In its quest to increase support for Indigenous Peoples on the ground, International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) decided to take a risk: they organized their very first regional convening focused on the Mesoamerica region in Queretaro, Mexico. The gathering brought nearly 200 people together from all over the world. The convening theme, Awakening Consciousness and Forming Alliances: Indigenous Peoples and Philanthropy, symbolized the start of new beginnings. The goal was threefold: to bring donors, NGO’s and regional Indigenous leaders together, to increase awareness of Indigenous issues in the region, and to encourage further collaboration between all three groups to start the dialogue for a more effective mechanism of funding for Indigenous Peoples in the Mesoamerican area.

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