International Actions to Protect the Reproductive Health of Indigenous Women, Human Rights, & Future Generations

Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT), the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), and the International Indigenous Women’s Initiative on Environmental and Reproductive Health are co-hosting this webinar on how we can take action using the United Nations Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs Treaty) and other U.N. mechanisms to protect the reproductive health and well-being of Indigenous women.
This training will address:

• The Stockholm Convention: why Indigenous Peoples got involved, what we achieved, and where we go from here;
• how to achieve progress by adding new chemicals to the banned list (with case studies about how we achieved global bans on such chemicals as lindane and endosulfan);
• how POPs affect Indigenous women’s health in the Arctic and other regions;
• a rights-based approach based on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international standards, and work to halt the US production and export of banned pesticides;
• and work with Countries, Indigenous Peoples, NGO Allies and the UN system to create change and ensure accountability.
Order of Presentations

Introductions by Andrea Carmen & Pamela Miller

- Jackie Warledo, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, International Indian Treaty Council trainer and a participant in the drafting process of the Stockholm Convention;
- Pamela Miller, Executive Director of Alaska Community Action on Toxics;
- Vi Waghiyi, St. Lawrence Island Yupik of the Native Village of Savoonga, Environmental Health and Justice Program Director of Alaska Community Action on Toxics.
- Andrea Carmen, Yaqui Nation, Executive Director of International Indian Treaty Council;

A discussion period during the second hour is open for participants’ questions, answers, comments and other input.

*Please press *2 to mute or un-mute your phone line.*
Jackie Warledo
International Indian Treaty Council

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jackie@treatycouncil.org
405-382-1223
International Actions to Protect the Reproductive Health of Indigenous Women, Human Rights, and Future Generations

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Pamela Miller
Executive Director
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
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www.akaction.org
“Aware of the health concerns…in particular impacts upon women and children and, through them, upon future generations.”

“Conscious of the need for global action…”

“Acknowledging that precaution underlies the concerns of all the Parties and is embedded within this Convention…”

“Determined to protect human health and the environment…”

“Acknowledging that the Arctic ecosystems and Indigenous communities are particularly at risk…”
Stockholm Convention—Initial Chemicals
The “Dirty Dozen”

ANNEX A—Elimination

- Aldrin—insecticide
- Endrin—insecticide
- Dieldrin—insecticide
- Chlordane—insecticide (particularly termites)
- Heptachlor—insecticide
- HCB—solvent used in pesticides
- Mirex—insecticide
- Toxaphene—insecticide
- PCBs—industrial chemical used in electrical applications
Stockholm Convention—Initial Chemicals
The “Dirty Dozen”

ANNEX B—Restriction

- DDT—Production and use for “acceptable purpose” as disease vector control (malaria) and specific exemption as intermediate in dicofol production

- “with the goal of reducing and eventually eliminating the use of DDT…”
Stockholm Convention—Initial Chemicals
The “Dirty Dozen”

Annex C—Unintentional Production

“Parties must take measures to reduce the unintentional releases with the goal of continuing minimization and, where feasible, ultimate elimination.”

- Dioxins
- Furans
- HCB
- PCBs
Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC)

Scientific committee of the Stockholm Convention that is mandated to assess any proposal by a Party for a chemical to be listed as a POP in Annex A, B, and/or C of the Convention.
POPs Review Committee
### Membership of the POPRC

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<td>(4) Burkina Faso, Morocco, Sierra Leone, South Africa</td>
<td>(4) Chad, Ghana, Mauritius, Togo</td>
<td>(4) Egypt, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia</td>
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<td>(4) China, Japan, Jordan, Thailand</td>
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<td>(4) China, Japan, Jordan, Thailand</td>
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<td>(2) Armenia, Czech Republic</td>
<td>(1) Bulgaria</td>
<td>(2) Czech Republic, Ukraine</td>
<td>(1) Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</td>
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<td>(3) Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico</td>
<td>(2) Chile, Honduras</td>
<td>(3) Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica</td>
<td>(2) Cuba, Brazil</td>
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<td>(4) Australia, Canada, Germany, Sweden</td>
<td>(3) France, Portugal, Switzerland</td>
<td>(4) Canada, Finland, Germany, New Zealand</td>
<td>(3) France, Netherlands, Norway</td>
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Indigenous and NGO Groups Have Vital Role in Stockholm Convention
The Process for Listing a POP

