



**International Indian Treaty Council**  
**Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios**  
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**INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL**  
**34th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CHIMALTENANGO, GUATEMALA**  
**June 19 to 22, 2008**

**Resolution on the Protection of the Environment and biodiversity: Climate Change, Mining, Oil, Water and Natural Resources**

*The 275 delegates registered at this conference, representing several Indigenous Peoples of North, South and Central America, the Caribbean and the Pacific, adopt the following resolution by consensus in defense of the rights of the Indigenous Peoples:*

**Considering** that Indigenous Peoples have a unique, sacred and interconnected relationship with the land, water, air, plants and animals; and

**Considering** that oil drilling, mining, deforestation, nuclear power, large scale hydroelectric dams and other forms of non-sustainable energy development deprive Indigenous Peoples of our lands, waters, air, and health, contaminate and deplete our traditional food sources, and are a direct cause of the climate change crisis affecting our ecosystems and ways of life; and

**Considering** the wide spread use of agrochemicals including pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers on Indigenous Peoples and lands without their free, prior and informed consent; and

**Considering** that global climate change is causing irreparable harm to traditional foods, all forms of marine and land wildlife, natural ecosystems, and spiritual and ceremonial practices, and is the direct cause of environmental disasters which are increasing in severity around the world; and

**Considering** the IITC's firm commitment to fight for a healthy life for all Peoples, and to work for the protection of the environment and the sacred natural world, the IITC resolves the following:.

**The IITC reaffirms its support** for all resolutions adopted at previous IITC Conferences for the protection of Mother Earth, the natural environment and biological diversity.

**The IITC also adopts** the following resolutions and agreements, based on the issues and concerns presented by the participants in this conference:

**The IITC takes note** of the testimonies presented from persons and families who, in one way or another, have suffered the effects of exposure to pesticides such as cancers, leukemia, and birth defects. We reaffirm our commitment to defend the rights to health and well being of our

Indigenous communities, including the Yaqui People and the Mayan People who are being affected in this way; and

**The IITC reaffirms** our support for the December 2006 Declaration Against Pesticides adopted by consensus of the Traditional Authorities of the Yaqui Tribe in Sonora Mexico, presenting 8 important points. The International Indian Treaty Council will encourage the implementation of that Declaration and will promote the adoption of similar Declarations in other communities, because Indigenous communities, including children, youth, adults and elders from throughout the continent, including the original Peoples of Guatemala, are affected by the applications of toxic pesticides; and

**The IITC affirms** the fundamental importance of our sacred sites: churches, cemeteries, official ceremonial grounds (*Guardias Tradicionales*), and sacred and ceremonial plants including mezquite, carrizo, alamo (cottonwood), sage, cedar, traditional tobacco, copal (pom) and the other medicinal plants which have the highest cultural importance for our communities. All of these are being directly or indirectly affected by the pesticides, toxic chemicals and other environmental toxics and contaminants; and

**The IITC resolves** to work with all Indigenous organizations, communities and nations to promote the creation of an international environmental network in order to save mother earth from destruction for profit; and

**The IITC will continue to oppose** the development and promotion of a carbon market framework as a “solution” for climate change, because these market-based solutions onlyacerbate the problem for our environment, our lands and territories and the human rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

**The IITC will continue to work** within the United Nations system and other relevant international fora to increase its effectiveness in investigating and responding to the concerns of Indigenous Peoples for the protection of their human rights, lands, resources, means of subsistence, traditional knowledge, environment, health and right to food, especially when these resources are threatened or damaged.

*Adopted by consensus June 22, 2008*