

EMRIP July 2014 Session

U.S. Statement: Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Thank you. In December 2010, President Obama announced U.S. support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Since then the United States has strived to achieve the Declaration's goals through the combined efforts of many U.S. government agencies. The Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Environmental Protection Agency, and State, as well as the White House and others look to the Declaration as they partner with tribal leaders to address the concerns of indigenous individuals and communities.

We have taken many steps, including legal and policy measures, related to our support for the Declaration. The March 2014 document entitled "Continuing the Progress in Tribal Communities," which is posted on the White House website, contains detailed descriptions of our federal policies and programs related to indigenous peoples in the United States. This report was prepared in connection with the November 2013 White House Tribal Nations Conference, and outlines actions to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with tribes, sustainable economic and infrastructure development, health care, public safety, education, protection of Native American lands and the environment, and respect for their cultures, among other topics.

The Declaration will continue to guide the U.S. government as we collaborate with tribal governments to improve the situation of indigenous peoples in the United States. Thank you for your attention.