



**COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES**

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe  
Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe  
Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe  
Shoshone Bannock Tribes • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe

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**16th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
(July 17 to 21, 2023)**

**Item 11: Enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations**

***Intervention of Lisa White Pipe, The Blackfeet Nation Delegation, Coalition of  
Large Tribes; Councilwoman, Rosebud Sioux Tribe***

July 19, 2023

Geneva, Switzerland -

Greetings, Chair and Excellencies. I am a council member for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. Today, I am speaking as part of the Blackfeet Nation delegation which chairs the Coalition of Large Tribes, for which I serve as an officer, representing the interests of the more than 50 U.S. tribes that have reservations of 100,000 acres or more. These tribes govern more than 95% of Indian Country lands in the United States and serve approximately one million Native American citizens.

In the United States, our tribal nations enjoy government-to-government relations with the United States, relationships that we expressly reserved as nation states in our hundreds of treaties with the United States.

As an elected tribal leader, I am accountable to my constituents, our more than 32,000 tribal citizens. Our tribal council handles all day-to-day executive and legislative affairs for our Native nation, this includes everything from delivering services such as waste removal to economic development running our enterprises to environmental permitting to child welfare. We also represent our tribe in relations with other governments. We are sister governments, not subordinate entities. Tribal sovereignty in the United States is strong.

COLT would like to see more respect for our sovereignty at the United Nations. We are not mere organizations or communities with kinship ties. We are governments and the failure of the United Nations to recognize our sovereign stature



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is offensive. Leaders of tribal nations should be accorded no less respect than other nation states.

Member States can and do benefit when informed by the unique perspective of Indigenous governments. But our ability to participate meaningfully in UN forums is currently so limited and uncertain that it is hard to justify spending the time and financial resources to be here.

We recommend the Expert Mechanism and the Human Rights Council to welcome the work of the Indigenous Coordinating Body, and encourage States and invite other public and/or private potential donors to financially support the work of the Indigenous Coordinating Body.

Thank you.

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