April 26, 2021

Shalanda Young
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Acting Director Young,

On January 26, 2021, President Biden issued a memorandum asking all government agencies to (i) consult with Tribal Leaders about the potential impacts of Federal policies and programming on Tribal Nations and Governments in the United States; and (ii) to submit to the Office of Management and Budget plans of action explaining how each agency intends to maintain “regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal officials in the development of Federal policies.”

In accordance with the President’s memorandum and Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments (November 6, 2020), the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) submits the attached document.

The IAF drafted this plan after consulting with Tribal Leaders on how best to engage in meaningful dialogue. The attached document reflects the valuable feedback, comments, and best practices raised during that consultation, and lists several actions and principles that the IAF commits to adopting.

Separately, in keeping with the requirements listed in the President’s memorandum, the IAF designates Daniel Friedman, Director of IAF’s Office of External Government Affairs, and Edward Gracia, Congressional Affairs Specialist, as agency leads in charge of implementing the attached plan and preparing the agency’s progress reports.

The IAF is committed to respecting the rights, cultures, and traditions of all Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples, and to upholding the United States’ unique legal responsibilities and relations with Tribal Governments.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Paloma Adams-Allen
President & CEO
SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements listed in President Biden’s January 26, 2021 memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships, the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) submits this Plan of Actions to the Office of Management and Budget (“Plan”). The IAF drafted this Plan after the agency met and consulted with a number of Tribal officials on how to engage in meaningful dialogue. The actions and principles listed in this Plan reflect the concerns, suggestions, and comments voiced by Tribal Leaders who participated in a consultation organized by the IAF and eight other Federal agencies on Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

The IAF is committed to adopting the principles and actions listed in this Plan, and will periodically report to the White House on the agency’s progress. Daniel Friedman, IAF’s Office Director for External Government Affairs, and Edward Gracia, Congressional Affairs Specialist, are responsible for implementing the Plan and reporting on its progress with support from staff across the agency.

Plan of Actions to Maintain Regular, Meaningful, and Robust Consultation with Tribal Nations

The IAF commits to adopting several principles and steps to advance President Biden’s January 26 memorandum and Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments (November 6, 2000). These include the principles derived from Executive Order 13175, which provide fundamental guidance on engagement with Tribal Nations:

- Respect tribal sovereignty and engage with Tribal Nations as separate, unique entities;
- Honor the government-to-government relationship;
- Acknowledge trust responsibility;
- Accept tribal self-determination and self-governance; and
- Regard consultation as an ongoing process.

In adopting these principles, the IAF recognizes the unique historical and legal relations between the United States and U.S. Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples. The agency commits to upholding and respecting these principles.

Separately, the IAF also commits to adopting several best practices recommended by Tribal Leaders to facilitate meaningful communication and engagement with Tribal Nations and officials:

Once the IAF starts contemplating a policy or action that may impact the interests of Tribal Nations, the agency will initiate timely contact with Tribal Nations to begin a consultation session process. The IAF recognizes that Tribal Nations should have the opportunity to provide input on whether an action requires consultation. The IAF also acknowledges that Tribal Nations are affected by both on-reservation actions and funding and personnel decisions related to Federal Indian programs and off-reservation plans.

The IAF also commits to respecting the time, capacity, and resource constraints of Tribal Nations in the United States. The IAF commits to notifying Tribal Nations about consultation sessions with enough time for Tribal officials to contemplate and review documents and develop related comments and recommendations. Such notices will be clear and include all necessary information on the consultation topic and any proposed plan.
To facilitate participation and ensure inclusivity, the IAF commits to sharing consultation documents and plans virtually with Tribal officials who have access to a digital communications device, and in physical form via express mail to those who do not. Additionally, the IAF commits to offering virtual and analog options for consultation sessions so that participants are not inhibited by a lack of options for participating.

The IAF commits to allotting enough time to each consultation session so that participants can meaningfully engage in dialogue. For sessions that go beyond the allotted time, the agency commits to scheduling additional sessions. The IAF also commits to sharing the results of each consultation session with participants and to providing opportunities for Tribal officials to share comments and feedback with the agency.