



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2016:006

URGING THE UNITED NATIONS, MEMBER STATES, AND INDIGENOUS GOVERNMENTS TO IMPLEMENT DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** indigenous peoples, nations, and tribes, including USET, played a critical role in contributing substantive proposals and participating in meetings and consultations in preparation for the high-level plenary meeting of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the outcome document of the Conference; and
- WHEREAS,** the UN adopted the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples as a UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/69/2) by a consensus of member states on September 22, 2014, setting forth a number of concrete actions to be taken by the United Nations and member states to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and
- WHEREAS,** in advancement of commitments made in the outcome document, the UN Human Rights Council decided to: (1) convene a two-day expert workshop open to the participation of states, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders, including by inviting submission of written contributions no later than the first quarter of 2016, to review the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to propose recommendations on how it can more effectively promote respect for the UN Declaration, including by better assisting member states to monitor, evaluate and improve achievement of the ends of the Declaration (A/HRC/30/L.9); and (2) hold a half-day panel discussion on the causes and consequences of violence against indigenous women and girls in September 2016 (A/HRC/30/L.8); and
- WHEREAS,** the UN General Assembly and its member states have not yet taken action to enable the participation of indigenous representatives and governing institutions in the United Nations during the current 70th session of the General Assembly, as requested by the outcome document; therefore, be it
- WHEREAS,** all indigenous nations, represented by their own governments and authorities, must be able to participate fully and directly in consultations on how to enable the participation of indigenous governments in the UN; appointing an indigenous co-facilitator with authority to negotiate the rights of indigenous peoples would serve to diminish rather than facilitate indigenous participation; and

- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** that USET calls on the United Nations and its member states to move swiftly, in close cooperation with indigenous governments and peoples, to see that the historic commitments made at the World Conference are realized as soon as possible, bearing in mind the short time-frame for action provided by the outcome document; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that USET calls for prompt action by the United Nations and its member states to establish an open, inclusive, and democratic consultation process with indigenous nations, in order to directly receive their views and proposals, and to provide a full opportunity for indigenous governments to respond to the views and proposals of member states and others, regarding the participation of indigenous governments in the United Nations; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that USET does not support the suggestion that the President of the General Assembly appoint an indigenous co-facilitator to lead consultations regarding the participation of indigenous governments in the United Nations. Rather, USET member Tribal Nations wish to speak on their own behalf, not through an individual responsible only to the President of the General Assembly; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that USET urges its member Tribal Nations to participate actively in United Nations actions to follow-up on the World Conference, including creation of an implementing and monitoring body for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, development of new rules to enable the permanent participation of indigenous governments in the United Nations, and actions to combat violence against indigenous women and children.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Choctaw, MS, on October 28, 2015.



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



Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”