



CONGRESS OF NATIONS AND STATES

Challenges and The Future of Minority and Indigenous Rights Protection Conference *March 5 – 7, 2025*

DECLARATION

TAKING NOTE that the Congress of Nations and States co-hosted a conference with the University of Stirling titled “Challenges and The Future of Minority and Indigenous Rights Protection” from March 5 – 7, 2025 in Stirling, Scotland;

RECALLING the challenges and inter-generational trauma Peoples face as a result of genocide, crimes against humanity, forced displacement, forced evictions, ecocide and other forms of environmental destruction, and the destruction of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and destruction of their ancestral lands;

NOTING that the discussions in the conference highlighted the ability of law to resolve issues, but the lack of implementation, lack of enforcement, and lack of political will have frustrated potential remedies for Peoples around the world, on local, national, regional, and international levels;

AFFIRMING Peoples right to self-determination found in the UN Declaration on Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

AFFIRMING that states are obligated to prevent and punish the crime of genocide under The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, customary international law, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

HEREBY DECLARE that as Peoples, Nations, and States:

- *We will continue to foster connections and community with each other in order to share lived experiences and learn from each other;*
- *We will continue to gather in forums dedicated to both academic and non- academic audiences in order to raise awareness, promote scholarship and interest in the challenges facing our communities;*
- *We will continue to promote awareness of our tangible and non-tangible cultural heritage where possible and ensure that we support the inclusion of local Peoples in places where we hold our meetings;*
- *We will continue to support the tangible and non-tangible cultural heritage of the local communities where we hold our meetings;*
- *We urge all Peoples, Nations, and States to work seriously towards resolving conflicts and disagreements peacefully through dialogue, cooperation, and other peaceful means.*