The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz
Chairperson
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

... a victory for indigenous peoples
**Beginnings of IP engagement with the UN**

- 1925 – W.T. Ratana, Maori Chief visited League of Nations. Both were turned away.
In 1923, Haudenosaunee Chief Deskaheh travelled to Geneva to speak to the League of Nations and defend the right of his people to live under their own laws, on their own land and under their own faith.
Martyr, of Chico Dam Struggle: Ama Macliing Dulag
Jose Martinez Cobo’s study commissioned by the Sub-Commission of the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (1971 to 1982), Final report released - 1986


1985 – UNWGIP started to draft the Declaration

1989 – ILO adopted Convention No. 169 which revised Convention 107
Process of adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of IPs

- 28 Nov. 2006 – adoption deferred by Third Committee of UN General Assembly
“Effective implementation of the Declaration will be the test of commitment of States and the whole international community to protect, respect and fulfill indigenous peoples collective and individual human rights.

I call on governments, the UN system, Indigenous Peoples and civil society at large to rise to the historic task before us and make the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples a living document for the common future of humanity.”

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz
Chairperson
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
13 September 2007
“Today, 13 September 2007, after more than two decades of preparation and heeding the call of the 2005 World Summit, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This historic document constitutes tangible proof of the increasing cooperation of States, Indigenous Peoples and the international community as a whole for the promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples.”

Mr. Sha Zukang
Under-Secretary General on Economic and Social Affairs & Coordinator for the 2nd International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples
"This marks a historic moment when U.N. member states and indigenous peoples have reconciled with their painful histories and are resolved to move forward together on the path of human rights, justice and development for all."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary-General
13 September 2007