- The POPRC reviews proposals submitted by Parties in accordance with Article 8 in three stages

1) Annex D -- Screening
   - Persistence, Bioaccumulation, Long-range transport, Adverse Effects

2) Annex E—Risk Profile—Assessment of Properties
   "lack of full scientific certainty shall not prevent the proposal from proceeding…"

3) Annex F--Prepare Risk Management Evaluation
   Socio-economic considerations and Alternatives

- Recommend to COP to consider listing
- COP makes a decision
Stockholm Convention Milestones

- **February 1997**—UN Environment Program establishes intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC)
- **May 2001**—92 countries and EC sign the global legally-binding treaty
- **May 2004**—the Convention enters into force
- **May 2009**—Fourth Conference of the Parties (COP4)—nine new chemicals added
- **May 2011**—Fifth Conference of the Parties (COP5)—endosulfan added for global elimination
- **April 2013**—Sixth Conference of the Parties (COP6), HBCD to be considered for global elimination—179 Parties (Not U.S.)
“New” POPs Chemicals Added in 2009 and 2011

Eight substances listed in Annex A of the Stockholm Convention:

- **Alpha-hexachlorocyclohexane** (Alpha-HCH)—no exemption
- **Beta-hexachlorocyclohexane** (Beta-HCH)—no exemption
- **Chlordecone**—no exemption
- **Hexabromobiphenyl** (HBB)—no exemption
- **Lindane** (Gamma-HCH)—five-year exemption for treatment of head ice and scabies
- **Pentachlorobenzene** (PeCB)—no exemption; also listed in Annex C
- **C-Octabromodiphenyl ether** (OctaBDE)—specific components of the commercial mixture were listed, including hexabromodiphenyl ether (HexaBDE) and heptabromodiphenyl ether (HeptaBDE). This listing includes an exemption allowing for recycling of products containing these substances.
- **C-Pentabromodiphenyl ether** (PentaBDE)—specific components of the commercial mixture were listed, including tetrabromodiphenyl ether (TetraBDE) and pentabromodiphenyl ether (PentaBDE). This listing includes an exemption allowing for recycling of products containing these substances.
- **Endosulfan**—with exemptions
Lindane (Gamma-HCH)—Annex A with exemption for pharmaceutical uses

- Broad spectrum insecticide
- Used in “treatment” for lice and scabies

**Effects:**
- Neurotoxicant—associated with seizures and memory impairment
- Hepatotoxic, immunotoxic, reproductive, and developmental effects in animals
Lindane Production Generates Highly Persistent Alpha- and Beta-HCH Isomers
“Lindane is stored in significant amounts in the brain and functioning liver tissue and may induce ‘profound and long-lasting effects on the central nervous system.’”
The “special” case of PFOs

Listed in Annex B of the Stockholm Convention:

- **Perfluorooctane sulfonate** (PFOS) including its salts and Perfluorooctane sulfanyl fluoride (PFOSF)—allows for on-going production and uses defined as specific exemptions (with five-year time limit, although these exemptions may be renewed) and acceptable purposes (no time limit established for phase-out).

- PFOS uses include closed system and dispersive uses: fire fighting foams, carpets, apparel, textiles/upholstery, paper and packaging, coatings, industrial and household cleaning products, *pesticides and other insecticides*, photographic industry, and semiconductor manufacturing, hydraulic fluids, and metal plating.

