

Declaration of the Second Arctic Indigenous Leaders Summit

We, the Representatives of the Indigenous Peoples organizations of the Arctic, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Saami Council and the Association of the Indigenous Peoples in Russia, Siberia and the Far East.

Having convened the Second Arctic Leaders Summit at Tromsø, Norway to continue the cooperation among Arctic Indigenous Leaders to further identify common international issues of concern, to exchange experiences, and to develop strategies and solutions.

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the Summit is the achievement of international cooperation in solving problems of an economic, social, cultural, political and humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

Recognizing the value and diversity of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic;

Conscious of the need to improve the economic, social, cultural and political situation of Arctic indigenous peoples with full respect for distinctiveness and our own initiatives,

Recognizing the rights of Arctic indigenous peoples to self-determination, self-government, land and resources, in addition to cultural, social and economic rights;

Recognizing the special role of indigenous peoples in environmental management and development in the Arctic, and the significance of indigenous knowledge and traditional practices, and the need to promote our effective participation to achieve sustainable development in the Arctic;

Recalling the principles concerning indigenous peoples in the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS), Caring for the Earth, the Rio Declaration, the Nuuk Declaration, and the recommendations from the 1994 Seminar on the Integration of Indigenous Peoples Knowledge held at Reykjavik;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolution 48/163 of 21 december 1993, which proclaimed the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples,

Recognizing the central theme of effective partnership and cooperation between indigenous peoples and member states, including participation of Indigenous peoples in the plan of action for the decade and its implementation;

Affirming the goal to adopt the Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Recognizing the importance of the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system;

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

- 1) Recommendations on International Issues
- 2) Recommendations on Business Development and Foreseen Opportunities
- 3) Recommendations on Russian Issues
- 4) Recommendations on Environmental Issues

We agree to continue the cooperation, begun in Copenhagen 1991 and continued in Tromsø 1995 by holding our Third Arctic Indigenous Leaders Summit in 1998.

We also agree to consider the establishment of a joint task force and procedures to coordinate common Arctic policies.

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

- addressing the situation of the Indigenous Peoples of Russian North, Siberia and the Far East.
- implementation of the Rio Principles and Agenda 21
- indigenous strategies for sustainable and equitable development in the Arctic
- furthering of indigenous rights during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Tromsø, January 27, 1995



Signed by Caleb Pungowiyi, president
On the behalf of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference



Signed by Erenye Aipin, president
On the behalf of the Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North, Siberia and Far East



Signed by Helevi Nuorgam-Poutasuo, president
On the behalf of the Saami Council