



**44th Anniversary International Indian Treaty Conference
Mato Paha (Bear Butte), South Dakota
Oceti Sakowin Treaty Territory
JUNE 21st – 24th, 2018**

Resolution on Food Sovereignty, Climate Change and Extractive Industries

The participants at this conference representing Indigenous Peoples from the Americas, Arctic, Caribbean and Pacific adopt the following resolution to defend the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

We reaffirm the previous IITC Declarations and Resolutions on Extractive Industries, Food Sovereignty, and Climate Change. These include but are not limited to “the Declaration of Tecpan, “*Protecting our ancestral origins in order to guarantee the Food Sovereignty of our Future Generations*” (Tecpan, Guatemala, 2017), the “Thank you Creator for the Salmon Declaration” (Chickaloon Alaska, 2017), the “Taro is the Ancestor that Nourishes Us Declaration” (Waimanalo Hawaii, September 2016), the “Mother Earth Accord” (US and Canada Indigenous Treaty Nations, 2012), the “Declaration on Food Sovereignty, Traditional Knowledge and Climate Change” (Shiprock New Mexico, Dine Nation, 2016) and the resolutions on these topics adopted at previous International Treaty Conferences.

These Declarations and resolutions have established shared commitments of Indigenous Peoples across North, Central and South America, the Arctic, the Pacific and the Caribbean.

We recognize that the lack of access to land and water, and human-caused conflicts around the world disproportionately affect Indigenous Peoples and are contributing to increasing hunger, displacement, and poverty which will continually make it difficult for countries to meet their commitments under the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have the data and lived experiences that show us that capitalism -- especially extractive industries, industrial-scale agriculture – and human-caused Climate Change pose some of the biggest threats to our lands, territories, resources, sacred sites, reproductive health, food sovereignty and continued existence.

We affirm that that food sovereignty is a pre-condition for food security and that our understandings about food security as Indigenous Peoples is different from western definitions. We reaffirm the definition of Food Sovereignty outlined in the Declaration of Atitlan. We reaffirm that Indigenous Peoples must retain the autonomy to exercise their inherent rights to self-determination for the restoration and continuation of small-scale ecologically regenerative agriculture including heirloom/original seeds and methods, and the protection of other traditional foods systems as the solution to food insecurity.



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Therefore, the International Indian Treaty Council commits to:

1. Continue to work locally and internationally to make sure that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are included in relevant discussions in accordance to our own definition of food sovereignty, as part of our resistance and efforts to dismantle current free trade corporate food systems which threaten our ecosystems, livelihoods, sacred water, reproductive health and collective futures; and,
2. Continue to support the restoration and protection of traditional foods and food systems, heirloom/original seeds, and “ways of knowing” as a solution to mitigating, adapting, and responding to Climate Change with the continued aim at prevention with the intent to stop human activities that contribute to global warming; and,
3. Continue and strengthen our work and interventions within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Committee on Food Security (CFS), and in the Fishers Committee of the FAO; and,
4. Continue and strengthen our work at the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC) with the Social Movements for Food Sovereignty; and,
5. Advance the change of the CFS Civil Society Mechanism name to that of Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism, to attain full recognition and larger participation of Indigenous Peoples and organizations in this space; and,
6. Achieve, with FAO’s support, the reinstatement of the Global Indigenous Peoples Caucus at the FAO; and,
7. Advance the Reform of the International Code of Conduct on the Management of Pesticides to include references to the rights of Indigenous Peoples including to Free Prior and Informed Consent; and,
8. Continue carrying out workshops and gatherings with IITC affiliates and developing educational materials (including printed materials and video briefs) on Food Sovereignty, Traditional Knowledge, Reproductive Justice, Climate Change and the impacts of Extractive Industries on Air, Water and Soil, subsistence foods, sacred places and our cultural and spiritual well-being; and,
9. Support investigation into the spread of contaminants from Superfund sites in Boriken (aka Puerto Rico) as a result of the Hurricane Maria; and,
10. Continue to develop an urgent action regarding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in support of Gwich’in longstanding resistance to oil and gas exploration and development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge-They call this place “Iizhik Gwatsan



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Gwandaii Goodlit” (The Sacred Place Where Life Begins), which is threatened by the pro-development policies of the current US administration and Congress. IITC will work to engage all International mechanisms to uphold the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the human rights of the Gwich’in Nation including but not limited to filing urgent action with the CERD, and will continue to support the call on United States Congress to repeal the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (Tax Act) to protect this sacred place; and,

11. Continue to urgently and strongly call for a moratorium on all new exploration for oil, gas, and coal as a first step towards the full phase-out of fossil fuels with a just transition to sustainable jobs, energy and environment. We reiterate and reaffirm this position and call based on our lived experiences of the disproportionate social, cultural, spiritual, environmental and climate crisis impacts of fossil fuel-based development, including tar sands extraction, drilling, mining, fracking, gas and oil pipelines and coal-fired power plants, on Indigenous Peoples; and,
12. Challenge the insane policies that threaten our livelihoods and cultures carried out under today’s profit driven economies that are not sustainable and threaten the existence of our future generations. The “profit at all costs” and “business as usual” mentality of the United States (US) and other industrial countries is our greatest challenge. We will continue to call upon the US, Canada and other countries to move towards sustainable and renewable energy development now, not just for Indigenous Peoples’ survival but for the survival of humanity as a whole; and,
13. Denounce the US Trump administration’s energy policies that erode longstanding environmental regulations such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Clean Water Act (CWA), the Safe Drinking Water Act, and other such laws to fast track energy extraction within Indigenous Peoples territories and sacred places throughout the US; and,
14. Oppose transporting by railroad very dangerous commercial, high-level, nuclear waste throughout the United States, including through Indigenous lands, to a proposed “temporary” storage site in New Mexico, as outlined in the Holtec proposal currently promoted by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and,
15. Continue to call for full restoration of areas contaminated by all forms of mining, processes, waste storage and spills using appropriate technologies, in coordination and conjunction with the Indigenous Peoples concerned; and
16. Reaffirm the need for studies of the effects on the environment and human health due to exposure to mining waste, including potential impacts and risks of new development considering the cumulative exposure for impacted communities and ecosystems; and,



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17. Continue to work on safeguards for Traditional Knowledge in Climate Change adaptation and mitigation strategies and to uphold and respect inherent sovereignty as defined by the traditional laws, customs and protocols of Indigenous Peoples in this regard.

Adopted by Consensus on June 24, 2018