

UNGASS on Indigenous Affairs  
Indigenous Peoples, Healthcare, Mental Health, and Wellness  
United States of America

## ADDRESSING HEALTHCARE AND WELLNESS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Amongst the over 370 million indigenous people in over 70 countries around the globe, subjugation has proved extrusive, significantly shown through the lack of healthcare these groups receive<sup>i</sup>. As health accounts for the physical, mental, and social well being of an individual, this has become especially alarming as diseases are not only more prevalent, but also suicide, lack of education, and more. Even despite the growth of Western medical practices, indigenous groups continue to rely on their tradition healing customs, making it far more difficult for them to benefit from the best sources of modern care. Moreover, this lack of understanding and coordination between globalized society and indigenous groups has made it far more difficult to provide effective health systems to these people.

The United States of America has presented eminent support to raise indigenous healthcare to its greatest level in response to the tremendous calamities our natives have faced. Although we did initially vote against the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) in 2007, we have since changed our position in 2010 with President Obama's review to endorse the document<sup>ii</sup>. The UNDRIP's policies on health care improvements are currently being implemented within U.S. policy in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services along with numerous other executive orders and laws. Most prominently, the Indian Health Service (IHS) acts as the forefront player in the provider of health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives while emphasizing coordination between the two<sup>iii</sup>. The U.S. government has also notably increased the budget funds for the IHS to strengthen the productivity of the agency. Additionally, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) was recently permanently reauthorized in 2010 in collaboration with the main priorities of native tribes<sup>iv</sup>. Among established American native priorities were long-term care, behavior health, and diabetes/dialysis, all which have since been addressed through Indian-government endeavors. Moreover, the United States government has exemplified a distinguished position on health care assistance to indigenous people as recently displayed.

In accordance with our recently executed actions, the United States of America would like to conduct the following SARIA initiative measure in order to assure the highest potential of health care for indigenous groups: Supply of medical materials for indigenous communities, Access to these materials with amplified convenience, Representation of indigenous communities into global health care initiatives, Teacher instruction on proper medical training for indigenous healers, and Assistance which is actively prepared from outside medical personnel and institutions.

As an initial focus, the United States would like to magnify the necessity for an available supply of medical materials specifically for indigenous groups. The Supply initiatives will work alongside the Access medicinal credit program to provide the materials requested by a group. Furthermore, the United States would like to propose a supplemental system for indigenous groups in order to decrease the high rates at which certain diseases and health issues exist. By creating a Super Multi-Vitamin with nutrients such as Vitamin D which decreases tuberculosis, and Vitamin A and Zinc for malaria, we can ensure that the extremely rampant degree of indigenous health concerns are lowered.

With an established source of medical supplies intact, the United States would like to emphasize the accessibility factor towards these materials. Seeing as many indigenous people either find difficulty reaching these from geographic complications, affordability, legal or language barriers, or non-discrimination, we need to find methods for indigenous people to overcome these. The United States would like to do this through a medicinal credit program which will grant each indigenous community a certain number of credits based on population. These credits will be used to “purchase” medical supplies through a postal delivery system. This will also incentive indigenous groups to utilize the provided dietary supplements as they will essentially decrease the demand for further medicinal materials, or use of credits.

Next, the United States would like to encourage a fair representation of indigenous groups into healthcare matters. This will allow for indigenous groups to input their best interests in the doings of healthcare initiatives. The U.S. would like to address this through the establishment of a global mediator body between indigenous groups and larger entities called the Indigenous Representation Institution or IRI. The IRI will provide legal support along with modern technology and resources to ensure indigenous people are completely supported in their priorities.

Additionally, the need for teacher instruction will prove essential in order to most efficiently carry out medicinal treatment. This instruction should focus on towards those who already are indigenous healers, have demonstrated interest in education such as attending college, or simply being of feminine gender (being the designated caretakers). This should be done through the outreach of previous indigenous college students, as this will allow for a more accessible way to indigenous communities. In order to do this, we need to enhance the educational interest of indigenous communities in order to raise the number of those attending and graduating college.

Lastly, the United States would like to provide outside support to indigenous communities, in the scenario that indigenous healers or medical practitioners are not available. By stationing medical clinics within a radius of concentrated indigenous locations or installing a simple computer program into indigenous communities, we can allow them to call out to professional personnel for any further assistance in times of need.

