

Friends,

Over the next several months, to implement the World Conference Outcome Document, the United Nations will be consulting with indigenous peoples about (1) how to enable indigenous government participation in the United Nations and (2) how to establish an implementing and monitoring body for the UN Declaration. It will be important that indigenous leaders submit their views during this critical time. We expect both major reforms to be implemented by the UN sometime this year, though nothing is certain.

Enabling the Participation of Indigenous Governments in the UN

On March 7, the UN at last announced its consultation schedule with member states and indigenous peoples to determine how best to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions (governments) at the UN. The President of the General Assembly will use the consultations to develop a draft text for adoption by the UN General Assembly at its 71st Session, which opens in September, 2016. Further information is available [here](#).

Until April 8, the UN will receive proposals and recommendations from tribal leaders and indigenous peoples by email at ipadvisers@un.org. **If you wish to support our [written comments which are attached](#), please email kgeneral@indianlaw.org by 4pm EST on [April 5th](#).** Though there will be future opportunities to contribute proposals, it is important to submit your comments early on in this process. We plan to participate in further consultations, and hope some of you can as well. The consultation process is as follows:

- April 27: Based on the results of the electronic consultation, the first draft of the compilation of views will be circulated
- May 11: First consultation meeting during the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York
- May 16: Second draft of the compilation circulated
- May 18: Second consultation during the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York
- May 27: Third draft of the compilation to be circulated
- June 30: Third (perhaps final) consultation in New York
- July 11: The final compilation to be circulated and presented during the Expert Mechanism on Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva

If you plan on participating in consultations during the Permanent Forum (May 11 or 18), you will need to register to attend the Forum by **April 8** (for new participants) or **April 26** (for previous participants and NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council). Registration information and instructions are available [here](#). If you plan on attending the June 30 consultation, applications for funding from the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples are available [here](#). The deadline to submit applications is **April 15**.

Establishing an Implementing and Monitoring Body for the UN Declaration

The Expert Workshop to reform the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, for the purpose of implementing and monitoring the UN Declaration, will take place April 4-5 in Geneva. Thank you to those who submitted written comments of your own or supported [our comments](#). We are very grateful for all of your support. The [Citizen Potawatomi Nation also submitted a set of supplemental comments](#) addressing concerns beyond the scope of the questionnaire. Both sets of comments are attached. More information about the April 4-5 Workshop, including other submissions from member states and indigenous peoples is available [here](#).

Following the Workshop, a report and recommendations will be submitted for consideration during the Expert Mechanism's annual meeting July 11-15 and the Human Rights Council's session in September, when the Council is expected to take action on the improvement of the mandate. Funding to attend the Human Rights Council sessions in June and September is available from the UN Voluntary Fund. The application is due **April 10** and is available [here](#).

A full calendar of UN meetings and activities is [attached](#) for your consideration.

We hope that many tribal leaders and others will be able to continue on to win these important measures in the next several months. We need your help in the meetings and in the written submissions as well. We are available to advise, assist, and help you to access these important meetings and discussions. Please give us a call or an email if you have questions or need information about how to take part in the scheduled meetings or how to contribute in writing or in other ways.

Best,

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