

Friends,

Follow-up to the United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples is moving quickly. The UN is poised to take action to develop new rules to facilitate indigenous governments' participation in the UN and to establish a body to monitor implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. [The full updated calendar of meetings is attached.](#)

United Nations consultations on indigenous governments' participation

This week, 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. We plan to participate in these consultations, and hope some of you can as well. The consultation process is as follows:

- March 8-April 8: Electronic consultations
- April 27: First draft of the compilation to be circulated
- May 11: First consultation meeting during the 15th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York
- May 16: Second draft of the compilation circulated
- May 18: Second consultation meeting during the 15th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York
- May 27: Third draft of the compilation circulated
- June 28: Third consultation meeting in New York
- July 11: The final compilation circulated and a presentation during the 8th session of the Expert Mechanism on Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva

Additional information about the UN consultation process is available [here](#).

United States consultation on the implementing body

The U.S. Department of State has announced a [telephonic consultation](#) for Friday, March 11, from 2-3:30pm EST, call-in #: **1-800-230-1059**. The consultation will focus on reform of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), for the purpose of implementing and monitoring the UN Declaration. The invitation is attached. The State Department has asked for input on the following questions:

1. What should the mandate of the reformed EMRIP be?
2. In proposing the mandate to other member states, how can we address concerns about duplicative functions with other UN bodies, costs, and avoiding unhelpful precedents?
3. Should EMRIP include both member state and indigenous representatives?
4. As there is precedent for the Human Rights Council President appointing mandate holders, should the HRC President appoint the EMRIP members?
5. To allow expertise to be transferred, should new members be appointed and phased in over a two-three year period?

The Indian Law Resource Center has prepared the [attached written comments which address these questions](#), in keeping with the recommendations that we have made and shared with you over the past three years. We plan to submit our comments on Monday, March 14, the deadline for submitting written contributions to inform an Expert Workshop on the topic. **[If your nation or organization would like to join in our submission, please email](#)**

Karla General at kgeneral@indianlaw.org by Sunday, March 13, and we will add your name and seal/logo if you prefer. If you would like to submit your own comments, or attend the Expert Workshop, more information is available [here](#).

Finally, to prepare for the U.S. consultation on March 11, and the upcoming UN consultations on participation, the National Congress of American Indians will host a conference call tomorrow, March 10, at 3pm EST. **Call-in information for NCAI's teleconference is: 888.244.8150 Conference Code: 2580847#.**

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