UNGASS on Indigenous Affairs  
Indigenous Land Rights, Climate Change Impacts, and Environmental Protection of Resources  
United States of America

ADDRESSING THE EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT  
ON INDIGENOUS LAND RIGHTS AND RESOURCES

With 22% of traditional indigenous territories encompassing the global land surface, native groups have become especially vulnerable to environmental crises, most notably climate change<sup>v</sup>. As these indigenous groups rely directly upon their land for survival, they have become increasingly subjected towards the rampant effects climate change has burdened on the international community. Among these are the loss of land and/or resources, human right concerns, and overall living conditions. Moreover, these indigenous groups are encountering a modern crisis as they are unable to cope with the consequences of climate change due to their past dependence on their own traditional knowledge and overall marginalization in society. As a result, this has led to even further subjugation of indigenous rights as land has become increasingly more disputed due to the growing scarcity of environmental resources from climate change.

The United States of America recognizes the vast hardships faced by indigenous groups in regards to environmental, land, and natural resource matters, and therefore has emphasized a committed policy to improve this situation. Though we ourselves as a nation and individual states have taken part in grievous land-related acts against indigenous groups, we have since expressed the need to provide redress in order to compensate for past losses. Most prominently, we have acknowledged the given provisions on native land and environment concerns in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) as shown through the endorsement of numerous measures since 2010. For example, we have committed to the acquirement of 34,000 acres of land in trust of indigenous tribes in order to ensure that this land is utilized for effective development purposes<sup>vi</sup>. Additionally, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also published an official Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples in 2014 which addresses the protection of environmental concerns of indigenous territories in coordination with its 17 key principles<sup>vii</sup>. The United States has also approved of the usage of renewable energy sources in indigenous communities as confirmed and funded by the Department of Energy (DOE)<sup>viii</sup>. Moreover, the United States has demonstrated a prominent role in ensuring indigenous land and environment protection despite our previous denounced actions.

In compliance with our previously instated policies, the United States would like to endorse the following PPRS initiative measure in order to ensure the greatest possible situations for indigenous people on the environmental front: Prevention of climate change from occurring on its current rate, Protection from natural disasters and current effects of climate change,

Representation of indigenous communities to defend them in land and resource right motives, and Support from other outside assets rather than only sustenance dependence.

To begin with, the United States finds it important to limit the rate at which climate change is occurring in order to decrease indigenous land issues as a result. We would like to do this through the implementation of simple renewable energy technologies into indigenous societies, as many American native groups have previously done. Examples of these include BioEnergy domes that simultaneously assist with crop production, pedal-powered generators to equally assist with healthy lifestyles (which are of interest for indigenous people), and traditional solar power usage. By making use of indigenous land for these renewable sources, we can ensure that climate change ceases to escalate at the rate it currently is.

Additionally, the United States believes that with the current position of climate change, we need to ensure that indigenous communities are protected from any natural disasters or harmful effects of its doing. By implementing systems such as floating vegetable gardens in global regions of flood prevalence, this can allow indigenous groups to ensure food security even within the midst of climate change hardships. Additionally, BioEnergy domes can again be useful in this aspect as they can provide a place for yearlong crop and fish productivity, whereas natural climates do not allow for proper growth.

Next, the United States would like to encourage a fair representation of indigenous groups into land and environmental affairs. This is especially important seeing as many indigenous communities are lacked of this crucial say in governmental or corporal affairs causing them to be further exploited. The U.S. would like to address this through the establishment of a global mediator body between indigenous groups and larger entities called the Indigenous Representation Institution or IRI. The IRI will provide legal support along with modern technology and resources to ensure indigenous people are completely supported in their priorities.

Lastly, the United States would like to ensure outside outlets of support exist for indigenous groups so that they do not have to depend entirely upon a subsistence lifestyle. This is crucially important seeing as with climate change and other harmful factors that are not of their doing, they are unable to provide for themselves at a productive rate. Furthermore, by again incorporating these renewable energy sources such as BioEnergy Domes or other means of profit, we can enable indigenous groups to make money to purchase other sources of items.

