WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee, and Seminole Nations, representing approximately 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Declaration) is an historic international instrument that recognizes inherent rights intended to guard against the theft of lands and resources, eradication of native languages and tribal cultures, discrimination, and the political exclusion that tribal nations too often continue to face today; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration contains the “minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the Indigenous Peoples of the world”; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration in 2007, and due to overwhelming support from tribal leaders across the country, the United States formally supported the Declaration in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the United States is considering renewing its support of the Declaration, which Tribal Nations will greatly benefit from if the provisions of the Declaration are implemented by the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States acknowledges that Native Americans need representation in the Federal Government to properly reflect their needs and views, which has led to Native Americans attaining historic political appointments in the current Federal Administration from the cabinet, agency solicitors, federal bench to myriad other positions; and

WHEREAS, the United States is committed to strengthening the government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes and is taking steps to ensure that the voices of tribal leaders are heard through robust consultations with tribes when formulating policies that affect their communities, such as renewing support for the Declaration; and

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Tribes calls on the President of the United States to renew the United States’ support of the Declaration and to take action to implement the Declaration, in cooperation and consultation with tribal governments, as follows:
The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

(1) The White House Native American Affairs Council (Council) should develop a national action plan for implementing the provisions of the Declaration, including a request for all federal departments and agencies to issue policies and internal guidance to achieve the ends of the Declaration, and to report annually to the Council on their progress; and

(2) Appoint an Ambassador (or Special Envoy) for Global Indigenous Affairs to coordinate all international engagements by the United States in matters regarding Indigenous Affairs, including at the United Nations, the Organization of American States, and with other governments; and


CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 8th day of October, 2021, by a vote of _____ for _______ against and _______ abstentions.

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

Lewis J. Johnson, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma