

Friends,

The United Nations has now finalized a short draft resolution which includes a decision to delay any concrete action to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representative and institutions (governments) at the UN until 2020-2021. The resolution is expected to be officially adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 8. The draft resolution, with a note from the President of the General Assembly, is [attached](#).

After several months of states-only negotiations this summer, member states were not able to reach agreement on any of the specific details of how to create a new status or category for indigenous governments. It is deeply disappointing that, after years of discussion, debate, and consultation among indigenous peoples and member states resulted in a number of good, forward-looking proposals, the process to enable indigenous governments to participate at the UN has now been delayed.

Though it's disheartening that the UN was not able to follow through on its commitments made in 2014 at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples this year, the attached resolution does contain many positive elements and establishes a new, multi-year calendar of consultations and discussions and possibly, a decision, as follows:

- **2017-2020:** Regional consultations with indigenous peoples
- **2018-2020:** Interactive hearings conducted by the President of the General Assembly among indigenous peoples and member states on the margins of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues' sessions in 2018, 2019, and 2020
- **2019-2020:** Publication of the Secretary-General's report with concrete analysis and recommendations to enable participation
- **2020-2021:** Consideration by the General Assembly of further measures necessary to enhance participation, based on input from the 2016-2017 consultations, the SG's regional consultations and report, and the interactive hearings

Since the World Conference, you have made good progress in convincing the UN that indigenous governments deserve a seat at the table by submitting your comments and proposals, debating with member states and UN agencies, and participating in consultations and meetings. As a result, the UN knows that indigenous governments will always be ready to engage and participate fully and directly at the international level, regardless of whether a specific resolution or rule permits their participation. It is clear that we must continue speaking out and showing up to fight for our self-determination at the UN. Progress will likely be incremental, and we will continue to stand with you, to assist and advise, as the UN continues the important work to decide how to enable the participation of indigenous governments at the UN in the coming years. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss the draft resolution.

Best regards,

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