



UN EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
10TH SESSION
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AGENDA ITEM 6: Ten Years of Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: good practices and lessons learned

Statement by:

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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA, a traditional, Indigenous peoples' representative institution within its aboriginal territory; and

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS¹, a tribally chartered, non-profit, inter-tribal association of 33 Indigenous peoples' representative institutions within their aboriginal territories.

On September 13, 2007, the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN), noting the Human Rights Council's recommendation, adopted the "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" (UNDRIP). Once again, the Human Rights Council, may lead the way for the General Assembly.

Ten years past, the adoption of the Declaration led to the UN High Level Plenary known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document in 2014, and in 2016 the Organization of American States adoption of an American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In the United States in 2014 the State of California Legislature enacted a joint resolution to express this Legislature's endorsement of the principles of the Declaration and called for increased awareness, sensitivity, and respect for issues and other vital aspects implicit in those principles.

However, a decade after adoption of the Declaration, the United Nations system has not moved from supporting principles to practical action. The new mandate for the Expert Mechanism is the opportunity for action whereby the Human Rights Council may ask the Expert Mechanism to apply its methods of work for reports to the Human Rights Council and country engagement to address emergent threats to Indigenous peoples and their representative institutions by immediate and practical actions. Resolution 33/25 provides important new tools to advance implementation of the Declaration.

At a time when the UN General Assembly is shrinking from the principles and intent of the Declaration, contrary to Articles 2, 3, 18, 19, 38, 41, and 42, as well as the World Conference Outcome Document, the Expert Mechanism must act and seek out information that would finally be affirmative and meaningful actions. The Expert Mechanism's new working methods are essential at a time when the existence of the Declaration must, 10 years on, transition from dialogue to action.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment.
[end]

¹Big Lagoon Rancheria, Big Pine Rancheria, Big Sandy Rancheria, Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians of the Cahuilla Reservation, Cher–Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, Cloverdale Rancheria, Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California, Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California, Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Hopland Band of Pomo Indians of the Hopland Reservation, Ione Band of Miwok Indians of California, Jamul Indian Village, Karuk Tribe of California, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria, Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians, Mesa Grande Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Northfork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California, Pit Rive Tribe, Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians, Resigini Rancheria, Scotts Valley Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians of California, Smith River Rancheria, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, Susanville Indian Rancheria, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Washoe Tribes of California and Nevada, Wiyot Tribe, Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation.