



International Indian Treaty Council

Working for the Rights and Recognition of Indigenous Peoples

Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios

Trabajando por el reconocimiento y los derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas

International Indian Treaty Council 50th Anniversary Conference Standing Rock, Oceti Sakowin Treaty Territory, June 21-24, 2024

CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Affiliates of the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), representing over 300 Indigenous Peoples and Nations from North, Central and South America, the Arctic, the Pacific and the Caribbean, participated in IITC's 50th Anniversary Conference in IITC's birthplace, the Standing Rock Nation, Oceti Sakowin Treaty Territory.

We came together to defend with one voice our inherent rights as affirmed in the Treaties we concluded with the colonizing settler governments.

We reaffirmed and endorsed IITC's founding document adopted in June 1974, "The Declaration of Continuing Independence" which recognized the binding, inviolate international relationship affirmed by these Nation-to-Nation Treaties.

Further, we 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. **IITC reaffirms** its conference resolutions on Environmental Health and Food Sovereignty adopted by consensus on March at the 47th Anniversary IITC Conference in Tecpan, Guatemala; its Food Sovereignty, Climate Change and Extractive Industries resolution adopted by consensus on June 24th 2018 at the 44th Anniversary IITC Conference in Bear Butte South Dakota, and the Declaration of Toohni Diné adopted by consensus at the 6th International Indigenous Peoples Corn Conference on August 30, 2023 in Shiprock New Mexico.
2. **IITC recognizes** the significant contributions of Indigenous Peoples working in various international platforms, affirming their vital role in shaping global policies on environmental protection, cultural preservation and Food Sovereignty.
3. **IITC fully supports** the position of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) regarding the distinct status, rights and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples adopted by consensus at UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai, dated December 10, 2023. **IITC further affirms and emphasizes** the need for clear

distinctions between Indigenous Peoples and other groups including “local communities”, including regarding the knowledge and rights of Indigenous Peoples, in all UN texts, bodies and frameworks, ensuring that Indigenous Peoples’ distinct rights are respected and addressed effectively.

4. **IITC recognizes** the evolution of Indigenous Peoples from passive observers to active participants in international environmental forums including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the UN Toxics Conventions (Stockholm, Rotterdam, Basel and Minamata); and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
5. **IITC commits** to continue and increase its work, involvement and advocacy in the current negotiations for a Global Plastics Treaty to ensure that the rights and unique perspectives of Indigenous Peoples are addressed.
6. **IITC further emphasizes** the need for continued growth of Indigenous Peoples from passive observers to active participants in various branches of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), including in the Committees on Agriculture (COAG) and on Fisheries (COFI).
7. **IITC calls** for enhanced cohesiveness between the ongoing work of Indigenous Peoples at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to increase alignment of the Indigenous caucuses across these platforms and also to align the actions and policies of these bodies towards building integrated strategies and collaborative frameworks that recognize the unique, distinct rights of Indigenous Peoples;
8. **IITC recognizes** the adoption of the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work Programme for the implementation of climate action in on agriculture and food security at the UNFCCC and reiterates the call for the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, the recognition of their sciences, knowledge and practices in the Joint Work program Activities and workshops.
9. **IITC stresses** the urgent need for transition from industrial food production methods that degrade soil, contribute to deforestation and over-use and pollute water sources, to sustainable methods based on the time-tested sciences, knowledge and practices utilized by Indigenous farmers, herders, and small-scale fishers. These practices sustain and restore the vitality of living soil which absorbs carbon and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) when healthy. They also protect fresh waters and ocean ecosystems, promoting healthier more sustainable eco- and food systems and further mitigating the climate crisis;

10. **IITC recognizes** the unique dietary needs of Indigenous Peoples, which are intricately adapted to their biological metabolisms through centuries of reciprocal care-taking relationships with their traditional food sources. Emphasizing the importance of these practices, IITC calls for the respect and maintenance of these dietary customs which are integral to preserving and restoring the cultural, spiritual, mental and physical integrity and health of Indigenous Peoples.
11. **IITC proposes** that Indigenous Peoples conduct comprehensive land and resource assessments in their own territories to evaluate the viability of their self-sustained food systems. These assessments can assist Indigenous Peoples to identify and define the necessary agricultural and aquacultural priorities and needs in order to support healthy diets and ecosystems and ensure sustainable food systems.
12. **IITC urges** increased resources for Indigenous farmers, land and water-based food producers, and small-scale fishers from all sources and on all levels in order to support sustainable agricultural and aquaculture practices. This support is crucial for revitalizing Indigenous agricultural and aquaculture practices that exclude harmful chemicals, promote living soil methodologies, protect oceans and fresh waters, foster regenerative ecosystems, and ensure that the next generations of Indigenous food producers are able to continue these practices in their own homelands.
13. **IITC encourages** collaboration and knowledge exchange among Indigenous Peoples to overcome the practical limitations of agriculture and aquaculture caused by diverse climates and soils as the climate crisis' impacts increase. Such cooperation will foster collective approaches to sustainable agriculture and aquaculture, enhancing food security and resiliency across different regions;
14. **IITC is committed** to reinstating Indigenous agricultural and aquacultural ceremonies and cultural practices, such as seed and harvest ceremonies, as well as the rematriation of Indigenous seeds, and integrating these ancient agricultural teachings into contemporary practices. This initiative will strengthen cultural identity and sustainability while preserving vital ecological knowledge.
15. **IITC advocates** for the integration of Indigenous food sovereignty into educational systems, ensuring that children have access to Indigenous foods during their developmental years. This access is critical to maximizing their health potential and maintaining cultural continuity.
16. **IITC supports** revitalization of Indigenous-led economic systems based on trade and barter, reconnecting Indigenous Peoples with their lands and territories as a source of sustainability. This reconnection will foster sustainable relationships and responsibilities within and among Indigenous Peoples, ensuring the longevity of Indigenous stewardship and community cohesion.

