



COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation
Crow Nation • Duck Valley Indian Reservation 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 • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute

Hon. Marvin Weatherwax, Blackfeet Tribe and Coalition of Large Tribes

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Twenty-Third Session

Item 4

Discussion on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights), with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

April 15, 2024

Greetings. My name is Marvin Weatherwax and I am a Tribal Councilman serving on the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, and the Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council.

I serve as Chairman of the Coalition of Large Tribes, representing more than 50 tribes with reservations of 100,000 acres or more, governing more than 95% of Indian Country and serving approximately one million Native American citizens.

Thank you to the United Nations for the opportunity to address the continuing public safety crisis on U.S. Indian reservations, which threatens our economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights.



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The U.S. Department of Justice 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 of the Declaration.

Some examples:

- DOJ asserts that the federal government has no duty to do anything to ensure the Navajo Nation’s Treaty and Reserved rights to water.
- DOJ argues that the United States bears no responsibility for an on-duty federal law enforcement officer’s rape of a Northern Cheyenne woman, including none under the Bad Men provision of the Treaty.
- The U.S. government’s complete failure to ensure Tribal public safety is evident with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People crisis and in the crisis of cartels pushing fentanyl on our reservations.
- DOJ continually argues the U.S. may completely destroy sacred sites to allow copper mining at Oak Flat, the epicenter of Apache religion.
- DOJ continues to risk pollution of fresh water by tolerating the continuing trespass of Enbridge’s Line 5.



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Discovery of remains of Indian boarding school victims, and reporting of widespread abuse, demonstrates the need for colonizers to acknowledge and address the cultural genocide and intergenerational trauma caused by their actions.

As I did last year, I remind the United States and Canada that this reconciliation, and their own domestic laws, also **require** the return of the Tribal lands upon which these boarding schools were built.

We call upon governments to return all lands taken from Tribal nations to support the Indian Boarding Schools, starting with the Rapid City Indian Boarding School, a request that is required by law and years overdue.

As a global community, it is time to provide justice, truth and reconciliation to Indigenous Peoples and provide much needed resources for our collective safety and healing.

Thank you.