



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

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

***Item 5: Interactive Dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the Right to
Development***

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

July 18, 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.

Development occurs in healthy indigenous communities. There are many social determinants of health for us, including language and culture and public safety.

1. Language. While the United States has made recent strides to repudiate its longstanding and widespread assimilationist Federal Indian Boarding School Policy, the United States has failed to address its mass dispossession of our lands, cultures, and languages.

We call on the United States to establish an action plan to support indigenous language programs in partnership with Tribal Nations. And to recognize the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and commit resources to commemorate the Decade. Our languages tell us who we are and how to relate to the world.



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2. Technical assistance on boarding schools healing and public safety. Today, there is no greater offender of Tribal rights than the U.S. Department of Justice, which repeatedly fails to protect our Tribal communities in egregious violation of the government's Treaty and Trust duties, and in violation of Articles 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 37.

U.S. indigenous peoples' development would be well served if the Expert Mechanism and the Human Rights Council were to make a country visit and engage the United States about how to proceed with reconciliation and healing with stronger support for language, public safety and respect for culture and religion in true implementation of the Declaration.

Thank you.

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