



Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios
CONFERENCIA 47TH ANIVERSARIO



International Indian Treaty Council 47 th Anniversary Conference

March 1 - 3, 2022

Panajachel, Sololá, Guatemala

Conference Resolution on “Indigenous women’s rights, advocacy for women, children, people with disabilities against all forms of violence, including environmental violence”

Delegates representing 61 Indigenous Peoples and Nations from North, Central and South America, the Arctic and the Caribbean participating in International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) 47th Anniversary Conference in the sacred place called Lake Atitlán, Panajachel, Sololá, Guatemala, after thoughtful deliberations, adopted by consensus the following resolution to defend the inherent rights and ways of life of Indigenous Peoples and support the continuity of life for our future generations:

1. We reaffirm the past resolutions of the 44th Anniversary International Indian Treaty Council Conference that was held June 21-24, 2018, at Mato Paha, South Dakota in Očhéthi Šakówiŋ Treaty Territory.
2. We reaffirm the Urgent Expression of Concern and Call to Action regarding Human Rights Violations being Carried Out Against Indigenous and Other Children that came out of the 44th Anniversary International Indian Treaty Council that was submitted to various U.N. Human Rights Bodies, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and the U.S. Government.
3. IITC reaffirms and underscores Article 22 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which *“calls up States to take measures in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, to ensure that Indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination”*.
4. IITC commits, and calls on all Indigenous Nations and Peoples worldwide, to focus on returning to and revitalizing our Indigenous knowledge systems and ways of life and work to applying our Indigenous knowledges, sciences and life ways in an ongoing process to challenge western systems and recover respect, gratitude and reciprocity into our relationships with each other and our Earth Mother.
5. IITC affirms that Indigenous women’s wisdom and knowledge, including knowledge for maintaining community, intergenerational and reproductive health, is scientific in and of itself and insist that the value and validity of that knowledge and science must not be diminished or undermined in any way.
6. IITC reaffirms its support for the results of the 2013 World Conference on Indigenous Women in held Lima Peru, which called for zero tolerance against all forms of violence against Indigenous Women and girls including Environmental Violence. IITC further underscores the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous



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Peoples recognition of Environmental Violence as a form of violence against Indigenous women which must be repudiated in response to the call by Indigenous women.

7. IITC acknowledges that environmental violence and racism as a result of use of chemical substances such as toxic pesticides, mining and industrial wastes including mercury, do irreparable harm to the environment, our food systems and the reproductive and intergenerational health of Indigenous women, children and those with disabilities.
8. IITC call for an end to all laws, policies and permits that allow the expansion and continuation of large scale extractive industry, including, but not limited to oil drilling, mining, coal burning, hydroelectric systems and clear cutting. We recognize that these activities result in irreparable harm to our Earth Mother as understood as the affected Indigenous Peoples, and violate a wide range of our rights including but not limited to rights to health, lands and territories and free, prior, and informed consent.
9. IITC supports with one voice the efforts of Indigenous Peoples to protect, continue and, as needed, to revitalize and restore the daily and household use of our Indigenous languages as a key aspect of decolonization and underscore the vital role of women in this regard. We further insist that States respect Indigenous languages and support their use in school systems in which Indigenous children participate on an equal basis with colonial languages.
10. IITC calls on States to effectively and accurately integrate international norms, laws, and policies upholding the rights and safety of Indigenous Peoples without reservation or reinterpretation, and advocates for the full effective and unqualified implementation at the State level.
11. IITC commits to incorporate the rights and participation of Indigenous women and children as a priority for action in its new 5-year IITC Strategic Plan.
12. IITC commits to incorporating the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) into its strategic plan under program area number 5, Treaties and Standard Setting, and make CEDAW a priority in IITC's work.
13. We underscore and reaffirm Article 31 of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which states:
 1. *Indigenous Peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property*



over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

2. In conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

14. IITC supports the collective intellectual property of Mayan textiles and clothing and recommends that States comply with court decisions in favor of Indigenous women and including to the compensations and reparations contained in those favorable court decisions. IITC further recommends that States implement administrative, legislative, and judicial measures for the protection of collective intellectual property of ancestral knowledge, textiles and clothing to avoid plagiarism, misappropriation and commodification of the identity, culture, knowledge and life of Indigenous women.
15. IITC denounces the folklorization and commodification of Indigenous women and children's images and lives for the promotion of tourism, or any other reason without the free, prior and informed consent of the affected Indigenous Peoples and considers the folklorization and commodification of images and lives in this way constitutes violence against Indigenous women and children.
16. IITC calls for the elimination of the use of language and place names that promote sexist and stereotypical discrimination and condones sexual exploitation of Indigenous women.
17. IITC denounces child marriage and recognizes that it is not an Indigenous value.
18. IITC supports Indigenous women's leadership including in political office and denounces attempts to criminalize, delegitimize, or undercut Indigenous women's leadership positions by States as a form of political violence targeting Indigenous women.
19. IITC calls for States to fulfill their obligations to Indigenous Peoples through providing education, educational resources, educational access and educational technology to ensure that Indigenous girls and women have access to achieve literacy and education from childhood to adulthood, including college and university levels. We affirm that States must provide adequate funding to women, girls and their families to achieve these ends.
20. IITC supports the integral role and recognition of Indigenous Peoples' justice systems and calls for States to respect them and to concede State jurisdiction when and where necessary as determined by the affected Indigenous Peoples and States. We also call upon State courts to give full faith, credit and comity to these Indigenous justice systems, including those aspects which prevent, respond to all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls
21. IITC encourages sexual education for Indigenous children, prioritizing Indigenous girls' knowledge of their bodies in relation to Indigenous spiritual knowledge, the Earth Mother, and their Indigenous sisters and brothers.



22. IITC commits to organize, with key partners, a fourth International Symposium on Environmental Violence Against Indigenous Women to take place in Bilwi Nicaragua as decided by consensus of the participants at the 3rd International Symposium on Environmental Violence Against Indigenous Women took place on April 14-15, 2018, organized by IITC in partnership with the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI), Alaska Community Action on Toxics and Tribal Link Foundation, the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law, NALSA, If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice, Colombia Law School, the Center for the Study of Social Difference, and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race.
23. IITC calls upon law enforcement at the tribal, municipal, state/provincial/ and federal levels to prioritize as a matter of utmost time-sensitive urgency efforts to find missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, solving these cases and bringing perpetrators to justice, working in conjunction with the Indigenous families concerned.
24. IITC acknowledges that missing and murdered Indigenous women and relatives are fueled directly by human trafficking, extractive industry by way of "man camps", forced immigration including by unaccompanied minors, the objectification and sexualization of Indigenous women.
25. IITC finally acknowledges that militarization of Indigenous lands and the use of para-militarized, including in Indigenous lands impacted by international borders, specifically target Indigenous Peoples and use violence against Indigenous women as a deliberate tool to engage in and enforce illegal land transfers and appropriations.

Adopted by consensus in Paxil Kayala, Ixim Ulew (Panajachel, Sololá) Guatemala, on March 3, 2022.