

## Leaders of the World;

We are a collective voice of indigenous peoples. We have joined this great mission for peace. We add our presence in support of this great effort for reconciliation between peoples and nations.

We agree that there must be parity and equity between rich nations and poor nations; between white people and people of color and rich people and poor people with special attention to women, children and indigenous peoples.

We, in our collective voices, add to this that ***there must be a reconciliation between people and the natural world, between nation states and the forests that sustain us; between corporations and the resources that they mine, the fish that they catch and the water that they use.***

## Leaders of the World;

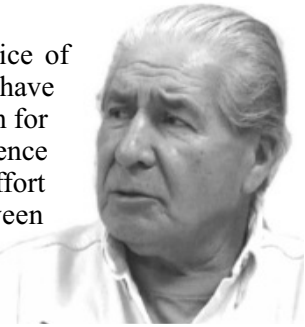
Indigenous nations and peoples believe in the spiritual powers of the universe. We believe in the ultimate power and authority of a limitless energy beyond our comprehension. We believe in the order of the universe. We believe in the laws of creation and that all life is bound by these same natural laws.

We call this essence the spirit of life. This is what gives the world the energy to create, procreate and becomes the ponderous and powerful law of regeneration, the law of the seed.

We in our collective voices speak of this to remind you that spirit and spiritual laws transcend generations. We know because this has sustained us.

Religion and spirituality are vital to survival and moral law. It is faith that has sustained our human spirit through our darkest hours. It has sustained our human spirit in crisis, during the times we suffered through the grinding measures of inexorable persecutions that have spanned generations and continue today.

Yet here we are, today, adding our voices to this plea for sanity in leadership and responsibility to the



future generations whose faces are looking up from the Earth, each awaiting their time of life here.

## Leaders of the World;

The collective voices of indigenous people add that we are saddened by the absence of our elder brother the Dalai Lama in this forum. We believe that reconciliation should begin here, because peace is an inclusive term, and peace and reconciliation are the purpose of this summit.

Peace is dynamic and requires great efforts of spirit and mind to attain unity. Leaders of peace must step forward and take responsibility for a paradigm change in the direction of current lifestyles and materialistic societies.

***The human species has become the most voracious and abusive consumer of Earth's resources. We have tipped the balance of life against our children and we imperil our future as a species.***

## Leaders of the World;

Despite all of our declarations and all of our proclamations, no matter how profound they may be, ***the ice is melting in the north. We see the acceleration of the winds. We see the fires that are raging in North America. And, we see that the sun's rays that provide us with light, energy and the very essence of life now are causing cancer in people, blinding animals and killing the plankton and krill of the sea.***

This is only the beginning and already we are helpless. We will now see the real spiritual powers that govern the earth.

## Leaders of the World;

There can be no peace as we wage war upon OUR MOTHER, THE EARTH. Responsible and courageous actions must be taken to realign ourselves with the great laws of nature. ***We must meet this crisis now, while we still have time.*** We offer these words as common peoples in support of peace, equity, justice and reconciliation.

***As we speak, the ice continues to melt in the north.***

Dahnato (now I am finished). Neyawenha (thank you).

## UN Peace Summit Statement

by Audrey Shenandoah

Nya Wenha Skainon

My people are the Onondaga Nation of the Haudenosaunee. A confederation of Nations, we are comprised of the Mohawk Nation, Oneida Nation, Onondaga Nation, Cayuga Nation, Seneca Nation and Tuscarora Nation. We are joined in that order by our Peacemaker who walked among our people in another millennium or time in our history. Today we continue as brothers and cousins, a family of people since that time.

We humbly offer today these words of thanksgiving, in this joint effort of Spiritual Leaders to bring about peace and contentment to our troubled Earth and the life contained within.

A most important responsibility among my people is always to address greetings of acknowledgment and thanksgiving to all components of this miraculous cycle of creation. All components contribute and work together insuring that life will continue in peace and balance.

At this time we will wrap all our minds together as one mind as we address thanksgiving, acknowledgment and greeting. Our instruction that people be first as we give thanks tells us that people being caring and giving to one another must be paramount in Creator's plan for life. We are given a pattern to follow.

Now we address greetings, acknowledgment, and thanksgiving for all components of Creation. Our Mother Earth who gives and nourishes all life: the Waters; the Plant Life from which we gather food and medicine; the Woodlands, our Brothers; the Four Leggeds and the Winged Ones.



Our acknowledgment and thanksgiving includes our Grandfathers, the Thunderers who bring the rain, cleansing and nourishing all life; the Moving Winds, the air that we breathe; our Elder Brother the Sun, providing light and warmth to Earth and all its bounty; our Grandmother Moon and the beautiful stars of the nighttime sky carrying on their duties as given at their creation.

All of these are good medicine for our well-being and peace of mind. We are all born to this Earth with honor and responsibility. We are not put on earth to wander without guidance and direction. Creator has provided four Sacred Beings, our Protectors, whose duty is to keep straight our minds and our capability to reason with responsibility.

With all our minds wrapped in a huge bundle as one, we bring closure to our greetings of acknowledgment and thanksgiving and address our Creator, the provider of all these life forces which in turn provide that we may have life and know contentment and peace as we journey our path on this Earth. We thank Creator for the ways man is given to help us keep a balance. We all are given a way to live in peace.

We are gathered at this great center today in these troubled times to put together our minds as one in efforts to bring about peaceful coexistence among peoples of the Earth. There is much talk of peace by those in positions of power in the governments of this world.

Not much is being done to de-escalate the conditions creating the chaos all over this planet. Weapons of war must cease to be top priority. To care for the people! Save the Earth! Reviving spiritual values, respect for life and living things must be renewed and practiced.

Our minds put together as one can be one of

great power. Our acknowledgments and thanksgiving reinforce that we all are connected, all related, family. We address the whole universe as such. Our mother; our brother; our sisters, plant life; our grandmother; our grandfathers.

Shongwa ya'dihsaih skwaya'da genha.  
Onhwanja qwegih. Deskwennya donh, lhs  
qwa'sa'satstenhsa, en yongwa'sko gwa'. Da  
ne'toh. Nya wenha.

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### *From the booklet*



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(NOON)**

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# HAUDENOSAUNEE CULTURE – ③

## *Our Shared Environment*



*Oren Lyons, faithkeeper of the Onondaga Nation, and Audrey Shenandoah, Onondaga Nation clanmother, represented Indigenous peoples of North America at the United Nations Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders, August 28-31, 2000. Only part of their messages are presented here, since part was spoken spontaneously and was not recorded.*

## **Statement to the UN Peace Summit**

*by Oren R. Lyons*

### **Leaders of the World;**

Neyuwenha-skanoh (Thank you for being healthy).

I bring you greetings from the Indigenous peoples of the north and the great Turtle Island, now called North America.

I bring you the most urgent message brought to our annual gathering of traditional elders and youth by a runner from the north, from Greenland: ***The ice is melting in the north.***

He informed us that some fifteen years ago they noticed trickles of water coming down the sheer face of Glacier Mountain. That trickle has grown to a roaring river of ice water pouring out of this mountain into the Atlantic Ocean.

He informed us that Glacier Mountain has lost four thousand feet of ice in these past few years. And the melt continues to accelerate. ***This is an alarming message that requires your absolute attention.***