

• Commission for Development: "The elaboration of development plans should start at the level of the communities and zones looking at their specific conditions and characteristics with the direct participation of the *cabildos* (local organizations) and the communal companies and stores of the *resguardo* (Indian communal lands)." CRIC delegates also called for legalization of the *resguardos* and the enlargement of some territories; diversification of production; development of traditional techniques and the use of other technologies that help to increase production at low cost and that do not deteriorate the condition of the soil and water; expansion of other activities besides cattleraising, such as goat and sheep herding; acquiring a better knowledge of the mineral resources existing in the *resguardos* and the protection of these resources from outsiders by the *cabildos*, and to demand from the State the surface and subsoil rights as the property of the *resguardos*.

• Commission for Health and Education: "To develop and strengthen culture within communities, especially through working with children, creating bilingual schools and supporting traditional medicine, and studying the effects of media on the communities.

• Commission for Relations with the State: "To hold the government responsible for its negligence in the investigation of the assassinations of 180 leaders since the creation of the CRIC. These assassinations have, in effect, been legalized under the Statute of Antiterrorism by giving support to civil 'self-defense' groups."

MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN OF CAUCA

A message of hope for the future was communicated by the Indian children who also participated in the meeting:

"Compañeros: "We the children, representatives of the Indian regions of Tolima, Poblazón, Nariño, and the Indian and peasant communities of the Cauca department came together with the goal of exchanging ideas, tasks, and games with other children. We, too, want to learn of the situation that other communities are facing in the struggle to defend our rights, culture, land, language, and the traditions which start at childhood. We think that we should participate in all the activities our older people develop for the benefit of the communities because we are the future for continuing those struggles."

SOURCE: "Unidad Alvaro Ulcué," Apartado 516, Popayán, Colombia.