



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

CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON INDIGENOUS YOUTH

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:

The IITC reaffirms the importance of building, supporting and strengthening the participation of Indigenous youth in our work and organization, in accordance with IITC's Guiding Principles. We appreciate the active participation of Indigenous youth from IITC's affiliates in North America, Latin America and the Pacific at this conference and support their request to strengthen the intergenerational responsibilities shared by both youth and elders within our evolving movement for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and protection of Mother Earth.

Based on this commitment, we resolve the following:

- 1) IITC reaffirms our endorsement and support for the International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change launched in Dubai in 2023 under the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change where IITC is an active participant.
- 2) IITC will support efforts by Indigenous youth from IITC's affiliates to establish and strengthen networks at the local, regional, and international levels.
- 3) IITC will commit to enhance the knowledge of Indigenous youth regarding Treaty Rights, Human Rights, and Cultural heritage rights through capacity-building initiatives, affirming that it is essential to preserve our heritage and ensure that Indigenous education and knowledge remain integral parts of our identity.

- 4) IITC will facilitate training opportunities in media, journalism and photography to help Indigenous youth amplify their voices in their homelands and on the frontlines of various issues in the international arena.
- 5) IITC will promote increasing international collaboration by encouraging youth to learn languages from different regions through cultural exchanges, focusing on youth from Spanish and English-speaking countries. This initiative will reduce language barriers and build capacity among Indigenous youth globally.
- 6) IITC will encourage the establishment of inclusive and safe spaces for Indigenous youth to share their stories, support one another, and learn from elders, peers, knowledge holders, movement veterans and organizers from Indigenous Peoples and organizations around the world. This will help youth to navigate international spaces and address common struggles.
- 7) IITC will continue to provide trainings, workshops and working groups to help Indigenous youth better understand local, regional, and international advocacy processes and legal frameworks for effective participation on behalf of their Peoples.
- 8) IITC will explore ways to increase youth responsibilities and involvement and build their leadership capacity within the IITC governance structure.
- 9) IITC will provide our affiliates with information on training opportunities, funding for youth participation in UN systems, and other financial resources to enable youth engagement.
- 10) IITC will create a glossary of terms to help youth better understand the UN system and its terminologies.
- 11) IITC will co-host the next IITC Conference in Aotearoa, New Zealand, "The Land of the Long White Cloud," and will utilize this opportunity to support Indigenous youth from the Pacific and other regions in connecting with each other.

Adopted by consensus June 24, 2024