

MONTRÉAL DECLARATION

On the occasion of the Fourth Meeting

Of the Summit of the

ARCTIC INDIGENOUS LEADERS

Arctic Indigenous Leaders, representing the six Permanent Participants to the Arctic Council, convening in Montreal, Quebec and Katlodeeche, Northwest Territories for the fourth meeting of Arctic Indigenous Leaders;

Reaffirming Arctic Indigenous Leaders commitment to inject Arctic perspectives into the heart of the ongoing discussion on the impacts and effects of global climate change;

Noting the G8 nations, meeting in Gleneagles, Scotland, affirmed that adaptation to the effects of climate change is a high priority for all nations, particularly in areas that may experience the most significant change, such as the Arctic, and agreed to move forward global discussion on long-term co-operative action to address climate change at COP 11 in Montreal 2005.

Noting with appreciation the decision of the 22nd meeting of the United Nations Environment Program's Governing Council recognizing the increasing global importance of the Arctic in a global environmental context and its relevance to concerns identified in the World Summit on Sustainable Development's Plan of Implementation, especially the eradication of poverty among indigenous communities;

Welcoming the conclusions of the Greenland Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Change, underlining the need to take action now to develop an inclusive strategy beyond 2012 and the opportunity represented by the upcoming International Polar Year to further raise awareness regarding the consequences of climate change;

THEREFORE, THE ARCTIC INDIGENOUS LEADERS RESOLVE,

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Declare that Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right collectively and individually to the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law;

Recognize that for Arctic Indigenous peoples the threshold beyond which anthropogenic greenhouse gases dangerously interfere with the climate system, as set out in Article 2 of the Convention, has already been exceeded;

Affirm that for Arctic Indigenous peoples climate change is a cultural issue, that climate change is threatening our ways of life and the resources upon which we depend;

Urge the signatories to the UNFCCC to amend the Convention to acknowledge that specific communities and states are particularly vulnerable and already negatively experiencing the impacts of globally warming;

Arctic Council

Welcome the commitment in the 2004 Reykjavik Declaration by Arctic Council Ministers to report on the progress made in further organizing the work of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies based on the findings of the ACIA;

Note the agreement by Arctic Council Ministers in the 2004 Reykjavik Declaration to consider the findings of the ACIA and other relevant studies in implementing their commitments under the UNFCCC and other agreements, including through the adoption of climate change mitigation strategies across relevant sectors and encourage other nations states to do the same;

Encourage the Arctic Ministers to give full consideration to the recommendations arising from the Kaktovik Plan of Action on Climate Change as part of the 2006 Arctic Council Ministerial meeting.