- **Effects:** PFOS has demonstrated toxicity towards mammals in sub-chronic repeated dose studies at low concentrations, as well as rat *reproductive toxicity* with mortality of pups occurring shortly after birth. Environmental toxicity data for PFOS is predominantly found for *aquatic organisms* such as fish, invertebrates and algae, and for birds.
**HBCD—Background**

**HBCD – hexabromocyclododecane**
- High production volume additive brominated flame retardant—HBCD is the third most used brominated flame retardant
- The POPRC decided in October 2012 to recommend to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration, the listing of hexabromocyclododecane in Annex A to the Convention with certain specific exemptions.

**Main uses are**
- Flame retardant in expanded and extruded polystyrene for building insulation, including roofing insulation products, wall insulation, cold storage, foundation insulation, and exterior siding underlay
- In vehicle insulation
- Textile coatings
- High impact polystyrene for electrical and electronic equipment
HBCD—Global Elimination Needed!

• found in human blood, breast milk, and adipose tissue
• people are exposed through food and household dust
• babies are exposed to HBCD in their early development because it can be transferred across the placenta and mother’s milk
• ubiquitous in remote regions such as the Arctic and found in fish, birds, bird eggs, and marine mammals that are important as traditional foods in the diet of Indigenous peoples
• associated with reproductive, neurological, behavioral, developmental, and thyroid effects with some of the effects being trans-generational
• developing babies and infants are particularly vulnerable to the observed neuro-endocrine and developmental toxicity of HBCD
International Actions to Protect the Reproductive Health of Indigenous Women, Human Rights, and Future Generations

Reproductive Health Impacts of Global Transport and POPS in Arctic Communities

Vi Waghiyi
St. Lawrence Island Yupik, Native Village of Savoonga,

Environmental Health and Justice Program Director
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
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www.akaction.org
Annie Alowa
we remember her knowledge and forewarning as a respected community health aide and elder

- She was a keen and trained observer about the health of her people
- She observed higher rates of cancers among the people whose families lived and worked at Northeast Cape
- She witnessed miscarriages and low birth weight babies, especially among those families closely associated with Northeast Cape
- Her concerns were not taken seriously by state and federal agencies
- This is why we are here today
Where is St. Lawrence Island?

Located in the Pacific Ocean, between Chukotkan Peninsula of Russia and the U.S.
Global Transport of Persistent Chemicals into the Arctic

THE GRASSHOPPER EFFECT
AND OUT-OF-CANADA SOURCES

Source Regions for Agricultural and Industrial Contaminants
- Agricultural
- Industrial
- Dominant Air Currents
- Atlantic Water Circulation
- River discharge

Concentrations of one HCH compound have been found to increase from south-to-north along a line from the Java Sea (off Indonesia and China) to the Beaufort Sea (AMAP, 1997).
Contaminants in the North

- The north has become a hemispheric sink for pesticides and other industrial chemicals
- Northern food webs favor the deposition and retention of persistent, bioaccumulative toxics
- Contaminants in the north threaten the health of peoples that rely on traditional diets of fish and marine mammals
- Global warming enhances the mobilization and transport of contaminants from local and distant sources
“How could the Arctic, seemingly untouched by contemporary ills, so innocent, so primitive, so natural, be home to the most contaminated people on the planet? I had stumbled on what is perhaps the greatest environmental injustice on Earth.”

Marla Cone, Silent Snow
PCBs in Blood Serum of St. Lawrence Island People

- Levels of PCBs in the blood of St. Lawrence Island Yupik people **6-9 times higher** than average in lower-48 populations
- Evidence of PCBs accumulating in the Arctic via global transport
- Military contamination also a significant source
- Published in the *International Journal of Circumpolar Health* (Carpenter et al., 2005)
Health Effects Associated with PCBs

- PCBs cause cancer
- They weaken the immune system
- They increase risk of diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease
- They interfere with neurodevelopment, nervous system function, and IQ
- They alter hormone systems, including the thyroid and reproductive hormones

--Dr. David O. Carpenter, M.D., School of Public Health, Institute for Health and the Environment, University at Albany
Disease Patterns Observed on St. Lawrence Island

