

# International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development

An NGO in consultative status to the United Nations  
Economic and Social Council

CANADIAN OFFICE  
Four Nations of Hobbema  
Box 370  
Hobbema, Alberta, Canada  
TOC 1NO  
Phone: (780) 585-3038  
Fax: (780) 585-2025

UNITED STATES  
Council of Energy Resource Tribes  
695 South Colorado Bld.  
Denver, Colorado, USA  
Suite 10 - 80246  
Phone: (303) 282-7576  
Fax: (303) 282-7584

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Oral Intervention by the International Indian Treaty Council and  
International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development

## Agenda Item 6: Universal Periodic Review

Thank you to Ambassador Mr. Mohammed Loulichki for providing the non-paper on the guidelines for the preparation of information under U.P.R. Mr. President, at the outset of the consideration on this matter and as recent as the last session, we presented interventions on the importance of including Indigenous Peoples. Because Indigenous Peoples are at most times the poorest and most marginalized group, a specific reference to the situation of Indigenous Peoples is very crucial and important.

Allow me to reiterate what I stated to this honourable Human Rights Council on August 24, 2007.  
"On the Universal Periodic Review, we, I.O.I.R.D. and the Assembly of First Nations urge consideration of Indigenous Peoples issues for specific inclusion concretely and in particular, Treaties and Agreements where they exist with Indigenous Tribes and Nations."

Having said that, I am acutely aware of the reluctance to make specific reference to a particular group. Notwithstanding that, it is our view that with the adoption last week of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the General Assembly, we now have minimum norms and standards for the survival and well-being of Indigenous Peoples. We could or at least, the Human Rights Council, could begin to implement this historic decision in a meaningful way by using the U.N. Declaration compliance as an additional specific part of guideline III and/or V. The overwhelming adoption of the U.N. Declaration is a welcome and clear global call for the recognition and respect of Indigenous Peoples worldwide. Allow me, through you, Mr. President on behalf of I.O.I.R.D., I.I.T.C., A.F.N. and the U.N.P.F. II to formally thank all States who voted in favour of the General Assembly adoption by Resolution L.67(A/61/L.67). Indeed, I believe, when a Human Rights Council member votes against adoption of a human rights instrument without substantial legal reasons, as happened last week, they should immediately offer to go under Universal Periodic Review or resign their seat on the Council. We argue this because States pledge to uphold human rights to the highest standards when nominated for the Human Rights Council.

Dr. Wilton Littlechild, I.P.C.