



**2026 Winter Convention
Portland, Oregon**

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 007

**“SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRIBAL NATION
CLIMATE FINANCE AUTHORITY AND TRIBAL NATIONS GLOBAL
CLIMATE FUND TO SECURE DIRECT ACCESS TO CLIMATE
FINANCE FOR TRIBAL NATIONS AND ADVANCE TRIBAL NATION-
LED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS, AND DESIGNATING AN AMBASSADOR
FOR TRIBAL NATIONS AND GLOBAL CLIMATE FINANCE ON
BEHALF OF ATNI”**

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest 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 rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific Tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian Tribal governments in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, ATNI, representing more than 50 member Tribes from the Pacific Northwest, was founded in 1953 to promote and protect the inherent sovereignty, treaty rights, lands, waters, and cultures of Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, ATNI recognizes the urgency of the climate crisis and the need for Tribal Nation-led solutions grounded in sovereignty, traditional knowledge, and collective governance; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples are stewards of the world's most biodiverse ecosystems and hold ancestral knowledge essential to climate resilience, yet continue to receive less than one percent (1%) of global climate finance; and

WHEREAS, the current global climate finance architecture fails to reflect Tribal Nation and Indigenous priorities, data sovereignty, and performance frameworks rooted in relational well-being, land and water integrity, cultural continuity, and intergenerational responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Tribal Nation Climate Finance Authority and companion Tribal Nation Global Climate Fund represents a transformative step toward ensuring that Tribal Nations directly access, design, and govern climate finance—blending public, private, and philanthropic capital under Tribal leadership; and

WHEREAS, these institutions will serve as sovereign financial mechanisms to support Tribal and Indigenous communities throughout the Americas and globally, ensuring that climate finance advances sovereignty, self-determination, justice, and the protection of sacred lands and water; and

WHEREAS, this vision and initiative have already mobilized significant support and momentum among Indigenous leaders and member states at prominent international forums, including the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), where Tribal Nations and Indigenous representatives have asserted their leadership in shaping global climate finance and called for direct access to resources through Tribal Nation-led financial mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, the recent retreat of U.S. climate leadership, including the scaling back, withdrawal, or claw back of committed funding from key domestic and international climate initiatives, has left critical gaps in global climate finance, disproportionately affecting Tribal Nations, Indigenous Peoples, and vulnerable communities, underscoring the urgent need for sovereign Tribal Nation-led institutions capable of directly accessing, securing, and deploying climate finance at national and global scales; and

WHEREAS, the following principle reflects the foundational importance of spectrum access to Tribal Nations given the growing complexity and scale of international climate finance

and diplomacy, and there is a critical need for a trusted and experienced ambassador to represent Tribal Nations with credibility, continuity, and diplomatic recognition in multilateral forums and international policy arenas; and

WHEREAS, ATNI International Affairs Committee and the Executive Board will house all tasks for the ATNI Ambassador; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports collaboration with international, federal, state, philanthropic, and private partners to secure blended financing for the establishment and capitalization of these institutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI will hold elections at the 2026 Annual Convention to establish an Ambassador for Tribal Nations and Global Climate Finance, authorized to advance the establishment of the Tribal Nation Climate Finance Authority and Tribal Nation Global Climate Fund, to engage directly with multilateral institutions, sovereign governments, and philanthropic partners, and to represent Tribal Nations in global climate finance and policy forums in a manner consistent with the principles of Tribal sovereignty and self-determination. This Ambassador will receive full diplomatic credentials from the U.S. State Department as a credentialed delegate to the United Nations COP26; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ambassador will be elected to serve for a term of two years, with no limit on the number of terms served. ATNI will host subsequent elections for the Ambassador. The ATNI Ambassador will provide an annual update to the general assembly; and

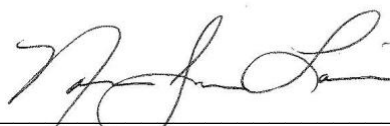
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution(s).

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2026 Winter Convention held at the Hilton Portland Downtown in Portland, Oregon, on February 1-5, 2026, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary