

Declaration for NYC Climate Week

by A Wisdom Keepers Delegation

As Indigenous knowledge holders, activists and protectors of the Earth, we, A Wisdom Keepers Delegation, gather with a unified voice to address the global community during NYC Climate Week.

Our message is born from the deep wells of **ancestral wisdom**, the lived experience of our peoples, and the sacred responsibility we carry to protect and preserve the balance of life within mother earth for future generations.

Mother Earth is Sacred:

We are Mother Earth, inseparable from her essence. The spirit of Mother Earth flows within us, making us a living expression of her consciousness. **The water is our blood**, coursing through us with life-giving energy, and **the land is our muscle**, providing strength and stability. We are the voice of nature, speaking on behalf of the Earth and all her beings.

The intricate web of life that unites all beings is woven into our being. **Mother Earth is not a resource to be exploited or commodified but a living entity**, deserving of respect, reverence, and care, for we are integral to her life as she is to ours.

Climate Justice is Indigenous Justice:

The impacts of climate change disproportionately affect Indigenous communities, who are often the first to experience the devastation of environmental degradation. Our lands, waters, diversity of species, and cultures are under threat. Climate justice cannot be achieved without the recognition of Indigenous rights, sovereignty, and the central role of Indigenous peoples in guiding solutions. **Indigenous People steward 37% of all remaining natural lands** on Mother Earth, and these lands are under pressure to be developed, exploited or commodified.

A Vision for the Future:

We envision a world where humanity lives in harmony with nature, where the rights of Indigenous peoples are fully recognized, respected, and implemented; where the wisdom of our ancestors guides global efforts to heal Mother Earth. The implementation of this vision is not only possible, but **necessary for the survival of all life**.

In Unity and Strength:

We stand united with all peoples who are committed to protecting the Earth and securing a livable future for the generations to come. **We invite you to join us in this sacred work**, to listen, to learn, and to act with the understanding that we are all connected and that the future of the Earth depends on the choices we make today.

**For the Earth, For the Future, For All Our Relations,
A Wisdom Keepers Delegation**



A Call to Action:

1

Respect Indigenous Sovereignty:

All climate policies and actions must *recognize and uphold* the sovereignty of Indigenous nations.

2

Honor Sacred Sites and Lands:

We demand the *protection and restoration of sacred sites* and lands that have been desecrated by industrial activities.

3

Direct Access to Climate Finance:

Indigenous communities globally must have direct access to climate finance *without the need to go through colonizer states* or intermediaries.

4

Indigenous-Focused Just Transition:

We call for a just transition that centers Indigenous peoples in the shift to a sustainable and equitable economy. This transition must prioritize the protection of Indigenous rights, cultures, and lands, ensuring that our communities are not left behind, but empowered to lead the way toward a just and sustainable future.

5

Amplify Indigenous Voices:

Indigenous peoples must be included in all levels of decision-making related to climate action. Our voices are critical in shaping policies that are just, equitable, effective, and protect our shared planet.

Jacob Johns, originating from the Akimel O'Otham and Hopi nations, serves as a community-supported organizer, working autonomously to foster significant change. His primary objective is to strategically introduce fresh paradigms to dismantle antiquated systems of oppression.

Sheelah Bearfoot is a Chiricahua Apache, and graduated with a degree in Genetics and Plant Biology from UC Berkeley in 2016. She has educated hundreds of people on environmental and medical racism against Native communities American.

Bodhi Patil is a UN-recognized, award-winning GenZ ocean-climate "Solutionist" dedicated to improving the interconnectedness between Ocean Health and Human Health. He is a student leader in the BA + Masters of Management program at the University of British Columbia

