



NGO COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

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Officers

Roberto Múkaró Borrero
Chairperson

Daniel LeBlanc
Corresponding Secretary

Dr. Elaine Congress
Recording Secretary

Sandra Sheridan
Treasurer

Rick Chavolla
Member-at-Large

Dr. Joseph Wronka
Member-at-Large

Name of Committee: NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - *"A Special Committee of CoNGO"*

Executive Committee:

Chair - Roberto Múkaró Borrero, Taíno, United Confederation of Taino People

Treasurer- Sandra Sheridan, Sunray Meditation Society
Corresponding Secretary – Daniel Leblanc, OMI and VIVAT International

Recording Secretary – Elaine Congress, IFSW

Member-at-Large- Rick Chavolla, Kumeyaay

Member-at-Large- Joseph Wronka, IASSW

The NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples includes Indigenous Peoples representative organizations and institutions, international NGOs, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), University faculty and students, as well as others interested

in indigenous issues and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples.

Mission: Support activities related to Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations; Promote the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the work of the three indigenous-focused UN mechanisms including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples also seeks to educate the international community about the concerns and issues facing Indigenous Peoples.

Membership:

United Confederation of Taino People, Schaghticoke Tribal Nation, Ramapough Lenape Nation, Sandhill Band of Lenape and Cherokee, The Grail, IPA, Sunray Meditation Society, IASSW, General Board of Church and Society United Methodist Church, TLRDCMF, Proclade International , Encompass- Paradigm Shifts, National Space Society, The Salvation Army, Temple of Understanding, World Christian Life Community, OMI and VIVAT International, Oklahoma State University, Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc, Yale University- Masters Program, UFER, The Grail, Sabita Mother and Children Foundation, Inc., Solidarity For Developing Communities, Solar One, Franciscans International, Inc., International Public Policy Institute, Yachay Wasi, Tribal Link Foundation, Fordham University, Indigenous Armenian.

The amount of the annual contribution fee is \$25.00 per NGO/CBO with a Regular Member and an Associate Member category. These fees provide support for Indigenous peoples for transportation, special projects, honorariums, events.

Significant activities of the Committee:

The Committee has held regular monthly meetings including during the pandemic. Our meetings are focused on and raising visibility of Indigenous issues. Throughout 2018- 2021 either at the regularly- held business meetings or on other dates, the Committee organized special events/programs on its own or in collaboration with other organizations or CoNGO Committee. Here are some of the highlights:

2021

1. April 2021 - Guest Speaker - Dr. Alfred de Zayas - “The right to self-determination and Indigenous Peoples Within the Context of a Socially Just Democratic and Equitable International Order.” Dr. De Zayas is a lawyer, writer, historian in the field of human rights and international law and retired high-ranking United Nations official.
2. June 2021 - Guest Speaker_– Chief Dwaine C. Perry, Ramapo Lenape Nation. The Ramapough Lenape people are local to New York/New Jersey areas. He spoke about the Ramapough-Mohawk Alliance & Museum Reception.
3. February 2021 - Renee Hunter- Shinnecock Nation elder -the Shinnecock Nation is the oldest self-governing tribe in NY State located in eastern Long Island, the town of Southhampton. She spoke about the continual conflicts with encroaching development, land and water rights.

2020

1. October 2020 - Key Note Speaker: Professor Darlando Khathing- Vice-Chancellor at North East Christian University (NECU), Nagaland, India. The first University in the country (India) to be recognized by the Quality Council of India (QCI) as a PrCB provider for Traditional Community Health Providers (TCHP)s as of October 2018. The purpose of the program: To recognize, promote, research, and conserve traditional healing practices while encouraging the development of human resources to facilitate knowledge and creation. He spoke on traditional, indigenous healing practices of the region of Northeast India.
2. November 2020 - Guest Speaker -Elsa Stamatopoulou, Director, Indigenous Peoples' Rights Program, Columbia University, was the first Chief of Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Former Chief of the New York Office, OHCHR.
3. April 2020 - Update on Coronavirus in Indigenous Communities - Indigenous Community in NYC and Beyond - Rick Chavolla, American Indian Community House, NYC.

2019

1. Nov. 2019 – Joint program in collaboration with NGO Committee on the Family, *Balancing Cultural Family Traditions & Modernization*.
2. October 2019 - Speaker - Dr. Rafael LaTorre - Indigenous Peoples in Colombia, medicinal plants and environment.
3. October 2019 - Event co-sponsored with CoNGO, a “Colloquium on Decolonization”.

Activities Initiated, sponsored/cosponsored - The NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples continually sponsors/cosponsors numerous side events at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. For example, in 2019 we sponsored/co-sponsored seven side-events. We were also sponsor/cosponsor of events with other CoNGO Committees.

Indigenous Health Subcommittee - The NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has established the Indigenous Health Subcommittee which meets regularly focusing

on Indigenous Health practices around the world and has sponsored/cosponsored various Indigenous Health events.

U.N. Entities - Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch – Secretariat of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, DISD, DESA. We meet regularly with the staff to learn more about plans for the Forum, the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples and other programs focusing on or of relevance to Indigenous Peoples and how we can contribute. The staff attends our meetings to provide updates as well as have conversation and discussion with Committee members.

2018 – 2021 – The NGO Committee has worked for many years to support the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Special Mechanisms and Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We continue to focus and shine a light on Indigenous Issues educating the international system as well as the local and national systems. The Committee has sent various letters of concern on Indigenous Issues nationally and internationally. For example, to the government of Columbia, the government of U.S.

The Executive Committee meets regularly once a month to follow-up on Committee actions, administration, and business.

