

PACIFIC REGION INDIGENOUS DOCTORS CONGRESS COUNCIL
BIENNIAL PRIDOC COUNCIL MEETING 2022

RESOLUTION

SUBJECT: Commitment to Address Climate Change Impacts on Indigenous Health

INTRODUCED BY: ‘Ahahui o nā Kauka

We, the assembly of the Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors’ Congress of 2022, remain committed to unifying to develop common goals to overcome the challenges presented to practitioners, providers and those we serve to thrive.

1. WHEREAS, Indigenous peoples make up 5% of the total world’s population, yet are custodians of more than 80% of the earth’s biodiversity;
2. WHEREAS, climate change is expected to cause more frequent and intense climate-related environmental disasters, including, but not limited to, heat waves, wildfires, and extreme weather events, such as droughts, hurricanes, and floods.
3. WHEREAS, climate change is associated with many short- and long-term health effects across the human lifespan, including dehydration, heatstroke, respiratory diseases, infectious diseases, mental health disorders, cardiovascular disease, and even death;
4. WHEREAS, Indigenous peoples around the world experience health status and outcomes below that of other citizens;
5. WHEREAS, Indigenous peoples are among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change, due to their cultural relationship with, and dependence on, the environment and its resources, including loss of homeland and human displacement;
6. WHEREAS, climate change exacerbates the difficulties already faced by Indigenous communities, including socioeconomic and political marginalization, loss of land and resources, creating climate refugees, which leads to further human rights violations, discrimination, and unemployment;
7. WHEREAS, the World Health Organization considers climate change and air pollution as the greatest environment risk to health, with nine out of 10 people breathing in polluted air every day; collateral damage to the lungs, heart and brain can kill seven million people each year prematurely from diseases such as cancer, stroke, heart and lung disease;

8. WHEREAS, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarizes in its Policy Brief #101 the benefits of Indigenous peoples' full participation, in particular, Indigenous women in decision-making processes; and that the rights on Indigenous peoples are enshrined in international law;
9. WHEREAS, the United Nations Decade on Eco Restoration Plan lays out an overarching goal to stop and reverse the destruction and degradation of ecosystems;
10. WHEREAS, the Paris Agreement of 2015 sets long term goals to guide all nations to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit the global temperature increase in this century to 2 degrees Celsius while pursuing efforts to limit the increase further to 1.5 degrees;
11. WHEREAS, the International Panel on Climate Change has asserted that without deep and immediate emissions reductions across all sectors and regions, it will be impossible to keep warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius;
12. WHEREAS, the World Meteorological Organization's 2021 State of the Global Climate Report described the past seven years as the hottest on record;
13. WHEREAS, solutions lie in supporting Indigenous Peoples to develop health strategies to track climate impacts using Indigenous Knowledge systems and health science and mobilizing this knowledge for self-determined health research needs, policy, and decision-making at scales from local to international;
14. WHEREAS, Indigenous physicians have a unique role in Indigenous human health and mitigating the direct effects on Indigenous communities to adapt to climate risks and impacts and restore community resilience; and
15. WHEREAS, the Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress is the leading voice for Indigenous doctors and health care professionals throughout the Pacific region, advocating for the health and wellness of indigenous communities and nations, to include the preservation of said peoples' homelands, natural resources, indigenous foods, and traditional practices;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress, in pursuit of climate justice, will engage with local, regional, and national efforts to mitigate climate change and build community resilience; will work collectively against policies that allow environmental destruction and unrestrained industrial production that is destructive to the earth and leading to climate change; and call out capitalist industries that create climate change with support of government policies and hold them accountable; ask affiliated faculty universities to develop plans to divest fossil fuels; and support policies and programs that preserve and protect the cultural integrity of the people, environment and greater community.

Following the Council meeting on Sunday, July 10, 2022, the initial draft was refined with additional resources and recommendations. An updated draft was distributed to the Council.

The draft was presented by Drs. Emmett ALuli and Martina Kamaka to the general assembly of PRIDoC 2022 attendees.

MOTION. Refine the description of mental health in WHEREAS #4; and ask faculty universities to develop a plan to divest fossil fuels. PASSED.

MOTION. Pass the resolution as amended.

The Motion was passed unanimously. July 12, 2022, 1:00 PM.

The next step is for all member organizations and attendees to distribute throughout their networks.

Meeting was closed by Dr. Evan Adams.