

Friends,

I'm sharing with you a report from Will Micklin, First Vice President of the Central Council of Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, regarding the informal consultation held on July 16 at the United Nations in New York. The meeting was intended to hear proposals from indigenous peoples and countries on the draft outcome document for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. I am attaching the two documents mentioned in Mr. Micklin's email – the four recommendations for inclusion in the outcome document and the zero draft outcome document itself.

Comments to the zero draft are due today, July 25. On behalf of a number of tribes and supporters, we submitted today a number of proposed edits to the zero draft to strengthen language relating to the four recommendations concerning an implementing mechanism for the UN Declaration, procedures for indigenous peoples and governments to participate in the UN, and actions to combat violence against indigenous women and to protect sacred sites. Those proposed edits are attached.

Please let me know if you have any questions or will be attending the next consultation at the United Nations in New York City, August 18-19, and we can try to coordinate. The August consultation is intended to hear input on a revised draft outcome document (expected on or around July 30). To register for the August consultation, please email the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at indigenous_un@un.org by Wednesday, August 13 with the name of your tribe/nation/organization, name of the representative(s) who will attend, and contact information including an email address. For more information, see the Permanent Forum's website at:

<http://undesadspd.org/indigenouspeoples.aspx>.

Best regards,

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From: William Micklin [<mailto:wmicklin@leaningrock.net>]
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2014 8:31 AM
Subject: Re: Suggested Revisions to Zero Draft of WCIP Draft Outcome Document; 2nd Edit

The Informal Consultation held on July 16 in preparation for the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples to hear responses to the Zero Draft of the draft Outcome Document was, for me, illuminating. Indigenous peoples entities and government representatives, and representatives of UN member states, shared their general statements and then recommendations for specific language changes in the day-long session.

Our group consisted of representatives of CCHITA, Navajo Nation, Cherokee Nation, Ewiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Citizen Potawatomi, Mill Lacs, NCAI, NARF, Indian Law Resource Center, and Guyana and Belize indigenous organizations. We visited with the UN Mission of Peru, Finland, Canada, US, Argentina, Armenia, and the group of countries from Latin America and the Caribbean Missions (otherwise known as "GRULAC").

We were able to compare our discussions with these member state UN Mission representatives with their views on the Zero Draft. We heard the indigenous caucuses views. And we focused on the four priorities supported by 131 tribes and indigenous organizations and 23 organizations (participation of indigenous governments at the UN, an implementation and monitoring mechanism for the UNDRIP, a monitoring and oversight mechanism

(special rapporteur) for prevention of violence against indigenous women and children, and protection of sacred places and properties).

The general opposition of Russia, China and South Africa was apparent. Concern by other member states was noted for specific issues. For example, use of the term “indigenous government” has some opposition, while use of the term “state” or “observer” in any context associated with indigenous governments is a red flag. Specific language that will earn outright support from “friendly” member states and limit opposition from other member states will be the most important task in our recommendations to development of the Outcome Document from its beginning in the Zero Draft.

We all took notes and will be looking to these notes and experiences in the next task at hand — the next informal consultation will take place at the UN on August 18th. Comments to the first draft of the Zero Draft Outcome Document will be due by July 25 to findlay@un.org and indigenous_un@un.org.

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