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IITC Annual Program Report January 1- December 31, 2007

A. SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

In 2007, IITC continued to be a highly effective and dynamic voice for Indigenous Peoples in the international arena. IITC participated actively and, in many cases, took a leadership role in bringing about landmark achievements to advance recognition and respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the protection of our lives, lands and cultures.

Most notably, a major and long-awaited milestone was the adoption of the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** on September 13th 2007 by the UN General Assembly, with 144 states in favor and only 4 against. IITC began to work on this monumental effort at the UN over 30 years ago, working in close collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, UN bodies and, increasingly, with supportive states. In the last 2 years, IITC served as both co-chair of the North America Indigenous Caucus for the adoption of the Declaration and as a member of the Global Indigenous Peoples Steering Committee established in 2006 to coordinate this effort internationally.

The adoption of the Declaration provides the worlds' Indigenous Peoples for the first time with an internationally-recognized framework to defend our human rights locally, nationally and internationally, and to hold countries accountable for upholding these rights. IITC continued to promote the use the Declaration in various bodies and processes, as well as within communities, to address violations of Indigenous Peoples' human rights and implement standards reflecting Indigenous Peoples concerns.

In addition, in December 2007, the 6th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted by consensus a resolution to establish a new subsidiary body, the "**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**". This was the product of 2 years of concerted effort by the IITC and a small group of other Indigenous organizations, supported by a Global Indigenous Consensus call for the creation of this first-of-its-kind body within the UN system.

In another historic effort, IITC co-coordinated a year-long program to collect and compile submissions by a number of Indigenous Peoples, tribes and organizations for a joint Indigenous Peoples' "Shadow Report" for the review of racial discrimination in the United States by the UN CERD (United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination). The CERD is the "Treaty Monitoring Body" for **the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination**.

IITC also was asked by Indigenous organizations to coordinate the submissions as well as to present and advocate for these Indigenous "Shadow Reports" during the CERD's

review of Canada's compliance with the Convention which took place in Geneva in February 2007.

Both efforts produced landmark decisions and recommendations with far-reaching impacts (see enclosed press releases), including the CERD's call upon the US and Canada to uphold the UN Declaration even though they had voted against it at the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly. The CERD also called upon both countries to monitor the human rights violations of the multinational corporations that they license, in particular regarding those impacting Indigenous Peoples in other countries, the first time that a UN body had made such a call upon any State Party. These decisions are legally binding upon the state parties to the Convention including the US and Canada.

In 2007, the IITC also focused on capacity-building and human rights education for Indigenous communities, tribes and grass-roots organizations. In this way, Indigenous Peoples including tribal leaders, were encouraged to understand their internationally-recognized human rights and to use these exciting new developments to advance community struggles for self-determination, cultural survival and environmental justice.

B. KEY ACTIVITIES

In 2007, IITC continued to organize its program work under the following key programmatic objectives: **1) Addressing critical violations of indigenous peoples' human rights and threats to their survival; 2) Networking and strategic alliance-building; 3) Creating and strengthening mechanisms for access to decision making; 4) Training, mentorship and capacity building; 5) Policy development and standard setting recognizing indigenous peoples' rights and perspectives; and 6) Information dissemination and communications.**

Key activities and accomplishments in 2007 under these interrelated programmatic objectives included:

1. **Over 50 Indigenous representatives were credentialed, facilitated and/or mentored by IITC** at 32 international fora (UN and OAS) and gatherings to present urgent threats and situations, impact policies and gain skills to effectively utilize the international arena in defense of their rights and survival. *Please see the enclosed chart of international meetings attended in 2007, enclosed.*

2. IITC continued to present **critical situations threatening Indigenous Peoples' human rights at key international bodies** at their request. IITC also supported communities facing imminent threats through urgent action filings as well as support letters, sign-on statements, press conferences/releases, posting and disseminating urgent action alerts on IITC's web site, and through attending community events and actions organized in support of grass roots struggles. Urgent issues to which IITC was able to respond included threats of imposed development (oil drilling, mining, damming and deforestation), destruction of sacred sites, jailing and death threats targeting activists, oppression of leaders and human rights defenders, forced removals, and many others.

