



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2003:062

AMERICAN DECLARATION ON RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Organizations of American States (OAS) created a workgroup to prepare the draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the OAS General Assembly reaffirmed, by resolution, the adoption of the Declaration as a priority for the OAS, (AG/RES. 1851 (XXXII-O/02) (2002); and
- WHEREAS,** the OAS General Assembly has opened participation to representatives of the indigenous people, and has emphasized by resolution, the importance of participation by and consultation with indigenous people in the process of elaborating the draft declaration (AG/RES. 1851 (XXXII-O/02) (2002); and
- WHEREAS,** the OAS Permanent Council established through a resolution, the Specific Fund to Support the Elaboration of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to provide financial support for participation by indigenous peoples' representatives in the efforts by the Working Group to Prepare the Draft, as well as in other activities of the Group (CP/RES. 817 (1319/02) (2002); and
- WHEREAS,** the OAS General Assembly has instructed the OAS Permanent Council to adopt measures to strengthen the process of ongoing dialogue with representatives of indigenous peoples, and encouraged governments to consider establishing mechanisms for consultation with indigenous peoples to achieve prompt and successful conclusions of negotiations on the Draft (AG/RES. 1851 (XXXII-O/02) (2002); and
- WHEREAS,** tribes, tribal government organizations, and non-governmental organizations representing indigenous peoples have been participating in OAS Working Group sessions; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Department of State is calling for consultation sessions with Tribes and Tribal organizations to provide advice, guidance, and review as the Declaration is being developed; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors support the efforts of the Organizations of American States, the U. S. Department of State and other participating United States federal agencies, tribal governments and other representatives of indigenous peoples that advances the interests of indigenous peoples, and indigenous peoples rights, lands, life ways, and ecosystems in the United States and throughout the Americas, and, be it further

"Because there is strength in Unity"


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RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors appoint a tribal leader
(_____) to consult with the people and entities
participating in the development of the American Declaration on the Rights
of Indigenous Peoples.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting at which a quorum
was present, in Arlington, VA, Thursday, February 6, 2003.


Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc


Beverly M. Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc