

Briefing Paper: Updated & Revised Pawnee Nation DRIP Act of 2022.

Background for the revised PND RIP Act of 2022: As part of the Pawnee Nation’s public education process, on December 11, 2021, the Governing Documents and Intergovernmental Affairs Committees hosted a Tribal Member Forum on the proposed Pawnee Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (PND RIP Act). The forum supplemented prior informational and education efforts regarding this proposed legislation. The Forum produced great feedback from Tribal members and constructive dialogue with Pawnee Business Council members. In response to the Forum, the Governing Documents Committee revised the proposed legislation to address the concerns, feedback, and recommendations. The revisions do four things:

1. It strikes the original Section IV (Effective Date) to meet concerns about Nasharo Council approval.
2. It strikes the original Section VII.2 (the one-year review of all prior Pawnee laws & policies) to meet concerns about “wholesale” implementation of the U.N. Declaration. As a result, the revised Act is no longer a “wholesale” incorporation of UNDRIP into Tribal law. Instead, the Act partially adapts UNDRIP for prospective policy purposes only. This narrower scope is acceptable. Since our Nation has no history of violating human rights, there is no need to study and address past laws and policies so that body of law and policy remain unaffected.
3. It adds a new finding No. 8 to: (i) justify striking Section VII.2 (above); and (ii) make a finding on the need for a “moral compass” for future law & policy making. It is good policy to stride toward laws founded on justice and our basic humanity.¹
4. It adds new provisions to Section VII (Savings Clause) to address questions whether the Nasharo Council will get more power than the PBC by this legislation.

Finally, the Committee researched whether any other Tribal Nation has implemented the U.N. Declaration “wholesale” and, if so, whether it lost any federal funding as a result. The attached letter from Judge Bigler answers both questions: First, the Muscogee Creek Nation’s National Council unanimously adopted the entire UNDRIP in MCN TR 16-149 (2016), the Muscogee Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (MDRIP). A copy of TR 16-149 is attached to his letter. Second, Judge Bigler states: “I have never heard of any concern about losing Federal funding. I think that would be problematic as the United States itself has adopted a policy of support for the Declaration.” As he mentions,

¹ Vine Deloria, Jr. observed in “Laws Founded in Justice and Humanity,” for law to have a positive influence in the lives of ordinary people, “it must have something to do with the feelings of justice, it must speak to our basic humanity, and it must give us common sense directions as to what behavior and beliefs are right and wrong.”

the United States endorsed the UNDRIP in 2010; so why would it strip funding from Tribes that do the same thing?

Recommendation: The Governing Documents Committee endorses the updated and revised Pawnee Nation Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (PNDRIP Act) and recommends that it be enacted into law by the Pawnee Business Council. In support of this recommendation, the Committee provides the following updated Briefing Paper about the revised legislation:

1. What is the impact of the PNDRIP Act on the Pawnee Nation?

Answer: The PNDRIP Act does two things. First, it asks the United States government to implement the “minimum standards” of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (“Declaration”) into federal law and policy. Federal implementation will strengthen legal rights necessary for the survival, dignity, and wellbeing of the Pawnee Nation and its citizens. Second, to support that request and establish statutory precedent, the PNDRIP Act enacts a prospective policy not to violate human rights. That policy envisions that future Tribal laws, rules, and regulations will conform to the standards of the Declaration. No change in our form of government will occur because of the policy, because the Act states:

VII. Savings Clause: Nothing in this Act (i) abrogates or derogates any Treaty entered into by the Pawnee Nation; (ii) effects or diminishes any rights recognized or affirmed by the Constitution of the Pawnee Nation; (iii) increases the power of any governmental body established under the Constitution or otherwise affects the constitutional relationship between the Pawnee Business Council and Nasharo Council; or (iv) in any way affects or waives the sovereign immunity of the Pawnee Nation.