In 2007, IITC's **urgent submissions** to UN Rapporteurs and other international human rights bodies and mechanisms included:

a) IITC worked with a group of Canadian First Nations Peoples to prepare Indigenous Peoples' Shadow Reports addressing racial discrimination in Canada for submission to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, (CERD) in February 2007. Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala and the US also submitted testimonies about the impacts of Canadian multi-national mining companies on their lands. IITC's General Counsel was asked by Canadian Indigenous organizations to present the case in Geneva during the CERD session where Canada was reviewed. IITC and other Indigenous organizations submitted extensive documentation addressing various issues including Treaty Rights violations, environmental racism, removal of Indigenous children through the state foster care system, violence against indigenous women and disparities in the land claims and criminal justice systems.

The CERD Committee released its findings on March 8th 2007, pointing to a range of discriminatory policies and violations of human rights impacting Indigenous Peoples in that country, which the government is legally required to remedy as a state party to the CERD. The CERD also called upon Canada to reverse its position and support the United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. In an historic decision, the CERD voiced concerns about Canadian mining companies' negative impacts on the rights of Indigenous Peoples outside of Canada and urged Canada to "take measures" to ensure accountability of Canadian transnational mining companies with regard to Indigenous Peoples' human rights in other countries.

b) IITC General Counsel Alberto Saldamando was co-coordinator, with Julie Fishel of the Western Shoshone Defense Project, of an Indigenous Peoples' Working Group established to coordinate the development of the "Consolidated Indigenous Shadow Report" which was filed by the IITC on January 6th 2008. This was a major focus of IITC's work in 2007 and included trainings, educational materials development and outreach activities to build awareness and participation. A number of Indigenous tribes, community and organizations submitted documentation and testimony in this first-of-its-kind major collaborative effort. Issues raised included disparities between rates of poverty, life expectancies, illness and incarceration of Native Americans compared to the US population as a whole. It presented a strong case concerning environmental racism and the environmental degradation of Indigenous areas of Spiritual and Cultural significance due to nuclear testing, toxic and dangerous waste storage, mining, damming, logging and other activities on ancestral and Sacred Lands. Other issues raised included disproportionate levels of violence against Indigenous women, widespread desecration and destruction of sacred sites, disparities in the justice system, racism in education, racial discrimination in US border and immigration policies, cultural discrimination for Indigenous prisoners, violations of Treaty rights and activities by US companies including the export of banned pesticides and other toxics, mining and drilling activities impacting Indigenous Peoples in the US and other countries. The CERD's final recommendations regarding the US were issued on March 7th, 2008, and called upon the US to remedy these situations and apply the UN Declaration as a framework for its compliance.

c) In August 2007 IITC filed an urgent action case to Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions and the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders regarding the shooting of Mr. Nicolas Lucas, Mayan Spiritual Leader (Ajq'ij) and leader and founding member of Oxlajuj Ajpop, an association of Mayan Ajq'ij of Guatemala.

d) On April 13, 2007, IITC filed a landmark submission “**Water is Life, The Human Right to Water and Indigenous Peoples**”, to the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights at her invitation for the UN Human Rights Council’s study on the human right to water, containing contributions from a number of Indigenous Peoples including traditional elders, along with various examples of urgent threats to the right to water in many regions. The Office of the High Commissioner informed IITC that this landmark document received considerable attention and interest, and that it would have a major impact on UN policies and understandings regarding Indigenous Peoples’ traditional cultural perspectives about the Sacred Right to Water.

