



Amazigh Confederation of North Africa Ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

We, the Amazigh (often called 'Berber') people of North Africa, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our nations, rights secured under the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and to preserve Amazigh cultural values and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Amazigh people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Imazighen are believed to have inhabited northwestern Africa since at least 10,000 BC, the Imazighen remain the original people of North Africa from time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Amazigh nations were established in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, northern Mali, northern Niger and western Egypt as independent sovereign, self-governing nations with established lands and common migration routes; and

WHEREAS, Amazigh peoples consent to self-governance through Indigenous Nations in our own homelands; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Amazigh acknowledges our nations and tribes as original sovereigns and affirms a nation-to-nation relationship between Amazigh Nations as a Confederation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to our inherent sovereign rights of self-governance and self-determination, Amazigh nations possess sovereignty, tribal laws and a constitutionally established tribal government to ensure legal protection of indigenous Amazigh rights under the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its inherent sovereign rights of self-governance and self-determination, Amazigh nations have established wholly-owned tribal lands and has duly enacted tribal laws authorizing the protection of these; and

WHEREAS, Amazigh indigenous nations have distinct identities, cultures, languages and traditions and have all experienced encroachment on our traditional homelands; and

WHEREAS, since time immemorial the lands that are now known as Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, northern Mali, northern Niger and a small part of western Egypt have been the sacred homelands of Amazigh Nations; and



Amazigh Confederation of North Africa Ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS, Amazigh Nations retain the inherent right to self-determination that has been recognized by the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations; and

WHEREAS, the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations includes legal protections to protect Amazigh jurisdiction over tribal lands, resources and migration routes; and

WHEREAS, under the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, tribes are expressly defined as “nations”, thereby recognizing the authority of tribal governments to represent the legal rights of tribal people; and

WHEREAS, the political and economic self-determination and self-sufficiency of these tribes depend on their ability to sustainably manage their land and natural resources and ensure that tribal members use these resources in a sustainable way; and

WHEREAS, with the ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations, Imazighen Amazigh may formulate a formal policy with tribal governments of Imazighen in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, northern Mali, northern Niger, and western Egypt, focusing on autonomy, protection of human rights, land and resource rights, and protection of sacred sites of the Imazighen; and

WHEREAS, the Amazigh nations agree to work cooperatively and collaboratively with each other as a Confederation of Amazigh Nations, thereby recognizing the authority of participating tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, Amazigh nations seek to ensure all aspects of tribal or national sovereignty are included and implemented, including the right to tribal self-determination and self-regulation as recognized under the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations; and

WHEREAS, to protect Amazigh hunting and fishing practices, including the harvesting and sharing of fish, game and other resources and the ceremonies that accompany these practices which are essential to the social, cultural, spiritual and economic well being and survival of the Imazighen; and



Amazigh Confederation of North Africa Ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS, the nation states of North Africa do not recognize Amazigh indigenous sovereignty as established by laws nor do they have mechanisms to adequately ensure the Amazigh's role in the management of traditional resources; and

WHEREAS, through a series of broken promises by the national governments of North Africa, Imazighen have been denied the right to manage hunting, fishing and gathering even on the lands conveyed to them through the settlement of their aboriginal land claims; and

WHEREAS, Imazighen and their tribal leaders demand to be restored their rightful role as the hereditary stewards over these lands with their own indigenous food and wildlife resources, with co-management rights and responsibilities to be at least equal to those of the federal governments and without any further limitation,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Amazigh Confederation of North Africa hereby formally endorses and ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of the Amazigh Confederation until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Amazigh leadership of Libya and Morocco on October 17th 2020.

[signed]