

Tuareg Tribes of North Africa ratify the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, the representatives of the Tuareg tribes of North Africa, declare:

- A. The Tuareg people are a large Tuareg-speaking Berber (Amazigh) ethnic group that inhabits a vast area stretching from far southwestern Libya to southern Algeria, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso.
- B. For at least four thousand years, nomadic people of the Tuareg tribes of North Africa have subsisted by hunting and grazing livestock throughout their vast domain.
- C. The Tuareg tribes of North Africa traditionally reside in some of the most isolated desert areas and because of this isolation, they have lived relatively undisturbed. These desert areas are essential to the livelihoods of the nomadic Tuareg tribes.
- D. When African countries achieved widespread independence in the 1960s, the traditional Tuareg territory was divided among a number of modern states: Niger, Mali, Algeria, Libya, and Burkina Faso. Competition for resources in the Sahel has since led to conflicts between the Tuareg and neighboring African population groups.
- E. Tuareg tribes of North Africa have struggled for decades due to policies of state ownership of desert areas that deny land rights to nomadic Tuareg tribes while permitting development by outsiders.
- F. Tuareg tribes of North Africa strongly support the principle of tribal autonomy with assured access to water and land.
- G. The International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations supports recognition of the autonomy of Tuareg tribes of North Africa together with hundreds of other tribal leagues and nations all around the world.
- H. It is the policy of the Tuareg tribes of North Africa to promote the development of prosperous and resilient tribal communities through providing greater access to, and control over, nutrition and healthcare, including special efforts to confront historic health disparities.
- I. The Tuareg tribes of North Africa tribes are continuing to seek justice for the basic right to land and water access to protect traditional government, laws and traditional courts
- J. The leadership of the Tuareg tribes has endorsed the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations including provisions that support Tuareg tribal interests including, but are not limited to, the right to participate in negotiations, the protection of longstanding treaty rights, the protection of Indigenous cultural property and traditional knowledge, the inclusion of Indigenous negotiators and the incorporation of customary tribal laws.
- K. The interests of Indigenous peoples of the Tuareg tribes can be met more effectively through ratifying and implementing the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

- A. The Tuareg tribes of North Africa fully support tribal governmental self-determination that protects Tuareg traditional laws and legal system and grants authority to manage lands, national resources and other environmental resources; and
- B. The Tuareg tribes of North Africa do hereby solemnly declare their endorsement and ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations and pledge to take continuing steps to implement its provisions.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Tuareg tribes of North Africa on March 29th 2022.

Name
Abd Bidarine

