

## **A. AGENDA 21, CHAPTER 26**

Chapter 26 of Agenda 21 contains two categories of recommendations dealing with the involvement of indigenous communities on the international scene. They may be summarized as follows:

### **1. *Actions by International Organizations***

- (a) Appointing a focal point within UN agencies and improving coordination among agencies and between agencies, governments and indigenous groups to better incorporate indigenous views in agency planning and programming [26.5(a)].
- (b) Providing technical and financial support to capacity building programmes involving indigenous people [26.5(b)].
- (c) Strengthening research and education programmes to raise understanding of indigenous knowledge, and to increase the efficiency of indigenous people's systems for resource management [26.5(c)].
- (d) Contribute to initiatives undertaken by indigenous communities under such programmes as the GEF and TFAP [26.5(d)].

### **2. *Actions by Governments***

- (a) Action on the ratification and application of existing international conventions (This, is really a domestic activity but bears consideration under international issues).
- (b) Action at a regional level to address common indigenous issues to increase their participation in sustainable development.

## **B. BEYOND AGENDA 21**

Two gaps in Chapter 26 are noted above. It would be useful to use those as a starting point for discussions with indigenous groups for their reactions to our analysis. This will hopefully point the way either towards addressing these gaps or revising our analysis.

## **POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. How should the broad recommendations in Chapter 26 of Agenda 21 be translated into a plan of action?
2. What consultative mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that indigenous views and expertise are incorporated into government positions, particularly with respect to the Commission on Sustainable Development?
3. What are the options for indigenous participation in international institutions?
4. What are the gaps in Agenda 21 and how should they be addressed.