

Regional Group North America : VERY URGENT: RE:THE UN DECLARATION, YOUR RESPONSES NEEDED BY SEPTEMBER 4TH! Andrea Carmen

Dear North America region and IITC representatives,

Please receive this very urgent information regarding the latest developments on the UN Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Enclosed find an update report from the caucus Steering Committee as well as the latest (and apparently final) amendments which were completed yesterday by the co-sponsors group (primarily Mexico, Peru and Guatemala) with the African group countries to try to reach an agreement on language which they feel will secure the adoption when the vote at the GA happens on September 13th without further amendments.

The changes they have negotiated are 9 in total to the Human Rights Council Declaration text.

We have been assured by Mexico that the co-sponsors will not go ahead with this revised text if Indigenous Peoples are not in agreement. All the regional coordinators are sending out this information throughout their regions (feel free to distribute it along with the Steering Committee report and background enclosed) to Indigenous Peoples, nations and organizations who have been involved in this work and whose views should be heard.

Please e mail your responses back to the North American regional Coordinators, me (Andrea Carmen) and/or Chief Ed John by TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 4th at noon New York time (USA). We are meeting the next day with the co-sponsors to present the feedback from the regions. We will see if we can take a joint Global Caucus position at that time.

For IITC and others who may receive this from me or as a forward from others, if you don't have the contact information for the regional coordinators from your own region (i.e. Pacific or Latin America) you can send your response to me and I will forward to them.

The Spanish version of all of this should be ready later today (la version en espanol va estar lista mas tarde hoy).

Please consult with your leadership, councils, communities, Boards etc. but please do it quickly. We very much regret the rushed timing on such a serious matter but the time frame is not of our choosing. Your voices are needed on this, and are essential. Many years of work and many many Indigenous peoples around the world will be effected by what we do and decide now.

I am available if you need to talk to me, I am in New York for the next few days, and you can best reach me via cell phone (907) 841-7758.

With respectful regards to all,

Andrea Carmen
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