

Indigenous people want power to veto World Bank plans

Indigenous groups are demanding that the World Bank seek their consent – not just consult them – before carrying out development programmes on their ancestral lands. Representatives of native communities came away from UN-sponsored talks criticising the World Bank for, in their view, making cosmetic changes to its development policies, which they said continue to undermine native interests. They referred to the Bank's new policy on indigenous peoples' development which calls for "free, prior, and informed consultations" with communities. But indigenous leaders said they were demanding that the Bank recognise their communities' rights to their ancestral territories and natural resources. Activists were calling for the terminology to be changed to "free, prior, and informed consent." The new Bank policy is set to take effect in July.

To access the full report visit the Dana Declaration website Announcements page: www.danadeclaration.org