



International Indian Treaty Council
Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios
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INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL
34th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CHIMALTENANGO, GUATEMALA
June 19th – 22nd, 2008

**Resolution on the position of CANZUS relating to
the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

The 275 registered delegates at this Conference, representing Indigenous Peoples from North, Central, South America, the Caribbean and the Pacific, adopt by consensus the following resolution to defend the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

Welcoming the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Aware that the Declaration is the minimum universal human rights standard for Indigenous Peoples;

Concerned that the Governments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America were the only States to register in the United Nations General Assembly a vote against the Declaration thus preventing a consensus on the adoption of the Declaration;

Noting that these four States form the geo-political group known as CANZUS and share common histories and political and legal developments as former British colonies on the lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples;

Concerned also by unfounded claims by the Governments of Canada and the United States that their vote in the United Nations against the Declaration constitutes a valid reason for them to oppose and avoid the promotion and implementation of the Declaration within their states, as well as in regional international and regional fora;

Recognizing that the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, addressing the United States in February 2008, affirmed the obligation of the US to uphold and implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples notwithstanding its vote at the UN General Assembly;

Affirming that this also applies to the other three states in the CANZUS group, since they are also parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination;

Understanding that the Government of Australia has recently expressed its intention to support the Declaration, thus reversing its position from when it voted against the Declaration;

Believing that support from the Government of Australia will provide a positive contribution to the implementation at the global level of the rights contained and affirmed within the Declaration;

Believing also that support, if it existed, from the other members of CANZUS would contribute positively to the implementation at the global level of rights contained and affirmed within the Declaration;

Therefore be it resolved that the International Indian Treaty Council decides to communicate to the Government of Australia its support for the change in position towards the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, encouraging the Government to (i) implement the rights contained in the Declaration, and (ii) lobby the other members of CANZUS to revise their positions on the Declaration;

Be it further resolved that the International Indian Treaty Council will continue to support the efforts of the Australian Aboriginal peoples to work in full partnership with the government of Australia to promote and implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Australia;

Be it further resolved that the International Indian Treaty Council will maintain strong opposition to the position of Canada and the United States that the rights contained in the Declaration are not universal and are not able to be promoted in Canada;

Finally be it resolved that the International Indian Treaty Council will develop strategies and take actions as may be appropriate to gain support from the other members of CANZUS for the Declaration and for the implementation of the rights contained in the Declaration.

Adopted by Consensus June 22, 2008, Chimaltenango, Guatemala