

ALGONQUIN NATION

*Traditional Chief William Commands, Whampum Belt Carrier
Kikigan Zibi Reserve
Montreal, Quebec, Canada*

April 4, 1994

United Nations Economic and Social Council
United Nations, New York City
United States of America

Dear Sirs, Madams:

We, as Traditional Indigenous Leaders of the Algonquin Nation, are greatly concerned at the proposed changes and repeal of NGO Consultative status given to various new members of the ECOSOC Consultative body, in particular, the Wittenburg Center for Alternative Resources.

As Indigenous Leaders, we have repeatedly, since 1943, been appealing to the United Nations Members and Bodies to recognize and consider the input, the perspectives of indigenous people. In this era of global environmental, social and economic crisis, Indigenous peoples, as spokespersons for the Earth, have critical contributions to make towards the urgent need for building a stable and sustainable World future.

The fact that the Indigenous Native peoples of the World, as an entire Race of Humanity, have been excluded from input into United Nations policy setting, is a serious oversight and reflects limitations in global understanding, global policy and decision making. It also underscores pointed evidence of Human Rights violations; racial, economic and military injustices at the foundation of many of the World's modern institutions.

The Wittenburg Center has played a Key role in allowing the contributions of Traditional Indigenous Nations to be heard within the United Nations, including opening the Doors for our perspectives to be heard at the Cry of the Earth Conference in November, 1992. As well, it has represented our concerns towards human rights issues, and global policy development. This is of significant import, as we have been attempting to achieve these communications since 1948.