



*American Model United Nations*  
**General Assembly Third Committee**

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GA Third/1/2

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Rights of indigenous peoples

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly Third Committee

*The General Assembly Third Committee,*

1 *Acknowledging* indigenous lands, heritage areas and cultural landmarks exist as fundamen-  
2 tally important avenues for global environmental conservation and historic preservation,

3 *Recalling* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), espe-  
4 cially Article 26, which calls for the preservation of indigenous land, and Article 19, which establishes  
5 the need for prior consent from indigenous groups on issues that affect them,

6 *Alarmed* by the danger that climate change poses on indigenous land, especially along coastal  
7 regions and island nations,

8 *Bearing in mind* the Paris Agreement of 12 December 2015, and its goal to strengthen the global  
9 response to the impacts climate change,

10 *Reaffirming* the adoption of UNDRIP and its goal to rehabilitate indigenous monuments and  
11 sacred lands,

12 *Guided* by sustainable and traditional indigenous practices for the conservation of lands,

13 *Emphasizing* the value of heritage areas and cultural landmarks in all Member States,

14 *Seeking relief* from natural disasters caused by climate change, and desiring a chance to sup-  
15 port the lives of indigenous peoples,

16 *Seeing* that climate change and emergent disasters pose an ever increasing threat to global  
17 stability, referring to Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action,

18 *Having considered* that many indigenous peoples live in rural areas and struggle with disaster  
19 relief and prevention, especially in the case of inaccessible supply lines denying access to necessary  
20 goods and services,

21 *Noting* the success of preventive multilateral measures such as response plans, infrastructure  
22 investment and strong partnerships to increase autonomy and resilience of communities and vulner-  
23 able areas in disaster response scenarios,

24 1. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme to collaborate with indigenous com-  
25 munities and similarly vulnerable groups to work toward building long-lasting infrastructure and insti-  
26 tutions to protect and proactively prepare them for natural disasters:

27 (a) Investing in earthquake-resistant structures using techniques including, but not lim-  
28 ited to, structural reinforcement, dampening and shock absorbers;

29 (b) Conducting watershed surveying to assess the risk of flooding in vulnerable areas;

30 (c) Investing in water treatment programs to ensure clean, safe and healthy watersheds  
31 and aquifers;

32 (d) Creating emergency shelters, food stores and response plans for vulnerable indige-  
33 nous communities with the input of local and indigenous leaders to address their specific needs;

34 2. *Encourages* Member States to continue to fund United Nations Central Emergency Response  
35 Fund (CERF) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in order

36 for CERF and OCHA to continue to provide adequate nutrition, shelter and medical aid to indigenous  
37 peoples who live in rural areas during and after the occurrence of natural disasters;

38 3. *Invites* Member States to adopt to the Paris Agreement in order to reduce greenhouse gas  
39 emissions, build infrastructure adapting to various impacts of climate change and acknowledge the  
40 need to strengthen knowledge, technologies and partnerships with local communities as well as in-  
41 digenous groups:

42 (a) Through organizations like the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and  
43 multilateral cooperation, there can be an international move toward climate adaptation in indigenous  
44 and similarly underserved lands;

45 (b) The Paris Agreement acknowledges the importance of utilizing the best available  
46 science in tandem with traditional, local and indigenous knowledge;

47 4. *Invites* Member States to allow United Nations organizations to work with them to more deeply  
48 examine issues of disaster relief preparedness, with a special emphasis on vulnerable areas of indige-  
49 nous groups, areas of cultural significance and heritage sites;

50 5. *Calls upon* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to build partner-  
51 ships with non-governmental organizations providing agricultural infrastructure for communities with  
52 inequitable access, such as Seeds Program International (SPI), to distribute crops to indigenous com-  
53 munities with the aim of building a self-reliant agricultural source:

54 (a) Seeks to build agricultural infrastructure for rural communities, providing stability  
55 and allowing more self-reliance and independence in these communities;

56 (b) Agricultural infrastructure development efforts incorporate climate-aware solutions,  
57 such as increasing access to climate-resistant crops;

58 (c) Work to create various forms of supply lines that guarantee the rights of needs-  
59 based goods and services that vulnerable areas deserve, even in times of disaster;

60 6. *Recommends* the United Nations Economic and Social Council consider the increasing the  
61 number of members on the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) from 16 to  
62 24 to focus on, and specifically address environmental concerns, regarding indigenous lands, such as:

63 (a) The decline of indigenous ways of life which long have been sustainable methods of  
64 conservation;

65 (b) The lack of advocates and political representation for indigenous individuals, leading  
66 to a lack of land rights and autonomy;

67 (c) To promote methods by which indigenous populations have historically sustained  
68 the land upon which they live.

Passed, Yes: 64 / No: 4 / Abstain: 15