

## Zuwayya Tribal Nation ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS we, the representatives of the Zuwayya tribal nation of Libya, declare:

- A. The Zuwayya (Arabic: الزوية *Al-Zuwayya*) are an independent Murabtin tribe, one of the major Arab Bedouin tribes of Cyrenaica and Fezzan, Libya.
- B. Since time immemorial the lands that are now known as Libya have been the sacred homelands of Indigenous tribes called the Zuwayya.
- C. Traditionally practicing nomadic pastoralism of sheep and camels in a triangular area with its apex at Ajdabiya, the Zuwayya conquered the richest oasis of the interior, Kufra, in 1840, subduing the Toubou tribes. The Zuwayya tribe owns most of the date palm groves of the Kufra oases, employing the Toubou tribesmen as labourers.
- D. The Zuwayya tribe took part in the Libyan Civil War on the side of the opposition. The head of the tribe, Shaikh Faraj al Zuway, threatened to cut off Libyan oil exports unless the Gaddafi government stopped the "suppression of protestors".
- E. People of the Zuwayya Indigenous Nation have distinct identities, cultures, languages and traditions and have all experienced encroachment on our traditional homeland.
- F. The Zuwayya Indigenous Nation retains its inherent right to self-determination that is recognized under the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.
- G. There is an ongoing need for Zuwayya as Indigenous Peoples to work collectively to protect and advance their rights both across Libya and internationally in this digital age.
- H. Indigenous leaders from Zuwayya throughout Libya meeting on March 11th 2022 jointly decided to establish and declare the autonomy of the Zuwayya Council of Indigenous Peoples in order to create an indigenous framework for Zuwayya Indigenous partnership together to work collectively to protect their individual and tribal rights.
- I. An interim Executive Council was formed to organize the final draft of this document ratifying the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The Zuwayya Indigenous Nation recognizes and affirms its inherent rights of self-determination of Indigenous Nations, which includes the right to enter into nation-to-nation agreements with one another in their mutual interest and benefit; and
2. The Zuwayya Indigenous Nation hereby solemnly affirms and ratifies the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Nations in its entirety and vows to uphold its statutes.
3. The Zuwayya Indigenous Nation will respect and uphold the dignity of all tribal nations of North Africa and the Middle East.

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

### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Zuwayya Council of Indigenous Peoples on April 11th 2022.

Title  
Sheik

Name  
Nefzi Samir

Signature

