
What is Free, Prior, Informed Consent?

Article 32 (2) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples asserts that: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.



Free

Free

Means that consent is given freely without coercion, intimidation, or manipulation.

Prior

Consent is sought before every significant stage of project development.



Prior



Informed

Informed

All parties share information, have access to information in a form that is understandable, and have enough information and capacity to make informed decisions.

Consent

The option of supporting or rejecting development that has significant impacts on Indigenous lands or culture.



Consent