International Economic Forum of the Americas and the host Mohawk Nation, for providing a forum to discuss the links between cultural and biological diversity for development,

*Appreciating* that the Conference has been organized in the context of the 2010 International Year on Biological Diversity and the 2010 International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures,

*Considering* the vital importance of cultural and biological diversity for present and future generations,

*Recognizing* the importance of biological and cultural diversity for the survival and well-being of contemporary societies, both in urban and rural areas,

*Recognizing* also that biological and cultural diversity are intrinsically and inextricably linked and together hold the key to sustainable development and are critical for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

*Expressing deep concern* about the threats to both cultural and biological diversity, particularly in the face of the homogenizing forces of globalization,

*Acknowledging* the important progress made in building the knowledge on the links between biological and cultural diversity and to mainstream it into practices to ensure environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability and human well-being,

*Also acknowledging* the challenges and opportunities of a prospective International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing for indigenous and local communities who hold critical knowledge, customs and practices associated with biodiversity,

*Committing to* take action towards significant reduction in biodiversity loss, and promotion of cultural diversity,

*Call upon* Governments and Parties to all the relevant Conventions, including the 1972 World Heritage Convention, 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity, the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, as well as inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, academia, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector and civil society, to strengthen collaboration and coordination and to adopt, contribute to and support the joint programme between the SCBD and UNESCO on the links between biological and cultural diversity.