



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
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USET Resolution No. 2011:025

**"UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS
OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSULTATION"**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** USET is concerned about assuring the decades of work dedicated to the "Drafting" of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is not forgotten; and
- WHEREAS,** the "Drafting" of the Declaration was the mutual work of Indigenous Peoples and Leadership from all over the World, which included indigenous peoples of the Red, Black, White, and Yellow Races of Humanity; and
- WHEREAS,** the United Nations ratified the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on September 13, 2007, by a vote of 144 states in favor of approval, 4 votes against (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and United States), with 11 abstentions; and
- WHEREAS,** since its adoption, Australia and New Zealand have reversed their positions and now endorse the Declaration, Columbia and Samoa have indicated their support (they abstained originally), and in March 2010 Canada announced it would take steps to endorse the Declaration, and in April 2010 the United States indicated it would review its position regarding the Declaration; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States has, in cooperation with its peers that had originally opposed the Declaration, through the White House, decided to subject this question of support for the Declaration to the process of "Consultation" with the Indian Tribes, a process being addressed and co-coordinated by the Department of Interior and the Department of State; and
- WHEREAS,** that two consultation sessions have been held (one at NCAI conference 2010 and another at the Department of State in Washington, D.C.); and
- WHEREAS,** the NCAI has, as a result of the summer consultation, called upon the Department of State and Department of Interior to recommend to President Obama that the United States officially support the Declaration, and the USET member tribes agree with this recommendation; and
- WHEREAS,** USET recognizes that the contents of the Declaration are directly applicably relevant to the efforts of the member Indian tribes to permanently secure their indigenous rights to exercise their inherent sovereignty, and to permanently secure the rights of Self-determination and Self-governance, as a matter of national and international law; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET member tribes recognize the benefits of the Declaration and the importance it has to all Indian Nations of the United States, including their relatives located along the borders of Canada or Mexico, and advocates the Declaration be supported by the United States absolutely, as a matter of domestic policy; and

- WHEREAS,** the Lummi Nation, at the Department of State Consultation, was requested by the Department of Interior, without objections from the Department of State, to secure a coordinated national legal position of Indian Country as to recommendations and justification for securing U.S. support for the Declaration; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET member tribes support that request and seek to assure that work is co-coordinated to best reflect the national legal Indians of Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** member tribes of USET have advocated that President Obama consider the development of a Native American Indian and Alaskan Native Commission to help structure the consultations on government-to-government relationship between the United States and the Indian Tribes, per self-determination and self-governance, and in light of the creation of a similar Commission of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; now
- RESOLVED,** that USET supports the recommendation of the National Congress of American Indians that the United States should immediately accept and support the Declaration, and clearly recommends that the Department of Interior and Department of State advocate support of the Declaration to President Obama; and
- RESOLVED,** that USET recommends that President Obama consider the development of a Native American & Alaskan Native Commission to help coordinate consultations on the contents of the Declarations and their relevance to the duties and responsibilities of the different federal departments and independent agencies; and
- RESOLVED,** that USET calls upon the various regional, national, and international Native American/Intertribal organizations (e.g., ATNI, GPTCA, MT/WYTLC, UGA, NIGA, WIGA, OIGA, CERT, NWIFC, CRITFC, UCUT, USRT, NTEC, NIEA, AIHEC, NCAI, and others) to assist in the enactment and ratification phase of this international declaration, once supported by the United States.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NY, on Thursday, October 14, 2010.



Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribe, Inc.



Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"