- Cancers
- Thyroid disease
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Low birth weight babies, premature births, still births, miscarriages
- Other reproductive health problems
Mother Earth; Mothers’ Milk; Mothers’ Stories

Sum PBDE concentrations

PBDEs ppt (pg/g lw)
0 5000 10000 15000 20000 25000 30000 35000 40000 45000

Philippines Alaska Mexico Kenya Czech Republic*

Br10-DPE-209 Br9-DPE-208 Br9-DPE-207 Br9-DPE-206 Br8-DPE-203 Br7-DPE-183 Br6-DPE-155 Br6-DPE-154 Br6-DPE-153 Br6-DPE-152 Br6-DPE-151 Br6-DPE-150 Br5-DPE-149 Br5-DPE-148 Br5-DPE-147 Br5-DPE-146 Br5-DPE-145 Br5-DPE-144 Br5-DPE-143 Br5-DPE-142 Br5-DPE-141 Br5-DPE-140 Br5-DPE-139 Br5-DPE-138/166 Br5-DPE-137 Br5-DPE-136 Br5-DPE-135 Br5-DPE-134 Br5-DPE-133 Br5-DPE-132 Br5-DPE-131 Br5-DPE-130 Br5-DPE-129 Br5-DPE-128 Br5-DPE-127 Br5-DPE-126 Br5-DPE-125 Br5-DPE-124 Br5-DPE-123 Br5-DPE-122 Br5-DPE-121 Br5-DPE-120 Br5-DPE-119/120 Br5-DPE-118 Br5-DPE-117 Br5-DPE-116 Br5-DPE-115 Br5-DPE-114 Br5-DPE-113 Br5-DPE-112 Br5-DPE-111 Br5-DPE-110 Br5-DPE-109 Br5-DPE-108 Br5-DPE-107 Br5-DPE-106 Br5-DPE-105 Br5-DPE-104 Br5-DPE-103 Br5-DPE-102 Br5-DPE-101 Br5-DPE-100 Br5-DPE-99 Br5-DPE-98 Br5-DPE-97 Br5-DPE-96 Br5-DPE-95 Br5-DPE-94 Br5-DPE-93 Br5-DPE-92 Br5-DPE-91 Br5-DPE-90 Br5-DPE-89 Br5-DPE-88 Br5-DPE-87 Br5-DPE-86 Br5-DPE-85 Br5-DPE-84 Br5-DPE-83 Br5-DPE-82 Br5-DPE-81 Br5-DPE-80 Br5-DPE-79 Br5-DPE-78 Br5-DPE-77 Br5-DPE-76 Br5-DPE-75 Br5-DPE-74 Br5-DPE-73 Br5-DPE-72 Br5-DPE-71 Br5-DPE-70 Br5-DPE-69 Br5-DPE-68 Br5-DPE-67 Br5-DPE-66 Br5-DPE-65 Br5-DPE-64 Br5-DPE-63 Br5-DPE-62 Br5-DPE-61 Br5-DPE-60 Br5-DPE-59 Br5-DPE-58 Br5-DPE-57 Br5-DPE-56 Br5-DPE-55 Br5-DPE-54 Br5-DPE-53 Br5-DPE-52 Br5-DPE-51 Br5-DPE-50 Br5-DPE-49 Br5-DPE-48 Br5-DPE-47 Br5-DPE-46 Br5-DPE-45 Br5-DPE-44 Br5-DPE-43 Br5-DPE-42 Br5-DPE-41 Br5-DPE-40 Br5-DPE-39 Br5-DPE-38 Br5-DPE-37 Br5-DPE-36 Br5-DPE-35 Br5-DPE-34 Br5-DPE-33 Br5-DPE-32 Br5-DPE-31 Br5-DPE-30 