

**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Sixth session, December 10th – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Oral Intervention presented on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus by Andrea Carmen, International Indian Treaty Council, on the adoption by the Council of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
December 14<sup>th</sup> 2007**

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**Thank you Mr. President.**

**I am presenting this statement on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus present at the 6<sup>th</sup> Sixth Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which has included Indigenous Peoples' representatives from all regions of the world.**

**I would like to express our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to the Council and its member states for the adoption by consensus this afternoon of the resolution creating a new Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

**We view this as another important step towards the full inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations system, and one more expression of the firm commitment of this Council to the recognition of the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This commitment was clearly demonstrated to us at your very first session, in June 2006, by your adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples under the leadership of Council President Luis de Alba of Mexico.**

**We wish to express at this time our appreciation and thanks to the government of Bolivia and its representatives at this session for their commitment to support and work closely with the Indigenous Peoples caucus throughout this process. We also thank the governments of Mexico, Guatemala, Denmark and all the others who assisted Bolivia in the development of a resolution which could be adopted by consensus. We are confident that it provides a good basis for the work which will follow today's decision, and for the next steps in its implementation.**

**Mr. President, we look forward to further collaboration with this Council, the UN System, its agencies and experts, as well as with our own Peoples around the world, to insure that this new Mechanism will be able to make an effective and meaningful contribution to upholding and implementing the mandate of this Council as well as the human rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

**Choeque Utesia, Thank you very much.**