e) 7 new testimonies from community members addressing **the human rights and health impacts of toxic and banned pesticides on Yaqui and Mayo communities** in Mexico were presented by IITC in Geneva in June to the UN Rapporteur on Adverse Affects of Toxic and Dangerous Products on Human Rights as well as the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. This case was included by the Rapporteur in his report to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2007. IITC representatives also met with him in Geneva in June 2007 to discuss next steps including a country visit to Mexico and the organization of an **International Conference on the Global Human Rights impacts of the production, import/export and failure by states to monitor the use of dangerous and banned pesticides and other toxics, including impacts on Indigenous Peoples.**

f) Follow-up communications were ongoing in 2007 for a pending case filed by IITC in 2005 to the UN Rapporteur on Right to Food addressing impacts of **toxic contamination (mercury and military toxics) on Indigenous Peoples' traditional subsistence foods and ways of life in California and Alaska, USA.** IITC was informed in September 2006 that a formal communication to the US government was sent by the Rapporteur requesting their response. The UN Rapporteur included this issue in his report to the 4th session UN Human Rights Council in May 2007 (A/HRC/4/30/Add, 1), and stated that in his view the human rights of the impacted Indigenous Peoples had been violated. The next steps will be determined when the US responds, including a proposed visit by the Rapporteur to US Indigenous communities in 2008.

g) Testimony was collected from over 30 community members at the Indigenous Border Summit of the Americas II (San Xavier District, Tohono O’odham Reservation, Arizona, November 7 - 10) **on the increasing violence, human rights and environmental impacts by US Border patrol and Homeland Security activities along the US/Mexico in border areas of the Tohono O’odham lands.** This includes the death of at least one Tohono O’odham community member and hundreds of migrants, environmental and cultural impacts of the proposed Wall between Mexico and the US affecting the homelands of Tohono O’odham, Yaqui and other Indian Nations, and the impacts of cross-border toxic pesticides exports from the US. Information and testimonies collected were submitted to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in early 2008.

h) In October 2007, IITC submitted an Urgent Human Rights Appeal to the Special Representative for the Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders, the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Expression, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions, and Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples, addressing community **raids and**

arrests of Maori (Tuhoe Nation) including elders by the New Zealand government acting under recently adopted so-called “Terrorism Suppression” legislation. All defendants subsequently had their “terrorism” charges dropped and all were released from custody.

3. IITC staff, in particular General Counsel Alberto Saldamando, provided **technical and legal assistance** as requested by impacted Indigenous Peoples to facilitate their direct involvement in gathering testimony and documentation and participating in the preparation of submissions.

Of key importance was ongoing follow up on the case accepted in March 2006 by the **Organization of American States (OAS) Inter American Human Rights Commission and the Inter American Court of Human Rights** of the case filed by IITC on behalf of the Yaqui Indians of Sonora, Mexico addressing the Mexican government’s violations of their land and water rights, which was prepared by Mr. Saldamando with the full participation of Yaqui community members, traditional elders and leaders. This first-of-its-kind case for Indigenous Peoples in Mexico will have far-reaching impacts for other Indian Peoples of Mexico and throughout the Americas. Meetings took place with the Yaqui traditional authorities and technical team in April and November 2007 to plan next steps and prepare submissions on admissibility and “exhaustion of domestic remedies” as requested by the OAS in March 2007 with the assistance of a “pro bono” Mexican human rights attorney. Meetings were also held with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in Arizona in to provide updates.

4. In 2007, IITC conducted **over 50 presentations in communities, schools, universities, tribes and organizations, with over 9000 participants**. Many more were reached through “training trainers”, mentorship, media coverage and electronic outreach.

IITC coordinated, presented and/or provided support to hosting communities at a variety of events and gatherings attended by community members, tribal representatives and organizations as well as non-Indigenous organizations, experts and organizing partners to **build and strengthen strategic alliances and coalitions**, create new support, build public and media awareness, share information, develop coordinated strategies and organize to address common concerns on issues shared concern.

a) A special focus was the **Indigenous Border Summit of the Americas II**, San Xavier District, Tohono O’odham Reservation, near Tucson (November) addressing human rights concerns of the Indigenous Peoples along the US/Mexico and US/Canada borders. Representatives of the Tohono O’odham, Gila River, Apache, Yaqui, Mohawk, Ojibway and Cree Nations and others attended and made presentations. Press statements, testimonies and the final report were widely disseminated via IITC and other webs sites and links, and the entire event was web-cast. The report was formally submitted to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the UN CERD in 2007 for its reviews of Racism in the US.

