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## Support our work!

IITC does not receive any state or federal funding. Instead, we rely on the generous support of foundations, Indigenous Nations and Tribes, and contributions from private donors, friends and allies to sustain our work.

Please log on to IITC's web page, [www.treatycouncil.org](http://www.treatycouncil.org), and click on "donate" to see how you can support. All donations to IITC are tax deductible in the United States and are greatly appreciated.

For more information log on to IITC's web page, email to [iitc@treatycouncil.org](mailto:iitc@treatycouncil.org) or call (415) 641-4482.

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# INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

Working for the Rights and  
Recognition of Indigenous Peoples



*The IITC believes that Indigenous Peoples should speak for and represent themselves before the world community.*

*-- IITC Guiding Principle*

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# THE INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL: A VOICE FOR THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

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*Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.*

*-- Article 37, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

## Mission

The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) is an organization of Indigenous Peoples from North, Central, South America, the Arctic, Caribbean and Pacific working for the sovereignty and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and the recognition and protection of Indigenous rights, Treaties, traditional cultures and sacred lands.

## Founding Purposes

- To seek, promote and build participation of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations (UN) and its specialized agencies, as well as other international forums.
- To seek international recognition for Treaties and Agreements between Indigenous Peoples and Nation-States.
- To support the human rights, self-determination and sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples; to oppose colonialism in all its forms and its effects upon Indigenous Peoples.
- To build solidarity and relationships of mutual support among Indigenous Peoples of the world.
- To disseminate information about Indigenous Peoples' human rights issues, struggles, concerns and perspectives.
- To establish and maintain one or more organizational offices to carry out IITC's information dissemination, networking and human rights programs.

## A Voice for Indigenous Peoples

The IITC was founded in June 1974 at a gathering on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota attended by more than 5000 representatives from 98 Indigenous Nations. The symbol of the sacred pipe uniting the hemisphere was chosen by the elders to represent the common bonds of spirituality, relationship to the land and traditional culture shared by all Indigenous Peoples.

The IITC supports Indigenous Peoples' struggles for human and Treaty rights, self-determination, food sovereignty, environmental health and justice through information dissemination, coalition building, advocacy, training and technical assistance. The IITC builds the direct, effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in regional, national and international events, gatherings and policy discussions addressing their rights, ways of life and survival.

In 1977 IITC became the first Indigenous Peoples' organization to be recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with Consultative Status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. In 2011, IITC was the first to be upgraded to General Consultation Status in recognition of its active participation in a wide range of international bodies and processes to ensure that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are recognized, respected and upheld.

The IITC carries out trainings for Indigenous Peoples, Tribal Nations and Communities to build their capacity to use international human rights processes to defend their rights, respond to urgent threats and hold countries and corporations accountable for violations. IITC also maintains an electronic communications network, including a web page, e-news and social media, to share updates and opportunities for involvement, and build awareness and support for Indigenous Peoples' struggles.

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## IITC's Programs

Defending Human Rights through human rights trainings, advocacy and submissions to international bodies in response to urgent threats to land, water and Treaty rights, cultural rights and sacred landscapes, and the rights of Indigenous women and children. IITC also work to protect and uphold the rights of humans, Treaty and environmental rights defenders.

Implementing Nation to Nation Treaties, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other International Standards that uphold, recognize and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and creating new mechanisms and processes to strengthen countries' accountability and compliance.

Promoting Environmental and Intergenerational Health by halting exposure to toxic pesticides, nuclear contamination, extractive industries, mercury and other contaminants, and combatting all forms of environmental violence.

Supporting Food Sovereignty, right to food and subsistence rights by promoting information sharing among Indigenous knowledge holders and food producers, revitalizing sustainable practices and applying traditional knowledge to mitigate climate change.

