



## **BELFAST ASSEMBLY 2022**

### **POLITICAL COMMISSION ADOPTED RESOLUTION**

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**RESOLVED:** The Congress of Nations and States will encourage and promote opportunities and collaborations for Peoples, Nations, and States to increase the political participation of Peoples and Nations at all levels- including local and national levels- in order to foster dialogue and promote inclusion of all Peoples

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** States are encouraged to enable Peoples to have their own elected community leaders as their representatives in the respective State's governing structures

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** The Congress of Nations and States will advocate for the right to proper voting access for Peoples and encourages governments to do the same

- i) Where direct voting of leaders is hindered, leaders appointed by the community should serve as official representatives within the respective State's governing structures and processes
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## **BELFAST ASSEMBLY 2022**

### **BACKGROUND REPORT**

#### **POLITICAL COMMISSION**

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The Political Commission decided to examine the efforts made by communities in areas of voting rights. The Commission sent out a survey to the CNS organizations who signed up to voluntarily participate in the submissions process.

The Commission received a wide variety of answers to five questions which were presented. Those questions concerned the following areas: 1) how leaders in the communities were elected; 2) how issues were decided in the community; 3) whether everyone is able to participate in decisions; 4) representation of community in the state/national level.

The answers provided in the survey indicate that many Peoples and Nations may or may not select the leaders in their communities and majority of issues in the community are decided by elders. Some participants indicated that their own leaders do not get to decide any issue and it is decided for them by a larger entity.

The Commission asked whether or not participants were able to participate in decisions which impacted their community. This question was important to the Commission given the wide range of answers that were received. One participant noted, “mostly women don’t.” The majority of participants responded that they are not able to participate in decision-making and some responded “not everyone” can participate. Only two to three participants responded they were able to participate.

The Commission felt that this was an important point to focus on and the Resolution that is presented to the Assembly encourages communities within the CNS organization to be inclusive of all voices within their communities to allow for the exchange of ideas and knowledge.

#### **Commissioners:**

**Merius Wenda, Pakou Hang, Garima Tiwari**

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