Additional community events in 2007 in which IITC representatives served as co-coordinators (with local communities) and/or primary organizers included:

b) A Community Workshop and Training Conference, “**Pesticides: The Threat to our Community Health and the Environment, Knowing our Rights, Exploring Alternatives and Working Together for a Healthy Future**” (Sinaloa Mexico October 26 – 28, 2007) focused on the right to health, rights of the child, rights to food security and subsistence, environmental justice, and “right to know”. It was attended by more

than 100 participants including traditional Yaqui and Mayo Tribal leaders, elders, youth and students, mothers, midwives, farm workers, teachers, health workers, families and scientists. In addition to the Mayo, participants included representatives from Huichol, Mayo, Zapoteca, Yaqui and Otomi communities as well as scientists, NGO's and environmental activists. Three visits were carried out by project staff and consultants to Sinaloa to meet with 8 Mayo communities for preparation and outreach visits during the year.

c) US tribal leaders in Arizona and Alaska agreed to work with IITC for the development and co-sponsorship of a resolution which was adopted unanimously at the **National Congress of American Indians Annual Conference** in December 2007 (over 400 US Tribal leaders, enclosed) calling on the United States to halt the US production of banned pesticides and provide full disclosure of information on these activities. Workshops were conducted by IITC for tribal leaders to educate them on this issue at the NCAI mid-year conference (Anchorage Alaska, June) and annual conference (Denver Colorado, November). NCAI Environmental staff and tribal leaders agreed to stay involved to support the resolution's implementation in 2008.

d) In 2007, various **Human Rights trainings and workshops** were carried out IITC focusing on the CERD US filing and the implementation of the UN. These trainings helped to build understanding about the role, importance and impacts of human rights and the obligations and responsibilities of individuals, tribes, state and federal governments to uphold and apply these rights.

Human Rights Training Workshops were organized and conducted by IITC in coordination with host Tribes and communities at the US Social Forum (July, Atlanta); Mille Lacs Tribe, (Mille Lacs Reservation, Minnesota, April and September); Southwest Minnesota State University (Marshall, Minnesota, April); Anchorage Alaska (February/Alaska Forum on the Environment, June/National Congress of American Indians mid-year conference and August/ North American Indigenous Peoples Mining Summit); San Francisco, (October); Arizona (Tohono O'odham Reservation, November); and Denver Colorado (National Congress of American Indians).

e) IITC's two annual Alcatraz Sunrise Gatherings (San Francisco Bay Area) commemorating very significant dates in the struggle for survival of the Indigenous Peoples of this Hemisphere (October 12th and "Thanksgiving") continued to draw national press coverage with over 4,000 participants combined for the two events.

5. IITC continued to work for the **development and application of new national and international standards polices and mechanisms to uphold protect and defend Indigenous Peoples' rights** through community and public education, coalition-building as well as participation in key international and regional standard setting fora. Key examples included:

a) IITC played a central role in the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the **UN Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in September 2007**. This Declaration, despite last minute change made by states in New York, upholds and recognizes key rights in the areas of lands and resources, self-determination, cultural rights and Treaties, Free Prior Informed Consent, along with many others. IITC also began to use key provisions of the UN Declaration in work on critical issues in 2007. These included Treaty Rights and land restitution, access to sacred sites, free prior informed consent regarding development and

toxic wastes, border rights, right to culturally based education, protection of Indigenous languages and cultures, food sovereignty and subsistence rights to name a few. Implementation of the UN Declaration became a central focus of IITC's presentations and trainings, especially after its adoption.

IITC also worked to pressure and advocate for UN bodies and agencies to uphold the Declaration as a "minimum standard" and framework for their work and policies, including the CBD, World Bank, WIPO, UN Human Rights Council, UN Food and Agriculture Organization and others.

b) IITC worked to insure that the UN Declaration text will also be the "minimum standard" and basis for ongoing work on the **OAS Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**, a parallel ongoing process. IITC attended the 2007 negotiating sessions for the OAS Declaration January (Washington DC) and April (La Paz Bolivia) as participants and members of the "legal technical team" for the Indigenous caucus.

