

For Immediate Release

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Arcata, California/Wiyot Traditional Territories: Seventh Generation Fund for Indian Development welcomes President Obama's support of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and eagerly awaits full endorsement by the administration, without restrictions of this human rights instrument so we can begin to work together on its implementation.

“Obama's support of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples today signals tribal nations that there is fertile ground beyond Washington DC for meaningful policy development and the protection of human rights for now and for our future generations of Native Peoples,” noted Christopher Peters (Pohlik-lah/Karuk) President of Seventh Generation Fund for Indian Development, the longest standing Indigenous Peoples' organization dedicated to tribal sovereignty, social, cultural and environmental justice through community empowerment.

Today during the Second Tribal Nations Conference in Washington DC, President Obama announced U.S. support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (DRIP). Referring to the Declaration, he noted that, ***the aspirations it affirms - including the respect for the institutions and rich cultures of Native people- are ones we must always seek to fulfill...I want to be clear: what matters far more than words, what matters far more than any resolution or declaration, are actions to match those words.***

Tonya Gonnella Frichner (Onondaga Nation) the North American Regional Representative to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues responded to the news saying, ***“We are hoping that this support translates into an endorsement, and we look forward to working with the Obama administration in implementing the UN declaration.”*** Ms Frichner who is also Vice-Chair of the Seventh Generation Fund for Indian Development has been on the leading edge of international diplomacy for Indigenous Peoples for two decades, including her full engagement in the development and advocacy of the Declaration with world leaders and tribal nations.

In September 2007, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the UN Declaration with 145 countries voting in favor of the human rights declaration that recognizes the **right of self-determination for the world's approximately 400 million Indigenous Peoples**. The United States was one of only four countries to oppose the DRIP, along with New Zealand, Australia and Canada, who have all since endorsed the Declaration, however with limitations to their domestic laws.

Founded in 1977, Seventh Generation Fund has uplifted the voices, distinct issues and

concerns of the grassroots communities and tribal nations to the forefront of the international arena. In April 2010, Seventh Generation Fund's delegation to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues heard United States Ambassador to the UN, Susan Rice announce the U.S. would conduct a "formal review" of its position in opposition to the Declaration. Later the delegation attended a US State Department Briefing about the Declaration and the United States' review process.

“When a country with the power and influence of the United States makes such a statement, this is hopeful news for tribal nations and Indigenous communities here in the United States. It also offers a message that can resonate throughout the world. After endorsement, let us work together on full implementation of the Declaration,” said Tia Oros Peters (Zuni) Seventh Generation Fund Executive Director.

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Elahkwa - Thank you,

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An Indigenous Peoples' fund supporting sovereignty and justice
through community empowerment

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