

Nde'-Nnee' (Lipan Apache, San Carlos Apache)  
North American Indigenous Peoples' Caucus  
Arcata, California  
March 19-20, 2011

UNPFII -10 Agenda Item 3 (a): Economic and Social Development  
Chairmain Daniel Castro Romero (Lipan Apache Band of Texas), Margo Tamez (Lipan Apache of El Calaboz Rancheria), Michael Paul Hill (San Carlos Apache Tribe)

Dagotee' shikísin Chief Edward John, and Honorable Co-Chairs Dr. Debra Harry and Arthur Manuel.

The contemporary situation of discrimination experienced by Apache Nation Peoples in the United States and along the U.S.-Mexico border region is grave. Apaches are radically impacted as a nation of diversely situated peoples in the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, and who are also dispersed across the U.S. and internationally as a direct result of globalization and war. We are struggling against the violent forces of invisibility, erasure, poverty, health disparities, and increasing fragmentation of our family governance structures.

On the issue of economic and social development, this Apache Delegation wishes to critique the negative consequences of the racially discriminatory politics and institutionalization of blood quantum, Federal Recognition, and Federal Unrecognition. We consider each of these key components of the systematic methods to degrade Apache identity, erase our culture, dismember us from place, and negate our presence in our homelands.

Apache peoples are fractured across the racist classification systems of 'Federally Recognized', "Non Federally Recognized" and "Mexican" racial identifiers, and as a result, we are *differently* marginalized in our opportunities to express and to enjoy economic and social development with culture. This comes as a negative consequence of the Roman Catholic Church, Spain's, Mexico's, and the U.S. historical and ongoing dispossession and expropriation of Apache homelands, and thus, the negation of the reality of Apache Indigenous Proprietary Title.

Crucial factors in the current period are uranium, copper, beryllium, gold, silver, gemstones, oil, natural gas, hydro and water mining as well as Mega Projects such as the Border Wall, the transnational military construction projects, and the CANAMEX Highway System, as well as the piracy and theft of Apache sacred sites in such places as Oak Flats, Amistad Reservoir, the Rio Grande Heritage River corridor, and the Big Bend National Park. All of these are currently unfolding in our traditional homelands to which we adamantly object and resist.

The issue of the Doctrine of Discovery and the interlocking concern of Apache Indigenous proprietary title—is at the core of our concerns for self-determination with economic and social development firmly rooted in the recognition of Apache peoples, culture, identity, and sovereignty.

We have noted that the issues of economic and social development for Unrecognized and Unrepresented Peoples was introduced to the Permanent Forum in 2009, followed up in 2010.

We are concerned at the lack of traction on this issue.

We recommend that the Permanent Forum fast track a formal review of the issues of Unrecognized and Unrepresented peoples in North America, inclusive to the U.S.-Mexico border communities, as well as in Mexico which for Apaches is integral to our millennia-long presence in the hemisphere and particularly in Northern Mexico.

Further, we recommend that the Permanent Forum study the issues of Unrecognized and Unrepresented peoples in North America as it specifically pertains to the implementation of UNDRIP and the particularities and experiences of U.S.-Mexico Indigenous border communities, relative to theft of lands in northern Mexico and in the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. For Apaches represented here, this is integral to our millennia presence in the hemisphere and particularly in the United States and Mexico.

Ahiyi'e. Gracias. Thank you.