Nor is the Pawnee Nation joining the United Nations or ceding our sovereignty to anyone. PNDRIPA’s central goal is to seek increased federal protection for important legal rights of our Nation and citizens. The revised Act is posted on the Nation’s website:

www.pawneenation.org/pn-governing-documents-committee

2. What are the benefits to Pawnee People of enacting the PNDRIPA?

Answer: Our Nation and members will benefit greatly if the standards of the U.N. Declaration are implemented by the United States. If the standards become federal law, that will better protect the survival, dignity, and wellbeing of the Pawnee Nation and its citizens. Here are examples of stronger legal rights for our Nation & citizens:

Human Rights protected by the Declaration: **Current Rights in Federal Law:**

Religious freedom, sacred sites

No First Amendment protection

Self-Determination & Self-Government	Congress & Courts can abolish at will
Land/Territories/Natural Resources	Discovery Doctrine = inferior land rights
Language	Once forbidden; today little funding
Public Media	Unaccountable to Native Americans
Education in our own language/culture	Not required by federal or state law
Equality & Non-Discrimination	Legal Racism flourishes in Federal law
Environmental rights	Inadequate homeland/habitat protection
Robust Cultural rights	Fails to meet Declaration's standards
Free Prior & Informed Consent	Inadequate consultation
Economic & Social Rights Protected	Poorest of the poor, gaps in medical care
Treaties & Agreements protected	U.S. violates treaties & agreements
Rights are based on notions of justice	Rights are from Law of Colonialism

For these reasons, the National Congress of American Indians and a growing number of Tribal Nations support UNDRIP implementation. NCAI's Resolution calls on the United States to implement UNDRIP, stating: "implementation of UNDRIP is critical for protecting and furthering the rights of Indigenous Peoples" and "Indigenous Nations and individuals will benefit greatly if the principles of UNDRIP are implemented." The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes resolution urges Federal implementation of UNDRIP, stating: "Tribal Nations will greatly benefit if the provisions of the Declaration are implemented by the United States." Those resolutions are posted on the Committee's website page.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on UNDRIP legal protections, consult:

1. Tribal Implementation Toolkit: [Tribal-Implementation-Toolkit-Digital-Edition.pdf \(narf.org\)](https://www.narf.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Tribal-Implementation-Toolkit-Digital-Edition.pdf)
2. Native American Rights Fund UNDRIP information: [About the Declaration – The Implementation Project \(narf.org\)](https://www.narf.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/About-the-Declaration-The-Implementation-Project.pdf)
3. UNDRIP guide for youth: [un-adolescents-guide2013.pdf \(narf.org\)](https://www.narf.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/un-adolescents-guide2013.pdf)

3. How much will it cost to implement PNDRIIPA? What's the return on that investment?

Answer: No new costs, yet huge benefits will be gained with stronger legal rights.

4. Why would the Pawnee Nation want to bring its government under the U.N. since we are not a member nation?

Answer: PNDRIPA does not bring the Pawnee Nation under the jurisdiction or thumb of the U.N., nor cede our sovereignty to the U.N.

5. Why would PBC legislate “massive changes” to our government, since U.N. has no authority, and the Declaration is not legally binding?

Answer: No “massive changes” will take place under the PNDRIP Act, as explained in answer to Question No. 1. The U.N. Declaration is not legally binding on our Nation, but if we want its important benefits, we must be willing work with other Tribal nations to coax the Federal government to implement Declaration’s principles into federal law and policy. Native American rights are never freely given; they must be worked for, earned, then vigilantly protected. In that regard, our Pawnee ancestors have always been ready to take a stand when it comes to protecting the Nation and defending the people and their way of life. Two generations ago, Pawnee leaders and elders fought for new laws to protect the graves of our ancestors and repatriate Pawnee dead for proper reburial. Today, advocating for better Federal protection of our Indigenous rights under UNDRIP is the challenge of this generation.

6. Do the Declaration or PNDRIP Act have any potential implications on our Federal relationship?

Answer: The Treaty relationship between our Nation & United States remains the same, as stated in **Section VII (Savings Clause)**. After U.N. standards become federal law, the U.S. can no longer violate Pawnee treaties, self-determination, self-government, or other Indigenous rights at will. As a result, we will enjoy a stronger Nation-to-Nation relationship founded on more reliable legal rights that better protect our sovereignty & way of life.

7. What will Tribal members gain?

Answer: Stronger legal rights and a stronger Nation. Also, if Pawnee social, economic, housing, education, medical, and environmental needs are viewed by the U.S. as “human rights,” our social ills and needs are more likely to improve.

8. What additional rights does the Declaration provide for Pawnee people that they do not already enjoy as U.S. or Tribal citizens?

Answer: See, answer to Question No. 2.

