

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL
30th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE
AJUMAWI TERRITORY, FALLS RIVER MILLS, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
July 8 – 11, 2004

Resolution on Free Trade, Fair Trade and Economic Self-Determination
for Indigenous Peoples

The Commission on Free Trade, Fair Trade and Economic Self Determination for Indigenous Peoples met on July 9th and 10th, 2004 with a view of integrating traditional values with Sustainable Economic Development. These include the virtues of “sharing” and the goal of restoring and protecting sustainable economies in order to raise our communities up together, not for individual gain but rather for Indigenous prosperity. We hereby present the following resolution for adoption by the IITC:

1. **Whereas** various specialized agencies of the United Nations are currently considering to include Indigenous Peoples as “stake-holders”, “share-holders” and “partners” in their policy discussions; and,
2. **Whereas** there is a strategic need for alternative systems to challenge globalization and regional trade treaties that fail to recognize the rights or include the participation of Indigenous Peoples; and
3. **Whereas** land as a traditional economic base is necessary for the sustainability of Indigenous Peoples; and
4. **Whereas** ‘free trade’ agreements have provided false terms of economic support, and have deliberately excluded Indigenous Peoples, their self-determination and right to prior informed consent; and
5. **Whereas** there is a need to establish a data base to collect information from the local, regional, national and international levels, as well as from our Indigenous homelands, about the economic feasibility of establishing Indigenous marketing and trade; and
6. **Whereas**, we are profoundly concerned about the lack of respect for the plants and other life forms that have become commodified under various “intellectual property regimes”, in violation of the sacredness of life; and
7. **Whereas** UNCTAD conducted a study in 1992 where it reported revenues of more than \$50 billion per year from Indigenous traditional knowledge and Indigenous Peoples have not received any benefits, nor have their rights of prior informed consent been respected; and

8. **Whereas** the 1851 California Claims Commission was blatantly unfair and intended to formally take away the last remaining land and natural economy of California Indigenous Peoples, and was perpetrated as a means to inflict “Gold, Greed and Genocide” upon them; and
9. **Whereas** the State of California has the 3rd largest economy in the world through this theft, plunder and destruction of the traditional Indigenous Peoples of this land.

The IITC hereby resolves to encourage all Indigenous Nations to form, recognize and support sustainable, environmentally sound and culturally appropriate production and development programs in order to promote and restore our community self-sufficiency and economic viability; and

The IITC further resolves to seek observer status at the WTO and the UN conference on Trade and Development, and to continue to participate in WIPO, to insure the input of Indigenous Peoples in discussions on all issues and concerns which are of major interest to them and to all parties concerned; and

The IITC futher resolves to call upon the US government to recognize the 18 unrecognized treaties with Indian Nations in California and to restore the land and natural resource rights of these Indian Nations; and

The IITC futher resolves to call for an economic analysis of the value and monetary economic impact this disenfranchisement and land theft has had on California Indigenous Nations and calls upon the state and federal governments as well as any involved cooperate interests to provide for appropriate compensation; and

The IITC finally resolves to urge the World Trade Organization and other financial and corporate institutions including the pharmaceutical industry to implement a moratorium on further patenting on all life forms, including seeds and farming techniques of Indigenous Nations, until all related issues of prior informed consent, rights over traditional lands and resources, cultural rights and the full implications of “benefit sharing” models can be resolved to the satisfaction of the impacted Indigenous Peoples.

Adopted by Consensus July 11, 2004