

Declaration of the Arctic Indigenous Leaders Summit I

We, the Representatives of the indigenous peoples organizations of the Arctic, being the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Nordic Sami Council, and the USSR Association of Northern Small Peoples;

Meeting at Horsholm, Denmark, for the first Arctic Indigenous Leaders Summit to seek greater mutual understanding and to further our cooperation;

Having respect for the traditional and continuing stewardship of our lands, waters, plants and animals; and for the traditional knowledge of our peoples;

Deeply concerned for the health, well-being and ultimate survival of our peoples, including recognition of our nutritional needs and the rights of renewable resource harvesters, and for the protection of our Arctic environment, both now and in the future;

Ever aware of the changes which have affected our peoples, our lands and our rights to decide for ourselves what our future shall be;

Recognizing that there is only one Arctic, and that we share one future together;

Affirming the requirement for sustainable and equitable development in our homeland;

Requiring state governments to recognize and accommodate the rights of aboriginal peoples to self-government, lands, renewable and non-renewable resources, and to recognize their cultural, social and economic rights;

Commending the Arctic governments for their close cooperation with our organizations in the process leading up to the Declaration of Rovaniemi, and calling on those Arctic governments to fully implement the spirit as well as the words of the Declaration and of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy;

Declare That:

Arctic indigenous peoples desire not only to survive, but to thrive as indigenous peoples into this 21st Century. Arctic governments must take affirmative initiatives immediately to work with their indigenous peoples to bridge the rapid global change which impacts our peoples. Adequate resources must be made available by the governments to meet the real social, health, economic and educational needs of the indigenous peoples. New partnerships between the governments and the indigenous peoples must occur to meet the often overwhelming challenges of this rapid global change. Maximum self-determination of the indigenous people is desired.

We adopt as consensus statements of the Summit, the following:

1. Statement on Subsistence, the Traditional and Direct Dependence on Renewable Resources
2. Statement on Renewable Resource Harvesting

We agree to continue the collaboration begun here among the Arctic Indigenous Leaders by holding our Second Summit in 1993 to be organized by the Nordic Sami Council.

We further agree that in order to advance our mutual concerns, we will initiate a process leading up to the Second Arctic Indigenous Leaders Summit, to include the following issues:

- * renewable resource harvesting and subsistence rights;
- * traditional ecological knowledge, and
- * the mandate and role of existing and future organizations relevant to the Arctic.

Done at Horsholm, 20 June 1991

Inuit Circumpolar Conference

Nordic Sami Council

USSR Association of Northern Small Peoples