9. Since no Tribe has implemented the Declaration into their government,

- * Why is implementation being proposed by PBC?
- * Is this a response to a current need, or will of the people?
- * What background has taken place to pave the way for PBC implementation?

* Is the AG Act part of the implementation?

*How are these changes addressed or provided for under our Constitution?

Answer: The premise of this question is erroneous: Several Tribal nations already have various kinds of laws in place that support and incorporate the Declaration. And there is a national Tribal & intertribal push to pressure the Federal government to implement the Declaration. See, (1) the MCN legislation discussed above; (2) the NCAI resolution; and (3) the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes resolution. Pawnees should do our part and join these efforts to strengthen Tribal rights by enacting the PND RIP Act, which responds to a current need: *We need stronger legal rights for our Nation & citizens.*

Over the past months, relevant Committees undertook extensive background work for developing this proposed legislation, including outreach to Tribal members. At this stage, the Governing Documents Committee and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee believe that the updated PND RIP Act serves the best interests of the Nation and its citizens. Along the way, elected Pawnee leaders--including Pawnee Chiefs on the Nasharo Council--have been appraised of the contents of UNDRIP & the PND RIP Act; have considered the Nation's need for stronger legal rights; have considered the impact of PND RIP A on our government, Constitution, and laws; and they understand the need to reform and strengthen Federal Indian law. Finally, the proposed Attorney General Act is not part of implementing the Declaration and has nothing to do with PND RIP A.

Under our Constitution, the Pawnee Business Council (PBC) is the lawmaking body for the Nation. For all the above reasons, the proposed PND RIP A legislation is ready to be duly considered by the PBC for enactment into law, with the Nasharo Council support.

Thank you,

--PBC President Walter Echo-Hawk, Co-chair, Governing Documents Committee, and ex-officio member, Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

-- Councilwoman Cynthia Butler, Chair, Governing Documents Committee.

-- Councilwoman Dawna Hare, Chair, Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

PAWNEE NATION OF OKLAHOMA

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (DRIP)

ACT



Approved by Statute 22-00 on 00-00-0000

Pawnee Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

I. Title: This statute shall be known as the “Pawnee Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.”

II. Purposes: The purposes of this Act are to:

1. Strengthen the domestic legal framework in the United States for defining and protecting the Pawnee Nation’s legal, political, cultural, property, and Indigenous rights.
2. Strengthen the Pawnee Nation’s relationships with Federal and State governments, including federal protection of the human and Indigenous rights of the Pawnee Nation and its citizens.
3. Promote Federal implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) into domestic law and policy.
4. Adopt a policy for protecting rights of Pawnee citizens set forth in the UNDRIP.

III. Authority: This Act is enacted pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma.

IV. Definitions:

1. “The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” (UNDRIP) is a declaration enacted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007 to lay out minimum standards for protecting the rights, well-being, and survival for the world’s Indigenous Peoples, including the Pawnee Nation and its citizens. The UNDRIP is attached for reference as an addendum to this Act.

V. Findings:

1. Federal Indian Law is domestic law that defines the rights, relationships, and responsibilities among Tribal Nations and the United States. It provides the Federal legal framework for defining the sovereignty, self-determination, self-government, property, treaty, and cultural rights of the Pawnee Nation and its citizens.
2. Federal Indian Law has two sides. First, protective features recognize and protect the inherent sovereignty of the Pawnee Nation and its political status as a “Domestic Dependent Nation” that entered the Union through treaties under the protection of the United States. However, that body of law also has anti-indigenous features derived from early International Law of Colonialism. Those features were incorporated into domestic law by Supreme Court decisions in the 1820’s and 1830’s; and they amount to a nefarious “dark side” of the law that is still the law of the land, as illustrated by oppressive judicial doctrines that: (i) proclaim the racial, religious, and cultural inferiority of Native peoples, (ii) assert unchecked plenary power of Congress over Native peoples and their Nations,

(iii) allow unfettered government guardianship power over Indigenous persons and property, and (iv) afford Tribal Nations and their citizens inferior property, political, religious, and cultural rights. Even though Colonialism was repudiated in the 1960's by the United Nations as an oppressive institution, the anti-indigenous features from the Law of Colonialism remain in full force and effect in modern-day Federal Indian Law.

