



RESOLUTION AND STATEMENT OF PROFOUND CONCERN REGARDING SWEDEN'S FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE 36 OF THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS DELEGATES TO THE INDIGENOUS TERRA MADRE CONFERENCE SAPMI TERRITORY JOKKMOKK SWEDEN JUNE 17 – 19, 2011

Adopted by Consensus of the delegates to the Indigenous Terra Madre conference June 19th, 2011, Jokkmokk, Sápmi, Sweden

WHEREAS Sweden was one of 144 countries that voted in favour of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples when it was adopted at the UN General Assembly on September 13th 2007, and there for has clear obligations to uphold and implement its provisions;

WHEREAS the Declaration represents “the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.”

WHEREAS Article 36 states that “ 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. It further calls upon “States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take effective measures to facilitate the exercise and ensure the implementation of this right;

WHEREAS the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Article 18 affirms the right of Indigenous Peoples to “participate 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 ...”;

WHEREAS the Sami hosts and organizations attending the Indigenous Terra Madre conference in Jokkmokk Sweden were informed that Indigenous delegates from several countries were denied visas for entry into Sweden by the Swedish government and the reasons given for at least one delegation of 9 representatives from Ethiopia was that they were unable to demonstrate sufficient economic resources to meet the criteria established by the Swedish government;

WHEREAS in the view of the participants in the Indigenous Terra Madre conference as well as the Sami hosts, the Sami Parliament and the Sami Council, this constitutes a clear violation of Article 36 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

WHEREAS it has come to our attention that the denial of visas for Indigenous Peoples to participate in international conferences and meetings, including but not limited to UN- Sponsored conferences, is pervasive and persistent in particular regarding denial of visas by “developed” countries for Indigenous peoples from “developing” countries;



WHEREAS this situation seriously and consistently impedes the exercise of Indigenous Peoples' right to participate and to their share experience, knowledge and experiences relating to key survival issues including food security, food sovereignty, and traditional knowledge, including at the Indigenous Terra Madre Conference;

THEREFORE be it resolved that Indigenous Terra Madre conference hosts and participants call upon the government of Sweden as well as all other State government to implement article 36 of the UNDRIP including the establishment of effective measures to include a revision of existing national policies related to issuing visas for participation of Indigenous Peoples in Indigenous conferences as well as UN meetings, in order to facilitate the rights recognized in this article;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the government of Sweden to meet with designated representatives of the Sami Parliament without delay to begin the development of legislative and administrative measures and amend relevant existing policies to ensure the full implementation of Article 36;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this concern will be presented to relevant UN bodies by the Sami Parliament, the Sami Council, International Indian Treaty Council and other Indigenous organizations with UN ECOSOC Consultative Status participating in the Indigenous Terra Madre Conference;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution will be submitted by the Sami Parliaments and the International Indian Treaty Council to the 4th session of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to Chief Wilton Littlechild, expert member from the Western Europe and other Groups (WEOG) region so that this situation and larger concerns regarding implementation of article 36 can be fully considered by the EMRIP in light their current study on the right of indigenous Peoples to participate in decision-making and implementation of the UNDRIP, and included in their report to the 18th session on the UN Human Rights Council.