

Madam Chair Person; **

The Haudenosaunee is a legitimate governing entity whose treaties with the United States, Canada and other powers, are important valid living documents that shaped the foundation of the relationship between our Nations. The fact that the treaties exist is proof that the European, Canadian and American governments recognized the Haudenosaunee to be legitimate Nations with rights under International law. International Law declares that treaties must be reviewed in the context and times that they were signed. Hence, the Haudenosaunee have stood firm in proclaiming that the treaties have always defined that international relationship.

Madam Chair Person; **

The Haudenosaunee have made numerous treaties with Nations around the world. First, the Guswenta or Two Row Wampum Belt with the Dutch in the 1600's. It describes how two different peoples relate to each other and how they can coexist with one another in a way of peace. Later, the French (13 June 1717), the English (24 September 1664) and Americans agreed to the principles of the Two Row and it became the basis for all other treaties. Some are the Silver Covenant Chain of Friendship Treaty on 25 August 1775 with Twelve United Colonies, Royal Proclamation of 1763 and 1766 with the King of Britain, Treaty of Ghent of 24 December 1814 and ratified by the United States 17 February 1815.

Madam Chair Person; **

Today, the Haudenosaunee Delegations presents to the international community, the HonNaDaGuyUsSkiWaDeetWaSanNeeGoNa or translates to «Big Belt with George Washington», which was presented to the Haudenosaunee by the United States President George Washington at Canandaigua on November 11, 1794. We bring the working group an example of a document of the times, a treaty belt. The Canandaigua Treaty of 1794 also known as the George Washington Covenant. This is a replica of the treaty belt of that accompanied the written version that is in the archives of the United States next to the Treaty of Ghent, The depiction of our leader Todadaho and the U.S. President George Washington standing over a common house depicting lands and the thirteen states. This belt encompasses the full 6 month process leading up to the finalization of this treaty in Haudenosaunee Country. The Preamble of the Canandaigua Treaty states:

The President of the United States having determined to hold a conference with the Six Nations {of Indians} for the purpose of removing from their minds all causes of complaint, and establishing a firm and permanent friendship with them... in order to accomplish the good design of this conference, the parties have agreed on the following articles... shall be binding on the United States and the Six Nations...

Madam Chair Person; **

The Canandaigua Treaty protected and guaranteed lands(Article II, III, IV), and promotion of future welfare (Article VI), as it also contains a clear dispute resolution mechanism on a government-to-government, Nation-to-Nation level (Article VII). This mechanism was used by the United States as late as November 22, 1974. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs Department of Interior, Morris Thompson, invoked Article