



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Excellency,

I write to inform you that in the course of its 105th session, the Committee considered further the situation of the Gwich'in indigenous peoples in Alaska, in the United States of America, under its early warning and urgent action procedure. The Committee would like to thank the State party for the information included in its letter dated 10 August 2021, in response to the Committee's letter of 24 November 2020.

The Committee takes note of and welcomes the information provided regarding the decision of the Government of the United States of America to suspend all activities related to the implementation of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge pending completion of a new, comprehensive analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act.

In this regard, the Committee would like to recall the attention of the State party of its obligations under the Convention and to guarantee the respect of the rights of the Gwich'in and other indigenous peoples in Alaska, including their right to consultation and to free, prior and informed consent, in its future considerations of the project of oil and gas development in the Coastal Plain.

The Committee would like to inform the State party that the above-mentioned issues will be discussed during the presentation of its combined tenth to twelfth periodic reports already submitted by your Government in June 2021.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of the United States of America, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Marc Bossuyt
Vice-Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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