

Joint Statement by European Support Groups for Indigenous Peoples

Item 4

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The UNDRIP is a key international instrument of universal nature recognising the rights of indigenous peoples.

We as European support groups call upon all governments to implement this declaration.

As the High Commissioner already mentioned in her opening statement to this session, we also welcome the announcements of the governments of Canada and the United States to review their position on the Declaration.

In the throne speech of March 2010, Canada announced its intention to adopt the declaration "in a manner fully consistent with Canada's Constitution and Laws". This is clearly contradicting all standards of ***international law***. What would become of international law, if it was overridden by national law? Would it mean that indigenous peoples are not safe when coming to Canada?

Furthermore, the announcement of the US-Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, to review the US-government's position on the Declaration – underlined in her statement to the UN-Permanent Forum in April 2010 – can not be understood as a real change as long as the US-government does not fully endorse and implement the UNDRIP.

The declaration has been adopted by the UN-General Assembly in 2007 and has therefore become international standard which in the spirit of true recognition of human rights ought to be binding on all governments.

Therefore, we call on Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada and President Barack Obama of the USA to endorse the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples without qualification and in a positive manner consistent with international human rights law. To impose such limitation on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples would constitute a discriminatory double standard.

We, the undersigned European Support Groups for Indigenous Peoples would like to express our solidarity with the indigenous peoples and support their rights. Therefore, we call on the governments of Canada and the United States to endorse the declaration without qualification.

To underline our demand we present this petition ***to the representatives of the Permanent Missions of the United States and Canada to the UN*** to remind them of their duty and obligation to respect international law and therefore to endorse the declaration without qualification.

Signed by:

Aktionsgruppe Indianer & Menschenrechte (Germany)
 Incomindios Schweiz (Switzerland)
 Arbeitskreis Indianer Nordamerikas (Austria)
 Menschenrechte 3000 (Germany)
 Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker (Germany)
 Comité de Solidarité avec les Indiens des Amériques (France)
 Leonard Peltier Defense/Offense Committee – Branch Support Group (France)
 Steungroep voor inheemse volken (Belgium)
 Ti Tlanizke (Switzerland)