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GENERAL MEMORANDUM 10-019

Justice Submits Tribal Consultation and Coordination Action Plan

On February 12, 2010, the Department of Justice released its plan of action for improving consultation and coordination with tribal governments. The plan (attached) was developed with tribal input and is a response to President Obama's Memorandum on Consultation with Indian tribes to Federal Departments and Agencies (November 2009)¹. In addition to outlining the steps it will take to develop a comprehensive consultation and coordination policy with input from tribal governments and communities, the Department makes the following commitments:

- Reorganize and expand the role of the Office of Tribal Justice as a separate component that reports to the Deputy Attorney General;
- Create a Tribal Nations Leadership Council comprised of representatives from each of the 12 Bureau of Indian Affairs regions to ensure ongoing communication and collaboration with tribal governments; each region will select its representative and the Council will meet biannually;
- Convene consultations between tribal leadership and U.S. Attorneys whose jurisdictions include federally-recognized Indian tribes;²
- Mandate annual meetings between the department's grants offices and tribal leadership to discuss grants policies, concerns or funding priorities;³
- Create a new federal-tribal taskforce (composition unspecified) to develop strategies and guidance for federal and tribal prosecutions of crimes of violence against women in tribal communities (Section 904 Violence Against Women in Indian Country Task Force will continue); and
- Prepare a draft consultation policy and publish a progress report within 270 days of the Presidential Memorandum evaluating the implementation of these reforms.

Please let us know if we may provide additional information regarding the Department of Justice's Tribal Consultation and Coordination Action Plan.

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Inquiries may be directed to:

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¹ For additional information see our General Memorandum 09-141 dated November 9, 2009.

² For additional information see our General Memorandum 010-008 dated January 15, 2010.

³ For additional information on the Department's efforts to streamline the tribal-specific grants process, see our General Memorandum 10-018 dated February 19, 2010.