

# Indigenous Peoples and International Law

- 1977 The United Nations Non-Governmental Organization Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas was held at the Palais Des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Indian delegates proposed a Draft Declaration of Principles for the Defense of the Indigenous Nations and Peoples of the Western Hemisphere.
- 1980 The Fourth Russell Tribunal on the Rights of the Indians of the Americas was held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The findings and conclusions of the tribunals were forwarded to the UN Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.
- 1982 The U.N. Working Groups on Indigenous Populations was established to draft a Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for proclamation by the UN General Assembly. The Working Group also reviews the status of indigenous rights.
- 1989 The U.N. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities appointed Miguel Alfonso Martinez as Special Rapporteur to prepare a study on treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements between indigenous peoples and nation-states. Rapporteur Martinez is expected to complete his study and submit a final report to the Subcommission by 1993.
- 1990 The U.N. General Assembly proclaims 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples.
- 1990 The first Continental Encounter of Indigenous Peoples was held in Quito, Ecuador which changed the practice of taking Indigenous peoples concerns to Europe, but that the first meeting of Indigenous Peoples was held here in the Americas.
- 1992 The Inauguration of the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples was held in New York City. Indigenous Leaders from around the world met together to elevate the debate of human rights to sovereignty rights as well as to raise world consciousness regarding Indigenous issues.