

SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA

TR 2015-79

A VERBAL RESOLUTION OF THE SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA GENERAL COUNCIL CALLING ON THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO ADOPT AN AGREEMENT ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SEMINOLE NATION IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED:

WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution empowers the General Council of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma to promote public health, education and charity and such other services that may contribute to the social and economic advancement of the members of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma (Nation);

WHEREAS, climate change is one of the greatest threats facing the peoples of the world today;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food stated in 2010 that Climate Change is the single biggest threat to global food security in the future;

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), made up of thousands of scientists from around the world, has found that Indigenous Peoples, like the members of the Nation, are among the peoples most vulnerable to climate change and are disproportionately affected by it;

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples, including the members of the Nation, depend upon the health of their ecosystems and natural resources for social, economic, and cultural vitality; and climate change threatens to destroy indigenous ways of life that have been sustainable for thousands of years;

WHEREAS, climate change thus poses a serious threats to the inherent and Treaty rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the Nation's Treaty rights in United States, as affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including, *inter alia*, rights to subsistence, traditional lands and resources, health, productive capacity of the environment, cultural heritage, sacred sites and free prior and informed consent;

WHEREAS, the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will meet in Paris at the end of 2015 to reach a universally binding agreement to address climate change;

WHEREAS, the goal of the UNFCCC as stated in its Article 2 is: "to achieve . . . stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. . . .";

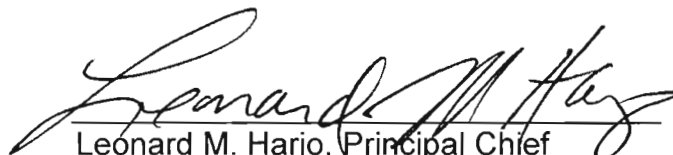
WHEREAS, that goal as presently contemplated by States is to keep temperature rise within 2 degrees C, however, Indigenous Peoples and many scientists consider this goal to be inadequate to protect the ways of life of Indigenous Peoples as well as the survival of small island states and Peoples;

WHEREAS, in connection with an ongoing review of the adequacy of the 2 degree C goal, the Structured Expert Dialog, (SED) report concludes that at 2 degrees C of warming, "...indigenous people[s] would be at risk of loss of land and cultural and natural heritage, and cultural practices embedded in livelihoods would be disrupted"; therefore Indigenous Peoples are calling for that goal to be lowered to no more than 1.5 degrees C of warming at COP 21.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seminole Nation General Council hereby calls on the Parties to the UNFCCC at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris to adopt an agreement with a strong human rights based approach reflected in the operative provisions of the agreement and which covers all aspects of the agreement such as mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer, transparency and capacity building, and specifically recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

CERTIFICATION

PASSED AND APPROVED by the General Council of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma this 17th day of October, 2015, at Mekusukey Mission, South of Seminole, Oklahoma, by a vote of 18 Yes, 0 No, and 6 Abstaining, a quorum of Fifteen (15) Council members being present.


Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

ATTEST:


Alvina Coker, General Council Secretary
General Council, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

