

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2026

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE NAVAJO NATION ARTIFICAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY STATEMENT; ESTABLISHING THE ARTIFICAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY WORKING GROUP

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council, as the governing body of the Navajo Nation, is entrusted with the responsibility to safeguard the interest, rights, and traditions of the Navajo people. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).
- B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to oversee the conduct and operation of entities of the Navajo Nation not otherwise under the oversight authority of other standing committees. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164(A)(9), 700(A), 701(A)(2).
- C. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee has the authority to delegate its responsibilities and authorities to other standing committees and appropriate entities provided that the Committee first approve rules and regulations governing such delegations and to rescind delegations. 2 N.N.C. § 701(B).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Diné have the right to know their sacred language, sacred way of thinking, and traditional cultural knowledge. The preservation of these and other elements of Diné life are a sacred obligation of the Diné and their government. We recognize that our traditional cultural knowledge is not only a valuable asset, but is integral to our identity, existence, and well-being. The preservation of our language and culture is vital to our survival as Diné.
- B. Data generated by and about Diné individuals, communities, and culture represent inalienable intellectual properties of the Diné over which the Navajo Nation provides protection.
- C. The Navajo Nation has already recognized its ownership over any intellectual property, products, and services, and all other outcomes that may come from genetic and genomic research

with Navajo participants and all associated forms of life within the Navajo Nation during any step of the research process. See NABID-61-24, Section 3, Paragraph 3.

- D. The Navajo Nation recognizes that the rapid development and proliferation of artificial intelligence technology (AI) presents both significant opportunities and challenges for the Navajo Nation and its citizens, and that the pace of AI's evolution has exceeded the ability to meaningfully protect the intellectual property of the owners of data, knowledge, and other information used by AI technologies.
- E. AI is utilizing common tropes and misconceptions of Navajo culture, imagery, and daily life found on the worldwide internet to create and further perpetuate stereotypes of the Navajo people, as illustrated in the Navajo Times article on Artificial Intelligence "The Navajo AI Flower: AI-generated Diné girl peeks into AI knowledge from non-Navajo creators". Non-Navajo Nation citizens are developing AI systems that extract culturally sensitive ceremonial and spiritual knowledge utilizing an agentic AI bot for their own personal gain. AI also allows for uses that exploit Diné sacred knowledge and resells it to the Diné people.
- F. It is imperative for the Navajo Nation to take a stance on what culturally sensitive materials and content it is willing to share with AI and what degree of allowable data can be used by Navajo Nation citizens and non-citizens for personnel and commercial use.
- G. In this dynamic landscape, the existing legal frameworks require a fresh review to effectively safeguard Diné existence through robust assertion and protection of our rights, culture, and all forms of Diné knowledge, traditional or otherwise.
- H. The establishment of new legal frameworks, specifically designed to address the unique challenges posed by the rapid proliferation and use of AI, is critical for protecting and preserving the Diné's rights.
- I. These frameworks must consider the concepts of data privacy, transparency, prior informed consent, the intellectual property rights of the owners of the information, and other knowledge at risk of unauthorized use by AI technologies.
- J. Engaging with Navajo Nation citizens, information technologists, Diné educators, Diné cultural and spiritual experts and leaders, legal experts, and other community stakeholders is essential

for informing the development of laws and policies designed to reflect the needs and values of the people, while protecting the Navajo Nation and its citizens from exploitation.

- K. The promulgation of an AI Policy Statement and the formation of an AI Policy Working Group will help ensure that the Navajo Nation's policy and legal framework rises to meet the challenges of the current AI environment.

SECTION THREE. THE NAVAJO NATION ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY STATEMENT

The Naabik'íyáti' Committee hereby approves and adopts the Navajo Nation statement of policy on artificial intelligence attached as Exhibit A.

