



## INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

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February 16, 2013

**Ms. Gabriella Habtom, Secretary  
UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
UNOG-OHCHR  
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland**

**Re: Additional information submitted to the CERD Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedures by IITC and the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission regarding the continued desecration of San Francisco Peaks Sacred Mountain, Arizona United States**

**cc: Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples James Anaya**

Please receive our respectful greetings. The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), in ECOSOC Consultative Status since 1974, now in General Consultative Status, respectfully submits the enclosed update from the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (NNHRC). The NNHRC presents the urgent and worsening threat to sacred San Francisco Peaks though the continuing development of the Snowbowl resort, with severe discriminatory impacts on the Navajo Nation and in violation of the religious and cultural rights as well as the right to free prior and informed consent of the Navajo and several other Indigenous Nations.

This Urgent Action submission, originally submitted to the CERD in August 2011, and updates provided by the IITC since that time, was reviewed during the 80<sup>th</sup> CERD session from February-March 2012. A letter was sent by the CERD to the United States of America on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 requesting information about “the concrete measures taken to ensure that the sacred character of this site for Indigenous Peoples is respected” and also regarding “the process by the State Party to ensure the free prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples with regard to the project”.

We respectfully request the CERD’s Urgent Action and Early Warning Procedures Working Group to take this information, as well as the specific responses provided by the United States, into account when it considers its next steps and recommendations to the State Party so that this urgent situation can be resolved with full respect for the rights of the Indigenous Peoples concerned under the Convention.

We sincerely thank the Committee and the Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedures Working Group for their attention to the enclosed information from the NNHRC, and to this most urgent matter at their current session.

With respectful regards,

Andrea Carmen,  
Executive Director, International Indian Treaty Council

cc: Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission