

New meeting about UN Participation Email - November 15

Friends,

On January 5-10, 2020, in Quito, Ecuador, several Indigenous peoples' organizations will co-sponsor a meeting for Indigenous peoples from around the world to discuss how to enable Indigenous peoples' governments to participate in the United Nations. The concept paper for this event is [attached](#).

I want to encourage you to consider attending or possibly submitting ideas and proposals in writing. The goal of gaining an appropriate status for Indigenous governments and representative institutions is still as important as ever, and I believe we should continue to work on this issue and collaborate with others to find workable ideas and strategies.

The 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples resulted in a commitment by the UN to consider ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous peoples' representative institutions at the UN. The purpose of this would be to allow tribal governments for the first time to register directly with the UN, attend meetings, and speak on their own behalf as tribal governments. Unfortunately, despite many rounds of consultation and negotiation in the years since the World Conference, the UN has not yet reached consensus on how to do this.

This meeting in Quito is intended to provide Indigenous peoples and representatives from some friendly UN member states, the chance to discuss some of the points of contention, build consensus, and hopefully find a way to move the conversation forward at the UN.

The event in Quito is not a UN meeting. It is just an informal gathering. It is open to any interested indigenous representatives. There is some funding available for a few people to attend this event. Details about how to apply for funding, how to RSVP, and contact information for the co-sponsors are in the attached concept paper.

If you are interested in attending this meeting, the Indian Law Resource Center will be very happy to share information about this issue and about the political process at the UN and assist in any other way we are able. Many papers and articles about this topic are also available on our website at <https://indianlaw.org/wcip/updates>.

Sincerely,  
Chris Foley

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\*Admitted only in PA