

Report back from UN consultations on indigenous participation -- May 23

Friends,

The final two consultations to enable the participation of indigenous governments at the United Nations took place April 26 and May 3 in New York. The Center, with supporting tribal nations and organizations, participated in both consultations, offered prepared statements, and organized a number of meetings with countries. A short report on the consultations is attached for your consideration.

Following the consultations among indigenous peoples and member states, the UN began intergovernmental negotiations on the draft resolution on May 5 and May 8 with member states only. Based on comments received during those meetings, a revised text, called "[Rev. 1](#)", was published and circulated on May 19. The text, along with a [note from the President of the General Assembly and his four advisers](#), is attached.

The revised text provides a good path forward to enable indigenous governments to be accredited to participate at the United Nations with rights of participation commensurate with, if not greater than, those enjoyed by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the UN and by National Human Rights Institutions. Some issues remain unaddressed in the draft, however. To address these outstanding issues, please find attached some [preliminary comments of the Indian Law Resource Center](#) that we will share with member states ahead of their next negotiation.

Additional negotiations will take place May 25 and 26, and throughout the month of June, and it is important to share your views with the advisers and member states participating in the process. If you are interested in providing separate views, I can provide you with the contact information for the President's advisers, as well as discuss any additional questions you may have.

Best regards,

Karla E. General, Attorney* | Indian Law Resource Center

601 E Street, SE | Washington, DC 20003

TEL: 202.547.2800 ext. 107 | FAX: 202.547.2803

kgeneral@indianlaw.org |  | www.indianlaw.org

*Admitted only in NY