



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
December 2-3-4, 2025, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 53/2025

TITLE: Support for International Partnership with Indigenous Peoples on
Joint Climate and Biodiversity Action

SUBJECT: Environment, Rights

MOVED BY: Judy Wilson, Proxy, Osoyoos Indian Band, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Robert Charlie-Tetlich, Inuvik Native Band, NT

DECISION: Carried by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions.
- ii. Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relations with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters, and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
- iii. Article 29(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection without discrimination.
- iv. Article 32(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

B. Indigenous Peoples worldwide have experienced consistent patterns of historical injustices resulting from the colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories, and resources, and the doctrines, policies and practices that continue to the present day.

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- C. International solidarity and collaboration amongst Indigenous Peoples have been immensely important in a shared struggle against colonialism, including the drafting, advocacy, and eventual adoption of the UN Declaration in 2007 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly.
- D. Dialogue and collaboration between Indigenous Peoples worldwide continue to be a source of inspiration and strategy in support of the struggle to end all forms of colonialism, to seek redress for the injustices suffered by Indigenous Peoples to date, and to realize the full implementation and respect for the UN Declaration.
- E. There is global recognition that our world is facing a climate crisis, interlinked with crises of biodiversity loss and pollution, which is articulated in several reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), as well as the First Nations-in-Assembly's Declaration of a First Nations Climate Emergency, reaffirmed in 2023.
- F. The climate crisis is significantly altering First Nations' relationships with the lands the Creator has bestowed upon First Nations and upon which First Nations have inalienable rights as entrenched in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, affirmed in the UN Declaration, and confirmed in Treaties and other constructive arrangements between First Nations and the Crown.
- G. On a global scale, the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss are borne disproportionately by Indigenous Peoples, threatening the physical, cultural, and spiritual well-being of Indigenous communities, particularly rural and remote communities, women and children, those identifying as two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (2SLGBTQIA+), as well as persons with disabilities.
- H. In the face of this crisis, First Nations have been active leaders, both domestically and internationally, drawing on the science, knowledge, and ways-of-life shared by Elders, Knowledge Keepers, men, women, youth, and leadership to advance First Nations-led solutions that restore balance with the natural world, including through numerous resolutions from the First Nations-in-Assembly.
- I. Through Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 36/2023, *Urgent and Transformative Climate Action through the AFN National Climate Strategy*, the First Nations-in-Assembly called for the AFN, among other directives, to use the AFN National Climate Strategy in international contexts as an advocacy tool.
- J. The AFN has been amplifying First Nations priorities through the AFN National Climate Strategy at international fora such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as other multilateral negotiations on plastic pollution and biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions.
- K. Based on Canada's commitment to both the Paris Agreement and the G7 2030 Nature Compact, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) has established the Partnering for Climate initiative, a portion of which allocated \$15 million over 5 years that support Indigenous climate action through partnerships between Indigenous Peoples in Canada with Indigenous Peoples in developing countries.
- L. The Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) is a regional organization founded in 1992 by Indigenous Peoples' movements, committed to the promotion and defense of Indigenous Peoples' rights and human rights and articulating issues of relevance to Indigenous Peoples in the Indo-Pacific region.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Reaffirm that First Nations' knowledge systems, teachings, and ways of life serve as valuable contributions in addressing climate change strategies and form the foundation of First Nations climate and biodiversity action.
2. Support the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for First Nations internationally in line with the AFN National Climate Strategy, guided by the Advisory Committee on Climate Action and the Environment, and other relevant AFN Chiefs Committees, and to report back to the First Nations-in-Assembly on relevant updates and outcomes.
3. Direct the AFN to call on Canada to fund the full and effective participation of First Nations in multilateral agreements, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and to conduct regional information sessions to support their direct involvement, capacity building, strengthen coordination, and to expand the diversity of First Nations representation in multilateral processes.
4. Support the AFN to partner with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) to create dialogue between First Nations and Indigenous Peoples in the Indo-Pacific on biodiversity, climate action, and nature-based solutions, considering the importance of:
 - a. Strengthening the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems, worldviews, and values as contributions to addressing the climate and biodiversity crises;
 - b. Advancing the recognition and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights, particularly their right to self-determination;
 - c. Prioritizing the voices of Indigenous women, youth, and gender-diverse peoples in climate and biodiversity action; and
 - d. Strengthening Indigenous Peoples' representation in climate change and biodiversity forums and intergovernmental fora.
5. Call on Canada to provide stable, direct funding to First Nations for biodiversity and climate actions and to develop meaningful partnerships with Indigenous Peoples globally, including through international climate and biodiversity finance mechanisms.
6. Express solidarity with Indigenous Peoples around the world as they advocate for the recognition, protection, and implementation of their inherent rights, re-affirmed in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

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