Br5-DPE-29 Br5-DPE-28 Br5-DPE-27 Br5-DPE-26 Br5-DPE-25 Br5-DPE-24 Br5-DPE-23 Br5-DPE-22 Br5-DPE-21 Br5-DPE-20 Br5-DPE-19 Br5-DPE-18 Br5-DPE-17 Br5-DPE-16 Br5-DPE-15 Br5-DPE-14 Br5-DPE-13 Br5-DPE-12 Br5-DPE-11 Br5-DPE-10 Br5-DPE-9 Br5-DPE-8 Br5-DPE-7 Br5-DPE-6 Br5-DPE-5 Br5-DPE-4 Br5-DPE-3 Br5-DPE-2 Br5-DPE-1 Br4-DPE-143 Br4-DPE-142 Br4-DPE-141 Br4-DPE-140 Br4-DPE-139 Br4-DPE-138 Br4-DPE-137 Br4-DPE-136 Br4-DPE-135 Br4-DPE-134 Br4-DPE-133 Br4-DPE-132 Br4-DPE-131 Br4-DPE-130 Br4-DPE-129 Br4-DPE-128 Br4-DPE-127 Br4-DPE-126 Br4-DPE-125 Br4-DPE-124 Br4-DPE-123 Br4-DPE-122 Br4-DPE-121 Br4-DPE-120 Br4-DPE-119 Br4-DPE-118 Br4-DPE-117 Br4-DPE-116 Br4-DPE-115 Br4-DPE-114 Br4-DPE-113 Br4-DPE-112 Br4-DPE-111 Br4-DPE-110 Br4-DPE-109 Br4-DPE-108 Br4-DPE-107 Br4-DPE-106 Br4-DPE-105 Br4-DPE-104 Br4-DPE-103 Br4-DPE-102 Br4-DPE-101 Br4-DPE-100 Br4-DPE-99 Br4-DPE-98 Br4-DPE-97 Br4-DPE-96 Br4-DPE-95 Br4-DPE-94 Br4-DPE-93 Br4-DPE-92 Br4-DPE-91 Br4-DPE-90 Br4-DPE-89 Br4-DPE-88 Br4-DPE-87 Br4-DPE-86 Br4-DPE-85 Br4-DPE-84 Br4-DPE-83 Br4-DPE-82 Br4-DPE-81 Br4-DPE-80 Br4-DPE-79 Br4-DPE-78 Br4-DPE-77 Br4-DPE-76 Br4-DPE-75 Br4-DPE-74 Br4-DPE-73 Br4-DPE-72 Br4-DPE-71 Br4-DPE-70 Br4-DPE-69 Br4-DPE-68 Br4-DPE-67 Br4-DPE-66 Br4-DPE-65 Br4-DPE-64 Br4-DPE-63 Br4-DPE-62 Br4-DPE-61 Br4-DPE-60 Br4-DPE-59 Br4-DPE-58 Br4-DPE-57 Br4-DPE-56 Br4-DPE-55 Br4-DPE-54 Br4-DPE-53 Br4-DPE-52 Br4-DPE-51 Br4-DPE-50 Br4-DPE-49 Br4-DPE-48 Br4-DPE-47 Br4-DPE-46 Br4-DPE-45 Br4-DPE-44 Br4-DPE-43 Br4-DPE-42 Br4-DPE-41 Br4-DPE-40 Br4-DPE-39 Br4-DPE-38 Br4-DPE-37 Br4-DPE-36 Br4-DPE-35 Br4-DPE-34 Br4-DPE-33 Br4-DPE-32 Br4-DPE-31 Br4-DPE-30 Br4-DPE-29 Br4-DPE-28 Br4-DPE-27 Br4-DPE-26 Br4-DPE-25 Br4-DPE-24 Br4-DPE-23 Br4-DPE-22 Br4-DPE-21 Br4-DPE-20 Br4-DPE-19 Br4-DPE-18 Br4-DPE-17 Br4-DPE-16 Br4-DPE-15 Br4-DPE-14 Br4-DPE-13 Br4-DPE-12 Br4-DPE-11 Br4-DPE-10 Br4-DPE-9 Br4-DPE-8 Br4-DPE-7 Br4-DPE-6 Br4-DPE-5 Br4-DPE-4 Br4-DPE-3 Br4-DPE-2 Br4-DPE-1

