OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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NAVAJO NATION HUMAN HOSTS FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' ALTA, NORWAY OUTCOME DOCUMENT

ST. MICHAELS, A.Z. – On Monday, July 29th, the Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and Office of the Navajo Nation Speaker held an Indigenous Leaders preparatory meeting on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples' Alta, Norway Outcome Document at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort. The preparatory meeting was hold in-advance of the listening session to be hosted by the United States Department of State and Department of Interior.

The purpose of the preparatory meeting was to discuss and review the United Nations approving the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to be held in September 2014 in New York City, New York at the U.N. Headquarters and the Alta, Norway Outcome Document which will be the document used at the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

The Department of State will be inviting Indigenous Leaders of the United States to meet in Washington, DC at the Department of Interior's Sidney R. Yates Auditorium in the Fall 2013 to discuss issues to be presented at the World Conference. The goal of the Commission is to formulate unified recommendations with Indigenous elected Leaders for the meeting with the United States and U.N. members who will be present at the 2014 World Conference.

The listening session by the Department of State and Interior is tentatively focusing on topics which will impact Indigenous Nations and Peoples. Topics such as: addressing violence against Indigenous women and children; establishing a new U.N. monitoring body to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; or the protection and preservation of Sacred Sites.

"The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples will be a historic event. The Navajo Human Rights Commission does not want this conference to be just another gathering but a vehicle to see real change in domestic policies," said Leonard Gorman, Executive Director of the Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission.

Gorman also stated, "the Navajo Human Rights Commission has several initiates in the world human rights forums. The World Conference is another vehicle to ensure the world community recognizes the Navajo people's human rights."

"I look forward to building upon the progress made by the Navajo Human Rights Commission in addressing human rights issues such as, violence and abuse of Diné women and the protection of our sacred sites throughout our land," said Navajo Nation Speaker Johnny Naize.

Speaker Naize also states, "I will continue to advocate for the human rights of the Diné people and will continue to work with the Commission and other entities to address such issues, and I look forward to what will result from the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples."

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