



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND  
THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

The Department of the Interior of the United States of America and the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of the United Mexican States, hereinafter referred to as "the Participants;"

**RECOGNIZING** the importance of strengthening the policies that promote the protection and welfare of indigenous peoples and individuals living in their countries' territories, within the framework of their respective authorities;

**DESIRING** to strengthen cooperation on indigenous issues by designing mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of best practices, lessons learned, information, experiences, and knowledge, to improve the quality of life of indigenous peoples and individuals of each country;

**CONVINCED** that such international cooperation can contribute to improving the quality of life for all individuals, particularly of indigenous persons and of their communities;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that indigenous peoples and communities of the two countries often have different ways of life, languages, political structures, customs, and beliefs, and are located in remote, rural, and urban areas;

**HAVE REACHED** the following understandings:

1. The Participants intend to develop specific areas of bilateral cooperation, which may include the following:


- a. socio-economic development, including the preservation of economic traditions;
- b. sustainable development;
- c. development, promotion, and protection of cultural traditions and resources;
- d. education and outreach;
- e. processes for consultation with, and participation of, indigenous peoples;
- f. promotion of cultural exchanges;
- g. promotion of human rights and access to justice;
- h. prevention of violence against indigenous persons, in particular for indigenous women and girls;
- i. intercultural perspective in relation to efforts to promote rights of indigenous women; and,
- j. any other area of cooperation that the Participants deem appropriate within the scope of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

2. The Participants may carry out cooperative activities and projects through:

- a. exchanges and/or visits of officials and subject matter experts;
- b. meetings or video conferences;
- c. cooperation on existing and ongoing projects and consultations;

- d. exchanges of experiences, information, and knowledge in economic, social, cultural, and educational fields; and,
  - e. any other form of cooperation that the Participants deem appropriate.
3. For the purposes of this MOU, the Participants expect to promote and facilitate direct interactions between indigenous peoples of both countries, as well as between governmental agencies, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate.
  4. Each Participant expects to bear the costs of its own participation in cooperative activities, contingent upon available funding.
  5. The Participants understand that cooperative activities under this MOU are subject to their respective national laws and regulations.
  6. The Participants intend to designate appropriate officials to coordinate the activities that may be carried out under this MOU, through the development of a Joint Work Plan.
  7. This MOU is applicable from the date of its signature.
  8. If a Participant intends to discontinue its cooperation under this MOU, its intention may be notified to the other Participant in writing at least ninety (90) days in advance.
  9. At any time, a Participant may propose modifications to the MOU, which are intended to be formalized by mutual written consent.
  10. The discontinuation of this MOU is not intended to affect the conclusion of any ongoing cooperative activities unless the Participants decide otherwise.

11. **SIGNED** in Washington D.C. on this fourteenth day of October 2016, in two originals, in the Spanish and English languages.



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For the Department of the Interior  
The United States of America



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For the Commission for the Development  
of Indigenous Peoples  
The United Mexican States