Br3-DPE-28/33 Br2-DPE-15
Birth Defects in Alaska

- Data from the Alaska Birth Defects Registry shows:
  - Birth defects in Alaska are twice as high as in the United States as a whole
  - Alaska Native infants have twice the risk of birth defects as white infants born in Alaska

- Recommendations from the State of Alaska, Department of Public Health for women include:
  - Avoid contact with known or suspected environmental teratogens (agent that can cause a birth defect)

“...even independent of differences in cigarette smoking, alcohol consumption and maternal age—which is a well-known risk factor for birth defects—Alaska Natives still have an increased risk ... that we don't really know how to explain.”
Dr. Bradford Gessner, Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology unit
Traditional Foods Biomonitoring Project: Methods and Results

- Community Health Researchers on St. Lawrence Island collected food samples from local hunters from 2005-2009:
  - Fish, fowl, marine mammals, shellfish, reindeer
  - Meat, blubber, liver, kidney, intestines, rendered oils
  - Prepared and unprepared foods
- Samples analyzed for:
  - PCBs, mirex, DDE, HCB
- Some PCB levels higher than EPA fish consumption guidelines for cancer risk
Rendered Oil

Range (202.6 – 451.1 ppb)

• Bowhead Whale 441.5 ppb
• Ringed Seal 451.1 ppb
• Walrus 265.4 ppb
• Spotted Seal 231.1 ppb
• Bearded Seal 202.6 ppb

*EPA risk-based unlimited consumption limit for PCBs in fish is 1.5 ppb
EPA Fish Consumption Guidelines for PCBs

- Unlimited Consumption for non-cancer risks (all diseases except cancer): 5.9 ppb
- Unlimited Consumption for cancer risk: 1.5 ppb

*As the levels go higher, the EPA recommends fewer meals per month*

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<th>300 ppb</th>
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<td>Non cancer risk</td>
<td>No more than one meal a month</td>
<td>No more than one meal every other month</td>
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<td>(diseases other than cancer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer risk</td>
<td>Do not eat</td>
<td>Do not eat</td>
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Alaska Federation of Natives Passes Landmark Resolution in 2011

- The Alaska Federation of Natives, the largest gathering of Native peoples in the U.S.—5,000 people attending—voted in support of a resolution:


- The resolution calls on:

"Alaska Senators and Representative to the U.S. Congress to take leadership on chemicals policy reform and use the full power of their offices to transform the 35-year old Toxic Substances Control Act by passing the Safe Chemicals Act."
St. Lawrence Island Youth Empowerment

Youth at the Suqi River sampling for stickleback

SLI Youth write letters to President Obama requesting his help to clean up contaminated sites in the Island and provide better healthcare
Peer-Reviewed Article in the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Journal—Environmental Health Perspectives

*Indigenous Peoples of North America: Environmental Exposures and Reproductive Justice*

Co-Authors: Elizabeth Hoover, Katsi Cook, Ron Plain, Kathy Sanchez, Vi Waghiyi, Pamela Miller, Renee Dufault, Caitlin Sislin and David O. Carpenter

16 August 2012
Working toward environmental health and justice!
“We don’t want any of you to fight with each other, but work together to clean it up for our sake.” —Annie Alowa
Thank you. Igamsiqayugviikamsi
IITC & ACAT Webinar, April 18th, 2013
Stockholm Convention Conference of the Parties, COP 4 and 5, Geneva Switzerland 2009 and 2011
Health, Well-Being and Food are Human Rights

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself & of his family...including food...”

--- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
“...In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.”

-- Article 1 in Common, International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health…

2. States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures:
   (c) To combat disease and malnutrition, …through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution;

-- Article 24
The Rotterdam Convention (and US law) allows the US to export chemicals they have banned for use in the US as long as they inform the importing country of their status.

