Resolution on Promoting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Land, Language, and Culture

The 9th Education International Asia-Pacific (EIAP) Regional Conference, meeting in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on 18–20 October 2022:

(1) Recalls the terms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the ILO Convention 169, and the many international instruments on the prevention of discrimination;

(2) Recognises the inherent dignity and the unique contribution of Indigenous Peoples to the development and plurality of society;

(3) Acknowledges that the distinct cultures and languages of Indigenous Peoples enrich the cultural heritage of humankind and deserve protection as vehicles of culture and identity;

(4) Recalls that the Constitution of Education International commits EI ‘to combat all forms of racism and of bias or discrimination in education and society due to gender, marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion, political opinion, social or economic status or national or ethnic origin’;

(5) Recognises the role that teachers, education support personnel and their organisations in the education system have in ensuring the promotion and preservation of cultural identity of Indigenous Peoples;

The EIAP Regional Conference determines:

(6) That the EIAP region will promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples to ensure that the land, language, and culture of Indigenous Peoples in this region are protected.
(7) That in planning for the next EIAP Regional Conference, provision be made for an Indigenous Peoples Forum to be held prior to other caucuses to develop Indigenous Peoples responses to issues to be considered in caucus and plenary sessions thus ensuring that Indigenous perspectives are incorporated into all discussions.

(8) That the EIAP Regional Committee be mandated to develop, through consultation with member organisations and the Indigenous Peoples they represent, an appropriate acknowledgement/welcome to the land of the Indigenous Peoples on whose land meetings are being held.

(9) To call on Education International to develop new policy relating to the representation of Indigenous Peoples through EI democratic structures.