



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
June 21 – 24, 2024
Standing Rock, Oceti Sakowin Treaty Territory**

**Resolution on Language, Cultural Rights, Sacred Sites, and
Repatriation**

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:

IITC acknowledges that the issues raised in this resolution are cross-cutting across all programs and aspects of IITC's programs, Conference resolutions and areas of work based on our foundational relationships to our spiritual identities, traditional cultures, languages, sacred places and ways of life.

1. IITC reaffirms the Resolution on the Protection of Sacred Areas, Cultural and Spiritual Rights adopted by consensus at the 40th Anniversary International Indian Treaty Conference in Okemah Oklahoma, September 12, 2014.
2. IITC reaffirms the Resolution on the Protection of Cultural Rights, Sacred Sites, and Repatriation adopted by consensus at the 42nd Anniversary International Treaty Conference in Pu'uohonua Village, Waimanalo, Oahu, Hawaii, in September 11, 2016.
3. IITC reaffirms the IITC Resolution on the Protection of Cultural Rights, Sacred Sites, and Repatriation adopted by consensus at the 44th Anniversary International Treaty Conference in Mato Paha (Bear Butte), South Dakota, Oceti Sakowin Treaty Territory, June 24, 2018.
4. IITC reaffirms the IITC Resolution on Indigenous Languages adopted by consensus at the 47th Anniversary International Treaty Conference in Panajachel, Sololá, Guatemala, March 3, 2022

In addition, IITC resolves the following:

5. To follow up on and monitor the progress of the UN International Decade of the World's Indigenous Languages, and share information on, and opportunities related to, the International Decade through its networks with its affiliates.
6. IITC urges the implementation of the provisions of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including Articles 11 and 12 regarding repatriation of Indigenous Peoples sacred items and human remains, and urge UNESCO to become more active in its role in supporting the creation of an effective, mechanism of international repatriation with the full and ongoing participation of Indigenous Peoples
7. IITC endorses the calls by Indigenous Peoples' to include culture as an additional pillar for sustainable development, within existing and future frameworks of the sustainable development agenda.
8. IITC continues to support the establishment, recognition and implementation of legal frameworks, safeguards, certification procedures, developed in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples to prevent and prohibit the illicit transport of Indigenous Peoples' sacred items and human remains taking place without their Free Prior and Informed consent and/or in violation of their traditions, laws and customs. IITC will communicate with the necessary bodies in order to work with the United Nations bodies such as UNESCO, to explore the creation of such an international legal framework.
9. Finally IITC will review existing international legal frameworks and will promote the establishment of protocols and processes to allow cross-border/international travel by authorized Indigenous spiritual leaders, practitioners and cultural participants of cultural, sacred items and regalia based on the protocols and approval systems established by the appropriate cultural leaders of their own Peoples.

Adopted by consensus June 24, 2024