SECTION FOUR. ESTABLISHING THE NAVAJO NATION ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY WORKING GROUP

- A. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee hereby establishes the Navajo Nation AI Policy Development Working Group ("Working Group") for the general purpose of developing Navajo Nation AI policies.
- B. The focus of the Working Group includes, but is not limited to, the following:
1. Examine the AI's impacts on the Navajo culture and Diné people. Evaluate how the use of AI may affect the Navajo Nation's traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, intellectual and other property rights, including a thorough analysis of both potential benefits and risks;
 2. Investigate the potential for AI to improve the lives of our people, including opportunities in education, historic preservation, government efficiency, land management, healthcare, economic development, and other sectors as may be determined appropriate by the Working Group;
 3. Analyze the costs and benefits of AI, considering the potential risks to our rights and cultural integrity, ensuring that the Navajo Nation understands whether benefits come at the expense of Diné culture.
 4. Survey and analyze existing laws, policies, and regulations that pertain to AI and intellectual property, including how such legal frameworks relate to language, traditional cultural knowledge and expression, and other relevant

rights, and identify gaps that should be addressed to protect our interests;

5. Explore collaboration, including with companies and vendors that provide technology tools with AI systems, and assess whether these and other relationships can be structured to protect our information and data while leveraging AI tools to expand opportunities and increase efficiency in various sectors;
 6. Assess the overall cost-benefit analysis of the use of AI by Navajo Nation citizens versus the amount of natural resource extraction of minerals and metals and vast amounts of water required to build and maintain AI systems.
 7. Develop policies and guidelines for the responsible use of AI technologies, ensuring that any use of Navajo data and information considers principles of consultation, transparency, and informed consent;
 8. Consult community stakeholders with the goal of understanding and giving prominence to Diné people's views; and
 9. Establish an appropriate regulatory framework by which the Navajo Nation can meet its sacred obligation to protect our culture, our people, and the right to our unique and sacred Diné existence.
- C. The Working Group voting members shall consist of seven members as follows:
1. A representative from Navajo communities who has cultural experience, education, and knowledge in artificial intelligence, intellectual property, data science research, machine learning, or associated ethics study. This individual will be selected by the Speaker's Office pursuant to a public call for interested individuals.
 2. A representative from an academic institution who has cultural experience and knowledge in artificial intelligence, intellectual property, data science research, machine learning, and associated ethics study. This individual will be selected by the Speaker's Office pursuant to a public call for interested individuals.
 3. A representative from the Navajo Nation Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department;

4. A representative from the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education, appointed through a Board resolution;
 5. A representative from the Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology (DIT), appointed by the Department Director;
 6. The Economist employed by the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development (DED), or if no Economist is employed by the Division, a representative from DED appointed by the Division Director.
 7. A member of the Navajo Nation Council, appointed by resolution of the Naabik'íyáti' Committee. A new resolution by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee under a new Council will only be needed if the appointed member of the Navajo Nation Council is not reelected. As long as the appointed member remains a member of the Navajo Nation Council, they shall continue to serve on the Working Group.
 8. Non-voting membership and other participation is permitted and encouraged.
- D. The Working Group shall have the authorities necessary to implement and accomplish the purposes set forth above and specific responsibilities and authorities as follows:
1. The Working Group shall collaborate with programs, departments, and entities within the Navajo Nation to achieve the purposes and goals described herein.
 2. The Working Group may collaborate with programs and departments within the state and federal government as may be appropriate to achieve the purposes and goals described herein.
 3. The Working Group shall work together in the development of the code amendments, policies, and procedures regarding AI policy and regulation necessary to complete the purposes described herein.
- E. The Working Group shall report its findings and policy recommendations to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee one year from the enactment of this legislation. On this date, based on the report, the Naabik'íyáti' Committee will determine the Working Group's next steps, including whether to reauthorize the Working Group to continue for another year.

SECTION FIVE. WORKING GROUP OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- A. The Working Group shall elect a Chairperson and may create additional Officer positions as needed. The Working Group may create a process by which these Officers are to be selected.
- B. The Working Group shall operate by resolution with a simple majority of Working Group members constituting a quorum.
- C. The Working Group shall establish its own meeting rules including an attendance policy. Until such rules are adopted the Working Group shall utilize the Rules for Standing Committees.
- D. The Working Group shall hold virtual meetings unless it is determined by a majority of the Working Group an in-person meeting is needed.
- E. The Working Group members employed by the Navajo Nation shall not be compensated but shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses at the rates set forth in the applicable Navajo Nation Travel Policies. Working group members not employed by the Nation will be reimbursed for travel expenses consistency with Navajo Nation Travel Policies to attend Work Group activities.
- F. The Working Group members shall serve until the Working Group is dissolved.
- G. The Office of the Speaker, Office of Legislative Services, and other necessary legislative branch programs shall provide technical assistance, clerical, and administrative assistance. The Navajo Nation Department of Justice and the Office of Legislative Counsel shall provide legal assistance and guidance to the Working Group.
- H. Navajo Nation laws, policies, and regulations shall apply to the Working Group and its members.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 25th Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 20 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 13th day of August 2026.



Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Chairwoman
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

8/13/2026

Date

Motion: Honorable Norman M. Begay
Second: Honorable Rickie Nez

Chairwoman Crystalyne Curley not voting

NAVAJO NATION STATEMENT OF POLICY: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Established by Resolution No. ____-____-____

- A. The Navajo Nation recognizes that potential Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) technologies offer opportunities to enhance the quality of life for our citizens both on and off Diné lands, providing tools for improved access to education, healthcare services, and economic development. However, we also acknowledge the risks associated with AI, particularly concerning protection from the unauthorized use and misappropriation of our traditional cultural knowledge and expression, our language, intellectual property and other rights.
- B. This policy statement serves to outline the Navajo Nation’s commitment to safeguarding these vital aspects of our identity as Diné while still allowing exploration of opportunities that AI may present. This policy is grounded in the principles found in the Foundation of the Diné, Diné Law and Diné Government as codified in 1 N.N.C §§ 201-206, any ambiguities should refer to these principles.
- C. The Navajo Nation is entrusted with preserving and maintaining Diné language, culture, and all forms of traditional knowledge and expression, to ensure the survival of the Navajo Nation and to protect the individual and collective rights of the Diné. With this sacred trust in mind, the Navajo Nation asserts its intellectual property rights, over Diné lands, images, language, ceremonies, tradition, and ceremonial and sacred artistic expression; and all other forms of traditional cultural knowledge, expression, or property of the Navajo Nation and its people. The Navajo Nation also asserts its intellectual property rights over all products, services, and digital content produced from AI that uses Diné lands, images, language, ceremonies, tradition, and ceremonial and sacred artistic expression; and all other forms of traditional cultural knowledge, expression, or property of the Navajo Nation and on behalf its people. This includes, but is not limited to, the rights of the Navajo Nation government, the rights of Diné artists, medicine men and

women, spiritual leaders, cultural educators, and all of our citizens who contribute to the richness of Diné culture.

- D. The Navajo Nation holds these intellectual property rights in trust for its citizens. It asserts these rights on behalf, and not at the exclusion of, all Diné citizens. Nothing in this statement shall prohibit or prevent individual Diné citizens from using, asserting or protecting their intellectual property rights.
- E. The Navajo Nation is also committed to protecting and maintaining its data sovereignty. Data sovereignty means we must focus on the collection, ownership, and application of our own data and the use of AI may bring this out of our own sovereign hands and abilities to keep a hand on our own data. The Navajo Nation asserts its intellectual property rights over its data and all products, services, and digital content produced from AI that uses Navajo Nation data.
- F. The Navajo Nation is committed to vigorously pursuing and defending its intellectual property rights under Navajo, U.S., and international law. We will take all necessary measures to own, use, preserve, and protect our traditional cultural knowledge and expression, language, laws, ceremonies, and other information and data. This commitment reflects our understanding that our culture, language, knowledge, and ways of life are not only a source of pride but also a fundamental aspect of who we are as Diné, which must be safeguarded against exploitation and misappropriation.

NAVAJO NATION

1016

8/13/2026

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Regular Meeting

10:50:01 AM

Amd# to Amd#

New Business: Item A. (CONSENT)

PASSED

MOT Begay, N

0172,0173,0181,0182,0185-26

SEC Nez, R

0187-26

Yeas : 20

Nays : 0

Excused : 1

Not Voting : 2

Yea : 20

Begay, H

James, V

Nez, R

Slater, C

Begay, N

Jesus, B

Nez, T

Tolth, G

Charles-Newton, E

Johnson, C

Notah, N

Yanito, C

Claw, S

Mitchell, A

Simonson, G

Yazzie, C

Crotty, A

Nez, A

Simpson, D

Yazzie, L

Nay : 0

Excused : 1

Daniels, H

Not Voting : 2

Tso, O

Parrish, S

Presiding Speaker: Curley, C