

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
AMERICAN INDIANS**

**RESOLUTION #SPO-01-085**

**Title: International Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, progress has been made in the international arena in advancing the position of the U.S. government in the area of indigenous rights; and

significant work remains to bring the U.S. government to a position that fully recognizes indigenous peoples; rights under international law; and

the advances made in international human rights for indigenous peoples to date are the direct result of efforts by indigenous leaders and advocates worldwide, including key involvement by tribal leaders from the U.S.; and

the United Nations and the Organization of American States stand at a key crossroads in the development of standards for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples; and

we recognize that standards effecting indigenous peoples are implicated in a wide variety of international processes and deliberations; and

there is a critical need for sustained, active involvement in these processes by tribal leaders, tribal organizations and tribal advocates in the U.S.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, NCAI does hereby participate in the

development of indigenous rights standards within the UN, the OAS, and in any related international processes that may implicate those standards and the interests of indigenous peoples; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

36 members comprised of 12 Tribal Leaders, 12 Traditional Practitioners, 12 Spiritual Native Religious Leaders, and staff of tribal organizations including the National Congress of American Indians, the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) as counsel for NCAI, and the American Indian Law Resources Center (AILRC) to advance a coordinated effort by selecting one Tribal Board Member of NCAI, NARF, and AILRC to be one of the three Co-Chairs to secure the adoption of standards for the rights of indigenous peoples; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001 with a quorum present.

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Tex Hall, President

**ATTEST:**

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Colleen Cawston, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001.