c) In 2007 the IITC worked to disseminate, provide training and apply the "**Cultural Indicators for Food Security, Food Sovereignty and Sustainable Development**" finalized in September 2007 through IITC's coordination with FAO, other UN agencies and representatives of Indigenous Peoples around the world. They are currently being presented, used and field tested" in a range of UN processes as well as by Indigenous Communities. The "Cultural Indicators" field testing project now underway in the US, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala and Panama provides an opportunity and tool for communities to evaluate their utility as benchmarks for assessing the availability of traditional food resources, transmission of related knowledge and cultural practices to younger generations as well as adaptations to changing conditions such as Climate Change, to list a few components.

d) In 2007, IITC continued to build capacity and participation, and to strengthen multi-generational, culturally diverse leadership in critical international dialogues and policy debates, is in the critical area of **Right to Food and Food Security**. The IITC continued as the "Indigenous Focal Point" for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s Initiative for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD), as well as for the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty, a coalition of civil society "stakeholders" working in conjunction with FAO. IITC's Right to Food Project Coordinator Saul Vicente represented the concerns of Indigenous Peoples, distributed policy statements and Declarations and coordinated the participation of many Indigenous Peoples in a number events coordinated by FAO and the IPC throughout the year including the first International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources (September, Switzerland) and the World Forum for Food Sovereignty: Nyeleni 2007, (February 22 - 27 Mali, Africa)

e) IITC also continued to plays a key co-coordinating and leadership role in the work of Indigenous Peoples at the **UN Commission on Sustainable Development's and the CBD's working group on Article 8j** addressing traditional knowledge and bio-diversity. In these capacities, IITC has been instrumental in creating historic levels of participation for traditional Indigenous community subsistence food producers to have input in global discussions to protect environmentally, economically and socio-culturally sustainable food systems and protect bio-diversity for all Peoples.

f) IITC continued to provide ongoing input in the work of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other bodies (i.e. UN Convention on Biological Diversity and UN FAO)

to **redefine the UN's "Millennium Development Goals"** (MDG's) and assess their impacts and relevance for Indigenous Peoples in key areas as well as to develop "**Indicators of Well Being**" as an alternative concept. IITC participated as an expert in the "International Expert Workshop on Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples, the CBD and the MDGs" (Banaue Philippines, March 5-9, 2007) sponsored by the UN CBD and the Tebtebba Foundation. IITC's Executive Director Andrea Carmen was a keynote speaker presenting IITC's work on the "Cultural Indicators" as the missing pillar in international food security and sustainable development policy.

At the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York (May), IITC also addressed this issue in several interventions along with UN FAO and also agreed to join an "Indicators Working Group" made up of UN agencies and other NGO's to help coordinate these efforts.

g) IITC attended various sessions and working groups of the **UN Human Rights Council** in Geneva (February, March, April, June, September and December) in Geneva to address its developing structure to ensure that Indigenous Peoples will have clear and effective access and adequate mechanisms for addressing human rights violations. IITC presented interventions on its own behalf, coordinated joint statements with other Indigenous organizations on issues such as women and children's' rights, Treaty rights, export of banned pesticides and right to food, and met with States and Special Rapporteurs to present and build support for Indigenous Peoples' initiatives.

Four representatives of IITC (US, New Zealand, Panama and Guatemala) were invited experts at a HRC Special Working Group meeting (December 6 – 7, 2007) organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop proposals and a resolution for a new Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples Rights under the Human Rights Council, which was subsequently adopted by the 6th session of the Council after a concerted advocacy and diplomatic effort. (*See enclosed press release*)

h) Angel Valencia, IITC's Pesticides Project Coordinator, attended the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Stakeholder Meeting of the Sound Management of Chemicals Working Group, Pollutants and Health (April 17 – 19, Monterey Mexico) to address policies of Free Prior Informed consent and export of banned pesticides, and to advocate for the full implementation of Article 29 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples addressing this issue

6. IITC continued to organize and participate in international and public campaigns for the ratification by states as well as **non-discriminatory implementation of existing Human Rights Conventions, Treaties, and Declarations** to advance Indigenous Peoples' Rights as well as Environmental Protection and Global Sustainability. Examples include: ILO Convention 169, the POPs Treaty (Stockholm Convention), the Kyoto Protocols on Climate Change, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (still not ratified by the US!), the two International Covenants on Human Rights, the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge Protection in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the protection of Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge through work with the World Intellectual Property Organization (The 11th session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, July). *Please see the enclosed chart of UN sessions attended for additional examples.*

7. IITC also continued to work for **implementation of effective international mechanisms and oversight for Treaties and Agreements** between Indigenous Peoples and States, for upholding Treaty Rights within states and defending strong language protecting Treaty Rights in the UN and OAS Declarations. IITC began to develop a framework based on the provisions of the UN Declaration which particular emphasizes on Free Prior Informed, restitution and bi-lateral negotiation and dispute settlement processes.

8. IITC continued to **build and strengthen strategic alliances** with organizations, networks, tribal governments and issue based coalitions to build support, share information, advance dialogue, strategize and organize to address common concerns, and maximize resources to the greatest numbers of participants. Key strategic allies for the work in this report period included: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Los Angeles Indigenous Peoples Alliance, Indigenous Environmental Network, Indigenous Peoples Council on Bio-Colonialism, Gwich'in Steering Committee, Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Rainforests, 7th Generation Fund, Pit River, Clear Lake Pomo, Maidu, Yurok-Karuk, Shasta and Wintu Nations in Northern California, California Rural Indian Health Board, California Indian Educators Association, Centro Binacional Para el Desarrollo Indigena Oaxaqueno (California), Hesperian Foundation, Clean Water Action, Heifer International North America Program and Indian Nations Initiative, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations (Canada), Red Oil, Native Action, Yoemem Tekia Foundation (US and Mexico), Coalition Campesina Indigena de los Pueblos del Istmo de Oaxaca Mexico, Pesticide Action Network (US and Mexico), Native Seed SEARCH, Western Shoshone Defense Project; the eight Yaqui Pueblos of Sonora Mexico; the International Organization for Indigenous Resource Development, Inuit Circumpolar Council, National Congress of American Indians, First Nations Summit and the Assembly of First Nations, Native Women's Association of Canada (partial list).

9. IITC continued to **initiate and coordinate collaborative projects** with tribes and local communities as well as national and international organizations addressing critical environmental, health, food security and human rights issues, focusing on community empowerment, Environmental Justice and "Right to Know".

These included:

a) **the North-South Indigenous Peoples' Network Against Pesticides**" which continued to grow, bringing together Indigenous leaders and activists from impacted communities in Alaska, the US, Canada, Mexico and Guatemala, Peru, Ecuador and other countries to develop community-based education programs, empower and inform communities about the environmental and health effects of toxic pesticides and work together to advocate for effective alternatives and solutions.

Follow-up support and dissemination was provided for a first of its kind Declaration by Yaqui community leaders on December 7th 2006 (Vicam Pueblo, Rio Yaqui Sonora) prohibiting aerial spraying of pesticides and mandating free prior informed consent, based on specific key recommendations developed at the May conference. IITC also participated, organized and provided wide support, and helped to publicize and disseminated the Declaration locally nationally and internationally as a model for other impacted communities.

Alliances and relationships were also strengthened with key organizations (Heifer International, Native Seed Search, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, PANNA, etc) to

support communities in reestablishing traditional and/or safe alternative growing methods, initiate sustainable community based development projects, carry out community surveys, conduct water and air testing and work on policy changes, including calling for a halt to the US export of banned pesticides and full disclosure regarding this practice.

b) an information-sharing and mutual support **Network addressing impacts of mining and mineral extraction on Tribes and local communities**, IITC worked with a group of Canadian First Nations Peoples and Indigenous Peoples from the US (Nevada, Montana and Alaska) and Guatemala impacted by Canadian mining companies to contribute to the Indigenous Peoples' Shadow Report addressing racism in Canada in February 2007 and violations of the right to Free Prior informed consent, threats to environmental health and subsistence rights.

c) The **Indigenous Peoples Alliance for Food Sovereignty** formed in September 2006, at the 2nd Global Consultation in Nicaragua, for which IITC, the Sami Council (Sweden) and Chirapac (Quechua, Peru) were selected as co-coordinators and planning team for a conference proposed for Peru in 2008 or 2009.

