

One Hundred Third Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,
the fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-three*

Concurrent Resolution

Whereas United Nations Resolution 45/164 of December 18, 1990, proclaimed the year 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples, in order to strengthen international cooperation for a solution to the problems faced by indigenous communities in areas such as human rights, the environment, development, education, and health;

Whereas indigenous peoples are descendants of the original inhabitants of many countries with diverse cultures, religions, languages, and social and economic customs;

Whereas an estimated 300 million indigenous peoples live in more than 70 countries, including the United States;

Whereas indigenous peoples are often disadvantaged and face common difficulties in their homelands, including issues such as self-determination, the preservation of land and natural resources, the preservation of culture, arts, and language, and dismal social and economic conditions;

Whereas many indigenous peoples continue to face discrimination and exploitation in their homelands;

Whereas the rights and social and economic conditions of indigenous peoples have often been overlooked by individual nations and the international community; and

Whereas the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations has drafted a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the United States should cooperate with the United Nations in its efforts to raise the level of public interest in and consciousness of the problems of indigenous peoples;

(2) the United States should address the rights and improve the social and economic conditions of its own indigenous peoples, including Native American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Chamorros, American Samoans, and Palauans;

(3) the United States should support the United Nations in its efforts to establish international standards on the rights of indigenous peoples; and

(4) the United States recognizes that the year 1993 is an insufficient time period for promoting public awareness of the plight of indigenous peoples and urges the United Nations

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to proclaim an International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Attest:

Secretary of the Senate.

Attest:

Clerk of the House of Representatives.