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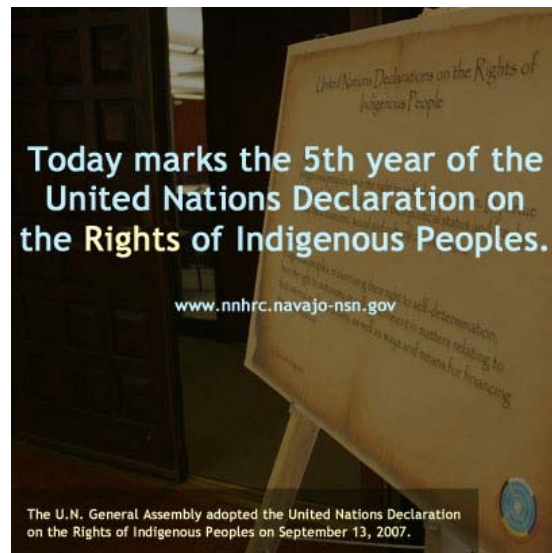
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NNHRC Welcomes the 5th Anniversary of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

SAINT MICHAELS, Navajo Nation—The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission welcomes the fifth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples today. The Declaration was adopted by the 61st U.N. General Assembly during its regular session on September 13, 2007.

According to the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, an international human rights organization, the development of the draft Declaration began in 1983.

On February 6, 2009, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission adopted the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a minimal standard achievement for the office and commission. The Commission was enacted by the 21st Navajo Nation Council in 2006 and the office now located in Saint Michaels, Navajo Nation was established in 2008.



According to NNHRC Feb. 6th resolution, “The Navajo Nation has expended valuable time and resources advocating strongly before the United Nations (“UN”) and the Organization of American States (“OAS”) at international meetings conducted in New York City and other countries such as Switzerland, Brazil, Guatemala and Mexico to ensure that Diné human rights are properly reflected in the UN and OAS’ Declarations.”

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission hopes to provide presentations about the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to Diné College students and Navajo Technical College students this semester. If students from the two colleges or other colleges are interested, call the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission at (928) 871-7436.

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To read or download a copy of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, visit the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission web site at www.nnhrc.navajonnsn.gov or http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf.

More recently on September 10, 2012, NNHRC obtained the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples James Anaya's report to the United Nations Human Rights Council where he stated, "The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples stands as an important impetus and guide for measure to address the concerns of indigenous peoples in the United States and to move toward reconciliation."

Now, in its 67th session, the United Nations General Assembly comprises of 193 member-states, member-states are also countries. The U.N. General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, according to the General Assembly of the United Nations web site. "It provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter" of the United Nations. There are five other organs of the United Nations. The current President of the U.N. General Assembly is Mr. Vuk Jeremic of Serbia.

As for the United Nations Human Rights Council, it also comprises of all 193 member-states. Anaya will present his report to the U.N. HRC on September 18, 2012. According to the summary statement of the report (A/HRC/21/47/Add.1), "In this report the Special Rapporteur examines the human rights situation of indigenous peoples in the United States, on the basis of research and information gathered, including during a visit to the country from 23 April 2012 to 4 May 2012."

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