ADDRESSING AN EFFICIENT APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FROM POVERTY

Out of the 5% of indigenous people that make up the global community, they still happen to account for roughly 15% of the world's impoverished population<sup>ix</sup>. Despite the abundant resources and assets in the hands of indigenous groups, the exceptional prevalence of marginalization and exploitation has allowed them to attain a lower position in society. Simply because of their traditional differences and discriminatory inequalities, it has made it tremendously more difficult for indigenous people to take part in proper development. As a result, indigenous communities have suffered unemployment, poor housing, lack of education, food insecurity, and more. Even when these factors are achieved, indigenous people still manage to become subjected to impoverished situations due to their lack of control on their own rights and possessions.

With 566 recognized tribal entities in the United States, the poverty rate of these groups is still given to be around three times higher than the average rate<sup>x</sup>. We have recognized this abundant and outrageous case and have since addressed numerous factors to ensure that indigenous development from poverty can be achieved. With our approval of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People in 2010, we have enforced numerous endeavors towards sustainable economic growth, along with other social indigenous issues. For example, we have increased our national budget towards training and employment services in coordination with tribes and other NGOs. Additionally the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has allocated nearly \$510 million towards new structures and rehabilitation of current housing for indigenous people<sup>xi</sup>. We also currently have a National Advisory Council on Indian Education of the Department of Education's which has been coordinating recent accommodations with Indian tribes in regards to educational improvements<sup>xii</sup>. Furthermore, the United States has demonstrated a definite positive position on the productive development of indigenous communities as shown through our previously instated efforts.

In compliance with our recently enforced policies, the United States would like to endorse the following ESR initiative in order to ensure the most efficient process of development for indigenous people: Economic independence to guarantee financial stability, Social well being to ensure a productive and healthy indigenous lifestyle, and Representation of indigenous groups into poverty development initiatives.

Most importantly, the United States finds it vital to emphasize the economic independence of indigenous groups in order to allow them to become self reliant from the rest of society. We

believe the most efficient way to proceed with this is by making use of the natural resources and land available to indigenous people so they can make economic progress. By implementing renewable energy measures, this can allow indigenous groups to sell energy for profit, further enhancing the profits of these groups. Additionally, the Agribusiness Infrastructure Development Investment Program (AIDIP) can assist indigenous people in their investments for agriculture which can ultimately allow them to become self-sustaining societies<sup>xiii</sup>. The AIDIP is currently focused in Asia, but by initiating in other regions of the world, we can ensure further indigenous development proceeds.

Next, the United States finds it necessary to maintain a state of social well being for indigenous groups to ensure a lifestyle of the greatest possible capability. Seeing as indigenous food security, education, health, housing, and more are all poorly accounted for, it is crucial to enhance these services for the better benefit of indigenous people. By again enforcing BioEnergy domes and floating vegetable gardens, this can enhance the food security of indigenous communities as it will allow for food growth to continue to occur on elongated time periods. Additionally, housing rehabilitation and education outreach should be greatly enforced in order to ensure that indigenous people can contribute to these outreach efforts in the future.

Lastly, the United States would like to encourage a just representation of indigenous groups into development matters as to ensure they are involved in any larger decisions. This is imperative seeing as indigenous opinions are vital in order to ensure that the most efficient development can occur. The U.S. would like to address this through the establishment of a global mediator body between indigenous groups and larger entities called the Indigenous Representation Institution or IRI. The IRI will provide legal support along with modern technology and resources to ensure indigenous people are completely supported in their priorities.

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- <sup>i</sup> <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs326/en/>
- <sup>ii</sup> <http://www.state.gov/s/tribalconsultation/declaration/>
- <sup>iii</sup> <https://www.ihs.gov/aboutihs/overview/>
- <sup>iv</sup> <http://www.nihb.org/tribalhealthreform/ihcia/>
- <sup>v</sup> [https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/european\\_parliament\\_study\\_on\\_indigenous\\_peoples\\_and\\_climate\\_change.pdf](https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/european_parliament_study_on_indigenous_peoples_and_climate_change.pdf)
- <sup>vi</sup> <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/153223.pdf>
- <sup>vii</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples>
- <sup>viii</sup> <http://energy.gov/articles/energy-department-selects-11-tribal-communities-deploy-energy-efficiency-and-renewable>
- <sup>ix</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/indigenouspeoples/overview>
- <sup>x</sup> <http://www.iwgia.org/regions/north-america/united-states>
- <sup>xi</sup> <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/153223.pdf>
- <sup>xii</sup> <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/153223.pdf>
- <sup>xiii</sup> <http://aidip.gov.in/home1.html>