

Permanent Mission of Albania  
Permanent Mission of Andorra  
Permanent Mission of Argentina  
Permanent Mission of Armenia  
Permanent Mission of Austria  
Permanent Mission of Belgium  
Permanent Mission of Bolivia  
Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Permanent Mission of Brazil  
Permanent Mission of Bulgaria  
Permanent Mission of Chile  
Permanent Mission of Costa Rica  
Permanent Mission of Cuba  
Permanent Mission of Croatia  
Permanent Mission of Cyprus  
Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic  
Permanent Mission of Denmark  
Permanent Mission of Dominica  
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Permanent Mission of Ecuador  
Permanent Mission of El Salvador  
Permanent Mission of Estonia  
Permanent Mission of Fiji  
Permanent Mission of Finland  
Permanent Mission of France  
Permanent Mission of Germany  
Permanent Mission of Greece  
Permanent Mission of Guatemala  
Permanent Mission of Haiti  
Permanent Mission of Honduras  
Permanent Mission of Hungary  
Permanent Mission of Iceland  
Permanent Mission of Ireland  
Permanent Mission of Italy  
Permanent Mission of Latvia

Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein  
Permanent Mission of Lithuania  
Permanent Mission of Luxembourg  
Permanent Mission of Malta  
Permanent Mission of Mexico  
Permanent Mission of Moldova  
Permanent Mission of Monaco  
Permanent Mission of Montenegro  
Permanent Mission of Nauru  
Permanent Mission of Netherlands  
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua  
Permanent Mission of Norway  
Permanent Mission of Palau  
Permanent Mission of Panama  
Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea  
Permanent Mission of Paraguay  
Permanent Mission of Peru  
Permanent Mission of Poland  
Permanent Mission of Portugal  
Permanent Mission of Romania  
Permanent Mission of San Marino  
Permanent Mission of Serbia  
Permanent Mission of Slovakia  
Permanent Mission of Slovenia  
Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands  
Permanent Mission of Spain  
Permanent Mission of Sweden  
Permanent Mission of Switzerland  
Permanent Mission of the Former Yugoslav  
Republic of Macedonia  
Permanent Mission of Timor-Leste  
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of  
Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
Permanent Mission of Uruguay

Excellency,

We have the honour of referring to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the Human Rights Council during its first session, on 29 June 2006, and to General Assembly Resolution 61/178, which decided “to defer consideration and

**H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa**  
**President of the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of**  
**the General Assembly**  
**United Nations**  
**New York**

action on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to allow time for further consultations thereon”.

As you will be aware, the Declaration is the result of a very long and difficult process that included more than ten years of hard work among member States and representatives of indigenous peoples and groups. The participation of both governments and indigenous representatives made this process unique. In order to reach an end result, many compromises had to be made by all stakeholders. In our opinion, the text of the Declaration as adopted by the Human Rights Council is the best compromise that realistically could be achieved.

In order to take into consideration the views of those States that did not participate in the above mentioned process, we have respected the decision to allow time for further consultations on the Declaration. In this regard, we appreciate the efforts undertaken by the African Group to present their concerns in a consolidated form.

At the same time we are increasingly worried by the amount of time that already has passed, as well as by indications of numerous amendments to the Declaration. We remain convinced that reopening the text may lead to yet another lengthy process with an uncertain outcome, since it would make it necessary to renegotiate the entire Declaration. We believe that this was not the intention of the General Assembly when it decided to postpone its consideration of the Declaration.

Given the urgency of the situation, the co-signatories of this letter consider the alternative of a new resolution to the Declaration, that takes into account the concerns expressed by many, as a practical and constructive solution.

Mindful of GA Resolution 61/178 and its decision to conclude consideration of the Declaration "before the end of its sixty-first session" and in spirit of compromise, we have the honour of enclosing a copy of a first draft for a new resolution that was prepared among the co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.18/Rev.1.

We stand ready to engage with concerned countries to discuss this proposal, which we hope will pave the way towards the adoption of the Declaration.

We take this opportunity to renew to you, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration and esteem.

New York, May 14, 2007

## **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 61/178,

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the principles of self-determination of peoples, respect for the territorial integrity of States and good faith regarding the fulfilment of the obligations assumed by States in accordance with the Charter, and *recalling* in this respect GA resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, in particular its provisions on national unity and the territorial integrity of the State,

*Recognizing* that the situation of indigenous peoples varies from country to country and from region to region, and that national circumstances may differ significantly between States,

*Acknowledging* that the measures adopted to ensure the effective protection of indigenous peoples shall have regard to the conditions characteristic of each country and be in accordance with states' international human rights obligations,

*Aware of* the need to ensure rights for members of all groups and to develop good governance in heterogeneous societies to allow for peaceful and constructive group coexistence based on equality in dignity and rights for all,

*Considering* that the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples contribute to the political and social stability of States in which they live,

*Taking note* of the recommendation of the Human Rights Council contained in its resolution 1/2 of 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006, by which the Council adopted the text of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

1. *Adopts* the Declaration as contained in the annex to present resolution.