

**RESOLUTION No. 407**

**STRENGTHENING IICA COOPERATION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE PRESERVATION  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY IN COMMUNITIES  
INHABITED BY THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES<sup>1</sup> OF THE HEMISPHERE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The proposal prepared by the delegation of Guatemala and endorsed by the delegations of Ecuador and Venezuela, entitled "Addressing Indigenous Issues as part of the Strategic Actions of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture," submitted to the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-third Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That there is a significant body of policy definitions for the international community to increase its action in support of indigenous peoples contained in: (i) the Declaration of Quebec City, Canada, adopted during the Third Summit of the Americas, and which established a mandate related to indigenous peoples; and (ii) Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Brazil in 1992;

That in Section 10 of the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government stated that they "instructed the Ministers of Agriculture, during the next meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, to promote, in cooperation with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), joint action by all the actors of the agricultural sector to work towards the improvement of agricultural and rural life..." in order to implement the mandates of the Third Summit of the Americas that refer to agriculture and rural life, including aspects of importance for the indigenous peoples of the hemisphere;

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<sup>1</sup> The term "indigenous peoples" refers to those communities with ancestral roots that form part of each Member State. Also, the use of the term "peoples" in this resolution cannot be construed as having any implications as to the rights that attach to them under international law.

That IICA and other international technical and financial organizations have capacities in different areas of relevance for promoting development among indigenous peoples, which can be complemented and strengthened by means of mechanisms to articulate their action;

That the value of the world views of different cultures, as well as the respect for freedom of expression and appreciation of cultural diversity, contribute to social and economic vitality, and it is therefore important to develop strategies and methodologies that make it possible to appreciate and respect the cultural expressions of indigenous peoples,

#### RESOLVES:

1. To entrust the General Directorate of IICA with establishing a specialized team on indigenous affairs with existing personnel and under the Directorate of Sustainable Rural Development, to prepare and lead the implementation, with the Member States, of a series of strategic actions to promote prosperity in the indigenous communities of the Americas, based on a sustainable development approach that respects the culture, the preservation of natural resources and biodiversity in the territories inhabited by these communities.
2. In order to channel these actions, to entrust IICA, in consultation with the Member States, with preparing a project proposal to be submitted to the consideration of multilateral or regional funding organizations for securing financial resources both to strengthen the Institute's capabilities and to implement the strategic actions referred to in the point above.
3. To instruct the Director General to take the steps necessary, within the framework of inter-institutional agreements, to articulate the capabilities and mobilize the resources of national, regional and international organizations to finance and develop actions and development projects with the active participation of the communities inhabited by indigenous peoples in the hemisphere.
4. To urge the Member States to consider providing the support needed for implementing this resolution.