3. In 46 Articles, the UNDRIP framework for defining Indigenous rights conceives of Native American rights as inherent, inalienable, and inalienable human rights and it declares that Indigenous rights are based upon principles of justice and derived from modern international law. The purpose of UNDRIP is to guide countries on how to comport themselves with their Indigenous Peoples. The UNDRIP asks countries to discard the lingering ill-effects of Colonialism that remain embedded in domestic law and policy and replace those outmoded legal doctrines with the minimum standards of the UNDRIP. Those standards see Indigenous rights as human rights—including the rights of self-determination, self-government, culture, lands/territories/natural resources, language, education, social services, economic development, equality, and non-discrimination.

4. To strengthen Native American rights and heal a painful past, it is time to replace the dark side of Federal Indian Law with principles of justice, such as the minimum standards in the UNDRIP.

5. Since the UNDRIP is not a self-executing treaty, with the automatic force of law, the provisions ask all countries (including the United States) to implement the minimum standards into their domestic laws and policies in partnership and consultation with Indigenous peoples. To date, 150 countries have endorsed the UNDRIP; and many are working to implement UNDRIP standards. In North America, Canada recently enacted a law to incorporate UNDRIP into national law. While the United States endorsed the UNDRIP in 2010, it has not developed a national plan to implement it.

6. A "Project to Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" was formed by the Native American Rights Fund and various law schools. (<https://un-declaration.narf.org/>). The Project is coordinating intertribal efforts to urge the United States to implement the UNDRIP. Toward that end, the project is asking Tribal Nations to pass laws endorsing the UNDRIP and requesting the United States to implement the UNDRIP. (<https://un-declaration.narf.org/wp-content/uploads/Tribal-Implementation-Toolkit-Digital-Edition.pdf>)

7. The wellbeing of the Pawnee Nation and its citizens depend upon strong and reliable legal rights. It is in the best interests of the Pawnee Nation to support implementation of the UNDRIP standards into the domestic laws and policies of the United States, because

that will better protect vital Tribal interests, as well as individual and group rights of Pawnee citizens described in the UNDRIP.

8. While the Pawnee government has no history of violating Indigenous rights, every government needs a strong moral compass to be a just nation. UNDRIP standards can help inform the making just laws and policies for a more perfect Nation in the post-colonial era.

VI. Pawnee Nation Endorsement and Support for the UNDRIP:

1. Henceforth it shall be the policy of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma to ensure that future Tribal statutes, rules, regulations, and policies are consistent with the UNDRIP standards.

2. The Pawnee Nation calls upon the United States and State of Oklahoma to implement the UNDRIP provisions into their laws and policies.

3. The Pawnee Nation requests the President of the United States to develop a national plan to implement the UNDRIP in partnership and consultation with Tribal Nations, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

VII. Savings Clause: Nothing in this Act (i) abrogates or derogates any Treaty entered into by the Pawnee Nation; (ii) effects or diminishes any rights recognized or affirmed by the Constitution of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma; (iii) increases the power of any governmental body established under the Constitution or otherwise affects the constitutional relationship between the Pawnee Business Council and Nasharo Council; or (iv) in any way affects or waives the sovereign immunity of the Pawnee Nation.

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United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and good faith in the fulfilment of the obligations assumed by States in accordance with the Charter,

Affirming that indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing the right of all peoples to be different, to consider themselves different, and to be respected as such,

Affirming also that all peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, which constitute the common heritage of humankind,

Affirming further that all doctrines, policies and practices based on or advocating superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin or racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust,

Reaffirming that indigenous peoples, in the exercise of their rights, should be free from discrimination of any kind,

Concerned that indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, thus preventing them from exercising, in particular, their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests,

Recognizing the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples which derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources,

Recognizing also the urgent need to respect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with States,

Welcoming the fact that indigenous peoples are organizing themselves for political, economic, social and cultural enhancement and in order to bring to an end all forms of discrimination and oppression wherever they occur,

Convinced that control by indigenous peoples over developments affecting them and their lands, territories and resources will enable them to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions, and to promote their development in accordance with their aspirations and needs,

Recognizing that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment,

Emphasizing the contribution of the demilitarization of the lands and territories of indigenous peoples to peace, economic and social progress and development, understanding and friendly relations among nations and peoples of the world,

Recognizing in particular the right of indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child,

Considering that the rights affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous peoples are, in some situations, matters of international concern, interest, responsibility and character,

