

---

## Assembly of First Nations

---

55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1600  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L5  
Telephone: 613-241-6789 Fax: 613-241-5808  
www.afn.ca



---

## Assemblée des Premières Nations

---

55, rue Metcalfe, Suite 1600  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6L5  
Téléphone: 613-241-6789 Télécopieur: 613-241-5808  
www.afn.ca

**Special Chiefs Assembly  
December 7, 8, 9, 2021, Ottawa (Ontario)**

**Resolution no. 44/2021**

---

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Support for a First Nations-led Pathway to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Environment, Economic Development, Social Development
<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Chief Greg Louie, Ahousaht First Nation, BC
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Wapastim Harper, Proxy, Chemawawin Cree Nation, MB
<b>DECISION</b>	Carried; 2 abstentions

---

### WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
  - ii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.
  - iii. Article 26 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
  - 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.
  - v. Article 32 (2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous Peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the

---

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 9th day of December 2021 in Ottawa, Ontario**

---

**ROSEANNE ARCHIBALD, NATIONAL CHIEF**

**44 – 2021**  
*Page 1 of 3*

approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

- B. The United Nations Resolution, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda), unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, and affirmed over forty times, sets out the vision for sustainable development leading up to the year 2030, with an overarching goal to leave no one behind.
- C. The 2030 Agenda is accompanied by 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that measure progress against 169 targets for wide-ranging issues from climate change, environment, water, and clean energy to poverty, food security, health and education, among others. Many of the SDGs are interrelated and already reflected in the work carried out by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).
- D. The Chiefs-in-Assembly have passed several resolutions that directly reference the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, including: 07/2018, *Addressing First Nations Rights, Title, and Jurisdiction in Bill C-69*; 47/2018, *First Nations Oversight of Canada's Poverty Reduction Strategy*; 63/2018, *Eco-Agricultural Strategy*; 92/2018, *Social Innovation/Social Finance Framework—Leaving No One Behind*; 19/2019, *Seven Generations Continuum of Care*; 98/2019, *Poverty Reduction for all First Nations*; 117/2019, *First Nations Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy*; and 19/2020, *Support First Nations with Connecting to the Internet*.
- E. The SDGs align with AFN's ongoing work on closing the gap between First Nations and Canadians, poverty reduction and food security, climate leadership and clean energy efforts, stewardship for water and the environment, First Nations in the green and blue economy, First Nations health, education, and social programs, enhancing data sovereignty for First Nations, and gender inequality. The SDGs also reinforce the protection of human rights, non-discrimination and inclusion, especially for women, youth, and people with disabilities.
- F. Canada developed *Moving Forward Together – Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy*, which recognized First Nations to be partners in implementing the SDGs. However, First Nations were not included in the development of this strategy, and a distinctions-based analysis of the SDGs is absent.
- G. First Nations are not visible in data, such as Canada's reporting of the Sustainable Development Goals in the SDG Hub and the Canadian Indicator Framework. Data-disaggregation and recognition of Indigenous identity in national statistics as well as integration of community-based data from First Nation governments will improve the visibility of First Nations in official data and statistics, and allow for progress on the SDGs to be measured for First Nations to ensure no one is left behind.

---

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 9th day of December 2021 in Ottawa, Ontario**



---

**ROSEANNE ARCHIBALD, NATIONAL CHIEF**

**44 – 2021**  
Page 2 of 3

- H. In its sixteenth session, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) recommended that governments establish permanent, open and inclusive mechanisms for consultation, participation, and representation of Indigenous Peoples in local, regional, national, and international processes and bodies relating to the SDGs. The UNPFII also recommended that governments allocate adequate resources towards implementation of plans that include Indigenous Peoples, as well as to ensure data disaggregation on the basis of Indigenous identifiers.
- I. Canada must review the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs through the lens of the UN Declaration and ensure that the domestic implementation of the SDGs recognizes and respects the rights, Treaties, self-determination, and the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:**

- 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on Canada to work in full partnership with First Nations to support First Nations' self-determination, participation, and the inclusion of distinct First Nations approaches in all efforts related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy, and the accompanying Canadian Indicator framework.
- 2. Direct the AFN to conduct a distinct First Nations analysis of the SDGs and engage with First Nations to support the development of a First Nations-led pathway for their implementation.
- 3. Call on Canada to enhance data disaggregation and data sovereignty for measuring progress towards the 2030 Agenda and to allocate resources for the development of First Nations' indicators to measure progress towards the SDGs for First Nations in a manner that respects the principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP) for conducting research.
- 4. Urge Canada to take a human rights-based approach to sustainable development that aligns with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for measuring progress towards the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

---

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 9th day of December 2021 in Ottawa, Ontario**



---

**ROSEANNE ARCHIBALD, NATIONAL CHIEF**

**44 – 2021**  
*Page 3 of 3*