



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

**Resolution Calling for the Abolishment and Revocation of the
Papal Bulls/Doctrine of Discovery that have resulted in Destructive Outcomes to
Indigenous Peoples, our Lifeways and Lands**

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

1. The IITC affirms and emphasizes that as Indigenous Peoples, since the time of creation, our relationship with land, water, plants, birds, insects and animals is the fundamental physical, cultural and spiritual basis for our existence. We acknowledge that our natural laws and lifeways have been in effect since the beginning.
2. IITC's reaffirms and honors our inherent responsibilities and rights as caretakers and stands united to follow, implement and protect our knowledge and laws, the gifts of life and our inherent right to self-determination.
3. IITC recalls that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the minimum universal human rights standard for Indigenous Peoples, states in its preamble "*that all doctrines, policies and practices based on or advocating superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin or racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust*".
4. IITC recognizes the destruction, colonial and genocidal impacts of the 1452, 1455, 1456, 1458, and 1493 Papal Bulls as the foundation of the Doctrine of Discovery which were established and implemented by the Catholic Church. These decrees established the justification of acquiring indigenous lands and territories by utilizing concepts such as *terra nullius* that identified lands as unoccupied and without legal ownership.
5. IITC will continue to call upon Pope Francis and the Holy See/Pontifical Council, in the spirit of healing, to completely denounce and revoke all relevant Papal Bulls and the Doctrine of Discovery and to further call upon Pope Francis and the Holy See/Pontifical Council to provide a formal and official apology acknowledging the full harm and destruction that has occurred to Indigenous



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Peoples because of the practices of the church based on the Doctrine of Discovery. IITC also call upon Pope Francis and the Holy See/Pontifical Council to officially support and endorse the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

6. IITC endorses an international convening of Indigenous Peoples to develop strategies to revoke the Papal Bulls and the Doctrine of Discovery, assess their ongoing impacts, and advance continuing work and existing efforts of other Indigenous Peoples in this regard. Further, IITC will commit to address the historic and continuing impacts at international gatherings, bodies and processes and at other IITC-sponsored conferences and events.
7. IITC will commit to support continued educational efforts to inform the general public, Indigenous Nations and Peoples and educational systems regarding the history and ongoing impacts of the Papal Bulls and Doctrine of Discovery.
8. IITC recognizes that the Doctrine of Discovery has been recently downplayed by Vatican officials including to the delegation from the Indigenous Youth Ceremonial Mentoring Society on their recent visit to the Vatican. However, IITC recognizes that it is still being utilized as a legal basis in court cases related to land acquisition, natural resource development and extraction. With this understanding, IITC recognizes the importance of Indigenous Peoples' efforts to end the use of the Doctrine of Discovery as a foundational principle in legal battles within the court systems of the United States, Canada and other countries as well as in United Nations processes and mechanisms.
9. IITC recognizes, supports and commits to assisting the efforts of Indigenous Peoples to achieve the denouncement and revocation of the Papal Bulls and Doctrine of Discovery and to addressing their impacts in all relevant areas of its program work.

Adopted by consensus on June 24th, 2018