Considering also that treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, and the relationship they represent, are the basis for a strengthened partnership between indigenous peoples and States,

Acknowledging that the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights² and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of action,³ affirm the fundamental importance of the right to self-determination of all peoples, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

Bearing in mind that nothing in this Declaration may be used to deny any peoples their right to self-determination, exercised in conformity with international law,

Convinced that the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples in this Declaration will enhance harmonious and cooperative relations between the State and indigenous peoples, based on principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and good faith,

Encouraging States to comply with and effectively implement all their obligations as they apply to indigenous peoples under international instruments, in particular those related to human rights, in consultation and cooperation with the peoples concerned,

Emphasizing that the United Nations has an important and continuing role to play in promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples,

Believing that this Declaration is a further important step forward for the recognition, promotion and protection of the rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples and in the development of relevant activities of the United Nations system in this field,

Recognizing and reaffirming that indigenous individuals are entitled without discrimination to all human rights recognized in international law, and that indigenous peoples possess collective rights which are indispensable for their existence, well-being and integral development as peoples,

Recognizing that the situation of indigenous peoples varies from region to region and from country to country and that the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical and cultural backgrounds should be taken into consideration,

Solemnly proclaims the following United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a standard of achievement to be pursued in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect:

Article 1

Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁴ and international human rights law.

Article 2

Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

Article 3

Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 4

Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

Article 5

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Article 6

Every indigenous individual has the right to a nationality.

Article 7

1. Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
2. Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.

Article 8

1. Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
2. States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
 - (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;
 - (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;

- (c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;
- (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;
- (e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.

Article 9

Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.

Article 10

Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.

Article 11

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.
2. States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms, which may include restitution, developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples, with respect to their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs.

Article 12

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.
2. States shall seek to enable the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 13

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.
2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected and also to ensure that indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means.

Article 14

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
2. Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.
3. States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

Article 15

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.
2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

Article 16

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination.
2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that State-owned media duly reflect indigenous cultural diversity. States, without prejudice to ensuring full freedom of expression, should encourage privately owned media to adequately reflect indigenous cultural diversity.

Article 17

1. Indigenous individuals and peoples have the right to enjoy fully all rights established under applicable international and domestic labour law.
2. States shall in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples take specific measures to protect indigenous children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, taking into account their special vulnerability and the importance of education for their empowerment.
3. Indigenous individuals have the right not to be subjected to any discriminatory conditions of labour and, inter alia, employment or salary.

Article 18

Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

Article 19

States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

Article 20

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.
2. Indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress.

Article 21

1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

Article 22

1. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.
2. States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

Article 23

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

Article 24

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.
2. Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.

Article 25

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

Article 26

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 27

States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

Article 28

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.
2. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

Article 29

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.
3. States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.

Article 30

1. Military activities shall not take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless justified by a relevant public interest or otherwise freely agreed with or requested by the indigenous peoples concerned.
2. States shall undertake effective consultations with the indigenous peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, prior to using their lands or territories for military activities.

Article 31

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.
2. In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

Article 32

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

Article 33

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures.

Article 34

Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards.

Article 35

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the responsibilities of individuals to their communities.

Article 36

1. Indigenous peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders.
2. States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take effective measures to facilitate the exercise and ensure the implementation of this right.

Article 37

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.
2. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as diminishing or eliminating the rights of indigenous peoples contained in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

Article 38

States in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take the appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to achieve the ends of this Declaration.

Article 39

Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.

Article 40

Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.

Article 41

The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance. Ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them shall be established.

Article 42

The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States shall

promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration.

Article 43

The rights recognized herein constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.

Article 44

All the rights and freedoms recognized herein are equally guaranteed to male and female indigenous individuals.

Article 45

Nothing in this Declaration may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights indigenous peoples have now or may acquire in the future.

Article 46

1. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, people, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations or construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States.

2. In the exercise of the rights enunciated in the present Declaration, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all shall be respected. The exercise of the rights set forth in this Declaration shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law and in accordance with international human rights obligations. Any such limitations shall be non-discriminatory and strictly necessary solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for meeting the just and most compelling requirements of a democratic society.

3. The provisions set forth in this Declaration shall be interpreted in accordance with the principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, equality, non-discrimination, good governance and good faith.