"Just because something is not illegal, it may still be immoral. Allowing the export of products recognized to be harmful is immoral"

-- UN Special Rapporteur on the Adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, Ms. Fatma-Zohra Ouhachi-Vesely on her 1st country visit to the US, December 2001
In February 2008, CERD expressed concerns about the adverse effects of US transnational corporations, “on rights to land, health, living environment and the way of life of indigenous peoples”, and called on the US to take legislative and administrative measures to prevent transnational corporations it registers “from negatively impacting on the enjoyment of rights of indigenous peoples in territories outside the United States.”

The Stockholm Convention recognizes the impacts on Indigenous Peoples’ health and subsistence foods

“Arctic ecosystems and Indigenous communities are particularly at risk because of the biomagnifications of POPs and that contamination of their traditional foods is a public health issue”

-- preamble
What is FPIC?

**Free:** absence of threats, implied retaliation, coercion, outside pressure, monetary inducements (unless mutually agreed to as part of the process). It includes the clear option to say “no”.

**Prior:** allowing sufficient time for information-gathering and full discussion, including translations into traditional languages, *before a project or planning begins.*

**Informed:** having all the relevant information available reflecting all views and positions, with adequate time and resources to consider potential risks and benefits.

**Consent:** demonstration of clear and compelling agreement, in keeping with the decision-making structures and processes of the Indigenous Peoples in question.
The UN General Assembly Adopts the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, September 2007

Geneva, 1977

International Indian Treaty Council
Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios

UN General Assembly
September 13th, 2007
New York
The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Recognizes the Right to Environmental Protection

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources.
“Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration”.

-- Article 22
“States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.”

Military Toxics, North East Cape, Alaska

Rio Yaqui
Sonora Mexico
"States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of their mineral, water or other resources."

-- Article 32, para. 2

In February, 2008 the Treaty Chiefs of Alberta adopted a resolution calling for a Moratorium on expansion of tar sands extraction.

Mildred Lake Tar Sands mine, Northern Alberta Canada
Indigenous women in many regions have a central role in traditional food gathering/preparation and cultural practices, increasing their exposure.
“The airplanes spray chemicals on the crops, and it affects the town and its inhabitants. In and around the whole town there are large tanks holding hazardous chemicals. Many people have died here.”

-- Testimony submitted to IITC by a 48 year old mother of 6, Potam Pueblo, Rio Yaqui Sonora, October 19, 2003
Permanent Damage to Maternal Health and Development of Infants and Children

Rio Yaqui, Mexico May 2006

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL
Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios
Prenatal Exposure Linked to Abnormal Breast Development in Yaqui girls

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<th>Milk (ppm corrected for fat)</th>
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<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a-HCH</td>
<td>0.03 ± 0.03</td>
<td>0.8599 ± 2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b-HCH</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.3791 ± 1.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lindane</td>
<td>0.084 ± 0.06</td>
<td>0.6710 ± 0.59*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-HCH</td>
<td>0.0039 ± 0.1</td>
<td>0.4432 ± 0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heptachlor</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.269 ± 1.65*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BHC</td>
<td>0.003 ± 0.002</td>
<td>0.6270 ± 0.66*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldrin</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.2363 ± 0.59*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dieldrin</td>
<td>0.159 ± 0.12</td>
<td>0.0487 ± 0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endrin</td>
<td>0.022 ± 0.02</td>
<td>0.5238 ± 1.1*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p,p’-DDE</td>
<td>0.03 ± 0.03</td>
<td>6.31 ± 5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ÂDDE</td>
<td>0.0434</td>
<td>6.52*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All exceed FAO/WHO established limits
Organizing for change: the “North-South Indigenous Network Against Pesticides”

Potam, Rio Yaqui, 2006
Indigenous Women
Combating “Environmental Violence”

-- 2nd INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN’S ENVIRONMENTAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SYMPOSIUM, CHICKALOON ALASKA
APRIL 27 – 29, 2012

International Indian Treaty Council
Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios
Making the Global Connections

Rio Yaqui, Sonora Mexico

Arctic Village Alaska
Cheoque Utesia, Thank you

Photos: Jeff Conant & Samarys Seguinot-Medina

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