

on item 3 b

(ID on participation)

## Statement on Indigenous Participation at the United Nations

July 11, 2016

Submitted on behalf of the National Congress of American Indians and the Native American Rights Fund.

We thank the advisors once again for their work in compiling and summarizing the views on enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations. In our statement of June 30, we noted that it would be useful for the advisers to categorize those suggestions which are in harmony with the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration), in addition to affirming the authority to provide for enhanced participation of Indigenous peoples. We believe that, at the end of this compilation process, significant progress has been made.

With regard to the Addendum to the final Compilation of 8 July:

We appreciate the commitment to look to the Declaration to determine actions and processes consistent with its provisions, and which would affirm the rights of Indigenous peoples to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, and that commit the United Nations to establish ways and means of ensuring the participation of Indigenous peoples on issues affecting them.

We appreciate that the Addendum sets out some firm ideas for participation venues, and participation modalities. We believe that in determining eligibility for enhanced status, the approach should be towards accreditation of Indigenous peoples' representative institutions, and we believe that the criteria in the addendum are responsive to the views presented to date, and we encourage an ongoing approach that maintains flexibility to address the many different situations of and realities faced by Indigenous peoples around the world.

We also agree with the statement on current practices affirming that this new status and related processes are not meant to displace any established process for indigenous participation in fora such as the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, or for NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status.

In working towards these commonly held goals, we want to underscore the need to continue the involvement of Indigenous peoples in this process. We look forward to hearing about how this process will now move forward. We encourage member states to, at a minimum, continue to consult with Indigenous peoples going forward. We believe that meaningful consultation must include the ability to review and comment substantively on any draft resolution, including the ability to propose substantive additions or revisions to a draft resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.