17. **IITC supports** the creation of an Indigenous seed trading networks to foster the conservation and sustainable use of Indigenous seeds, enhance economic opportunities for Indigenous farmers and small-scale food producers, and facilitate knowledge exchange. Furthermore, IITC encourages partnerships with Indigenous Peoples and relevant organizations to develop these networks, while also urging support for initiatives like community seed sanctuaries, community and family gardens, farmer training and knowledge exchanges, and market access strategies to uphold and restore Indigenous agricultural practices and biodiversity;
18. **IITC commits** to the empowerment of Indigenous youth by building their capabilities in food sovereignty and preparing them to tackle the challenges of the triple planetary crisis;
19. **IITC reaffirms** its commitment to amend the FAO Code of Conduct on Pesticides to include the rights affirmed in Article 29 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples regarding free, prior and informed consent and hazardous materials;
20. **IITC commits** to enhancing food sovereignty by promoting the exchange of knowledge on food production systems among Indigenous Peoples and considers participating in UNCTAD to foster global exchanges and collaboration among Indigenous Peoples;
21. **IITC proposes** to expand the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Food Sovereignty as a network for Indigenous farmers, small-scale food producers and small-scale fisheries, to facilitate exchanges and collaborations, enabling participants to share knowledge, advocacy opportunities and resources effectively;
22. **IITC commits** to supporting Indigenous Peoples in developing international emergency management treaties between Indigenous Peoples, facilitating cross-border Indigenous seed exchanges, and bolstering global trade among Indigenous Peoples.
23. **IITC supports** an amendment to Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to more accurately reflect the rights and contributions of Indigenous Peoples.
24. **IITC will increase** its participation in the Digital Sequence Information (DSI) process of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the FAO Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to protect genetic resources held by Indigenous Peoples and ensure that these can only be accessed or used with their free, prior and informed consent.
25. **IITC welcomes** the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction or BBNJ at the United Nations headquarters on June 19, 2023. **IITC will continue and increase** its involvement in BBNJ initiatives, recognizing the fundamental interrelation between the health of the

oceans and the health of Indigenous Peoples' territories and food systems, and commits to active participation in international discussions and actions that aim to safeguard marine biodiversity while ensuring that the rights and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples are integral to these efforts.

26. **IITC advocates** for the promotion and protection of seabed health both within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and in areas beyond national jurisdiction, recognizing the vital importance of marine biodiversity and food security for Indigenous Peoples. **IITC is concerned** about the destructive impact of super trawlers on seabed ecosystems and plans to raise seabed issues at relevant international meetings, including those of the International Seabed Authority, to promote sustainable practices and responsible management of seabed ecosystems.
27. **IITC commits** to advocate for water treatment processes that are effective and sustainable so that waters, including rivers, springs, estuaries, city wastewater and marine bays, are free from contaminants before they enter the sea in order to protect marine and freshwater ecosystems and maintain clean water resources for all life.
28. **IITC supports** the protection of Indigenous knowledge holders to safeguard the permafrost, recognizing their vital role in maintaining ecological balance, preserving Indigenous wisdom and responding to the climate crisis.
29. **IITC welcomes** the recent appointment of an Indigenous observer and an alternate to the Advisory Board of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage at the UNFCCC, marking a significant advancement in underscoring the dual role of Indigenous Peoples as both recipients and providers of crucial knowledge and expertise to avert, mitigate and adapt to climate change.
30. **IITC will actively pursue** enhanced participation for Indigenous Peoples at the highest levels within all international environmental and food-related frameworks that impact them in order to ensuring their substantial and influential participation in the global climate change, food sovereignty and environmental discourse;
31. **IITC supports and will continue to promote** the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change's advocacy paper as adopted at UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai calling for a just transition from fossil fuels and industrial agriculture to sustainable practices to protect the rights, lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples.

Adopted by consensus on June 24, 2024.