d) In 2006 and 2007 to the present, IITC Executive Director Andrea Carmen was co-coordinator of the **North America Regional Caucus** for work on the adoption of the UN Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and was also a member of the Steering Committee for the Global Indigenous Caucus for international coordination on this issue.

e) April 21 – 22, IITC hosted for the 2nd year the **North American Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Sixth Session** (UNPFII6, New York, May 14 – 25, 2007). The meeting was held at the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center and Law School in Minneapolis, Minnesota and was attended by 65 representatives from 56 Indigenous Nations and organizations from the Permanent Forum's North America Region (United States and Canada). The consensus North America Regional report from the meeting was formally submitted to the UNPFII6 as a "Conference Room Paper", and addressed many issue of core concern to the region, including the central theme of Land Rights.

f) IITC coordinated, with other Indigenous organizations, side events and presentations at UNPFII6, including a round table discussion on "**Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangements: international legal instruments for defending and affirming Indigenous Peoples' Rights to Land, Territories and Natural Resources**" (may 18th). Other side events and permeations by IITC addressed the UN Declaration, Genetic Resources, Biodiversity and "Access and Benefit Sharing", Sacred Sites and "Indicators of Well Being".

g) IITC agreed to be on the Global Steering/Planning Committee, and to present the keynote address, for the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) and the International Commission on Minding and Metals (ICMM) **2nd International Roundtable on Mining and Indigenous Peoples Issues**, focusing on the right to Free Prior Informed Consent being planned for January 2008 in Sydney Australia.

h) In May, IITC agreed to serve as the member of the International Steering Committee representing North and Central America for the **International Indigenous Peoples Summit on Climate Change**, planned for April 2009 in Anchorage Alaska (coordinated by the Inuit

Circumpolar council with IITC and others). This Summit will provide Indigenous peoples and other invited Participants with a unique opportunity to share impacts, but more importantly explore options for solutions and adaptation strategies based on traditional knowledge and practices as well as innovative responses and policy changes. The first Steering Committee meeting, with representatives from the Arctic, Small Island States, South America, North/Central America and Africa attending, was held in November in Seattle and will be ongoing in 2008.

10. IITC continued to coordinate an **international information network** to disseminate information to Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations and the general public through print, radio, e-mail, and internet utilizing **IITC's web site**, www.treatycouncil.org and various links and list serves. Each month this year between 60,000 and 90,000 pages were viewed on IITC's web site. IITC also initiated a format for "The IITC E-news" for electronic dissemination of urgent action updates, press releases and news bulletins using a large mailing list which includes other Indigenous list serves and well as Indian and non-Indian media, and a IITC my space account interactive dialogues focused on Indigenous Youth .

11. IITC continued to distribute relevant **policy** statement for use in both community education and international dialogues, and to develop and disseminate **training tools and capacity building materials** designed for grass roots communities. The "**Pesticides are Poison**" and "**Mercury and Community Health in Northern California**" handbooks and handouts sheets, and the **Gold, Greed and Genocide Video** continued to be reprinted and distributed, along with 2 new power point presentations on Mercury, Pesticides and Environmental (humans and animal) Health. In 2007 IITC completed a new set of training materials in preparation for the CERD review of the US, including a power point presentation, handout and in-depth training manual on "**Holding the United States Accountable for Racial Discrimination Against Indigenous Peoples and ensuring US Compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination**" which were all widely disseminated at workshops, conferences and trainings, as well as electronically.

12. IITC also continued to produce and distribute via print and electronic dissemination, its newsletter **Treaty Council News**, and to disseminate electronically its "**IITC Right to Food Bulletin**" in English and Spanish.

13. IITC's first **three-year strategic plan** (approved at the February 2006 Board meeting) continued to be used as a basis for IITC's program, organizational development and planning in 2007. It will also be used for evaluation of IITC's 2007 and 2008 program work and development of a new one-year work plan in 2008. An IITC organizational development and long-term fiscal plan was also underway and under discussion by the IITC Board of Directors.

