



**Tebtebba**



**National Consultation on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> International Decade of the World's Indigenous People  
7 – 9 August 2006**

**Declaration of Unity**

We, the participants to the National Consultation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, representing 26 indigenous organizations and advocate groups, gathered in Quezon City this August 7-9, 2006, deplore the worsening situation of indigenous peoples in the Philippines as indicated by the following:

1. Increasing human rights violations through militarization of indigenous communities, forced evacuation and displacement, food blockades, hamletting, forced curfew, intimidation, abduction and extrajudicial killings of indigenous leaders and members of indigenous organizations, including violence against indigenous women;
2. Dispossession, expropriation and destruction of indigenous peoples' lands, resources and traditional knowledge through massive expansion of corporate mining and other extractive industries, logging, dam-building, commercial monocrop plantations, propagation of genetically-modified organisms (GMOs), ecotourism projects, and the continued adherence of government to trade and economic liberalization and privatization policies;
3. Continuing neglect and deprivation of basic services - including education and health, needed infrastructures, and destruction of traditional livelihoods which are sustainable.
4. Commercialization, bastardization and misrepresentation of our cultures for tourism;
5. Increased vulnerability of indigenous communities to impacts of climate change and natural and man-made calamities, destruction and erosion of biodiversity and inappropriate government responses to these;
6. Political misrepresentation and non-recognition of indigenous peoples in political affairs. While indigenous peoples are legally entitled to have their Free, Prior and Informed Consent obtained for projects, programs and activities affecting them, this has been subverted and outrightly violated.

On the other hand, indigenous peoples are strengthening our organizations and networks while building our capacities - at the local, national and international levels. This is in order to effectively respond to these situations and to continue to assert the exercise of their collective and individual human rights.

At the same time, indigenous peoples recognize the need to build broader cooperation and solidarity with other sectors and groups in order to generate the broadest support for our struggles and to achieve common visions for genuine peace, justice, equality and development.

We welcome the adoption by the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We believe that this Declaration represents the basic aspirations and rights which we would like governments to protect, respect and fulfill. In this context, we urge the Philippine Government to vote for the adoption of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples during the 61st UN General Assembly.

We urge the Philippine Government to immediately ratify ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples as part of its commitment to international human rights law.

Likewise, we urgently demand the full recognition of our rights and a stop to the continuing violation of our collective and individual rights - not just in words but in action.

We also welcome the declaration by the UN of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005-2015) and its Programme of Action. As our contribution to the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Decade, we have formulated our National Programme of Action that aims to make the Decade relevant to our peoples and communities. This document is attached to this declaration.

In order to realize the theme of the Second Decade which is "Partnership for Action and Dignity" and implement this national programme, in cooperation with other organizations, institutions and concerned agencies, we are forming our broad national indigenous peoples' network to ensure that these become realities for us. Thus, we also call on all indigenous organizations and advocates to fully support this programme and join the Philippine Indigenous Peoples Network for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

We call on the government to fully comply with its obligations to International Human Rights Law and international humanitarian law and we shall monitor its compliance. In this context, we shall file complaints to the UN Treaty Bodies and use Special Procedures to raise the non-compliance of government to these obligations.

We vow to continue our struggle to assert our individual and collective human rights in all avenues at the national and international levels and build our strongest solidarity to affirm our identity and dignity.

**08 August 2006**