

I'm Javier Lopez Sanchez, member of Mayans zel Tap people from Chiapas, Mexico. It is a great honour to be able to participate in this extremely important forum. Mexico would like to thank [...] the organisers of this extremely important event as part of the 20th anniversary of the declaration. Thank you because we will have an opportunity to set out our experiences as regards implementation of the declaration and we're also convinced that it will give us an opportunity to think a little about everything that remains to be done in order to eradicate all forms of prejudice such as discrimination, racism. As of the reform of article 2 of the political constitution of the United States of Mexico 2001, Mexico is a country that is multi-cultural and multi-lingual. In 2003 the federal law to prevent and eliminate discrimination came into force. Since that year linguistic rights are embodied in general law on language rights of the indigenous peoples. It recognises the indigenous languages, heritage of all Mexicans, as well as other nationalities have the same standing as Spanish. The general law on language rights has really meant a change in the policies of the Mexican state. It establishes language rights of IP in the area of legal, administrative and judicial acts, education as well as in the mass media. The national institute of indigenous languages, therefore meeting this desire for a real language policy which implies the legal recognition of the language diversity of our country as well as fostering multi-lingualism as a linguistic policy.

It is worth pointing out that our experience in the implementation of the declaration and the compliance of this with the language rights of IP is focused on the implementation of public policies promoting the participation of all social agents be they IP, women, men, young people, civil associations, public and private institutions, universities, research centres, indigenous and non-indigenous experts, different mass media, the inter-institutional link, as well as cooperating efforts with the states, municipalities, and the federation itself as part of an overall shared institutional responsibility. We would like to highlight the following actions that the Mexican state via the institute has carried out. First of all national research into the catalogue of indigenous languages which has been published as a book and also online which sets out with a degree of certainty how many indigenous languages there are in our country. Also we've to design the new ethnic census where we've seen self-identification of 15,703,74 indigenous as well as 619, 130, 362 those who speak some form of national indigenous language. We have trained accredited and certified translators and interpreters in indigenous languages WE also have the national body of interpreters and translators.