

103D CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S. CON. RES. 44**

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To express the sense of the Congress concerning the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

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## **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

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

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

7           (2) the United States should address the rights  
8       and improve the social and economic conditions of  
9       its own indigenous peoples, including Native Amer-

1       ican Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians,  
2       Chamorros, American Samoans, and Palauans;

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

6               (4) the United States recognizes that the year  
7       1993 is an insufficient time period for promoting  
8       public awareness of the plight of indigenous peoples  
9       and urges the United Nations to proclaim an Inter-  
10      national Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

              Passed the Senate November 20 (legislative day, No-  
              vember 2), 1993.

              Attest:

*Secretary.*