



Nuuk, December 5, 2012

**Inuit Call on Global Leaders at UNFCCC COP 18 in Doha, Qatar:  
Making the most of the 2013 – 2015 review and the second commitment period under the  
Kyoto Protocol**

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), representing Inuit in Alaska (US), Canada (CA), Greenland (DK), and Chukotka (RU), urge the international community to acknowledge and recognize that climate change is rapidly changing the Arctic Environment and impacting Inuit, and the entire world. Rapid changes in the Arctic environment continue to be an increasing challenge for Circumpolar Inuit. The health and well-being of Inuit are inextricably tied to our environment. For millennia we have been stewards of the Arctic. Our culture and traditions reflect our deep knowledge and respect for the land, ocean and life for the overall Arctic environment.

Sea ice and permafrost play a vital role for our global future. Inuit knowledge holders and scientists have noted the unprecedented rate of Arctic sea ice loss. The National Snow and Ice Data Centre recent report findings has confirmed the loss of sea ice is occurring much faster than previous models have predicted.

There is an undeniable connection in the role that greenhouse gasses (GHG) play in increasing temperatures. In addition to the GHG emissions due to industrial activity, the melting of Arctic permafrost is releasing methane into the atmosphere and amplifying the current warming significantly, as reported in the recent UNEP report on warming.

Inuit and Islanders from developing states have reported the connection between Arctic sea ice melt and sea level rise and are working together through the UNEP/GRID-Arendal's, "Many Strong Voices Programme" for solutions. The connection between the loss of sea ice and global events is increasingly evident. This past summer the Arctic saw an increased incidence of violent storms, caused in part by the loss of sea ice. Recent unprecedented flooding in Venice and the super storm Sandy, in the eastern United States, both forecast the future for the entire planet. We are now witnessing the global impact and taking note of what Inuit, Islanders, agrarians, fishers and others who understand through personal observations that their climate is changing. The important role that the Arctic environment plays in sustaining global climate systems and supporting life on Earth and the unpredictable nature of the changes occurring heightens the urgency to act immediately.

Inuit are deeply concerned and acknowledge that changes are going to continue and be irreversible if GHG emissions continue to rise. There is a sense of optimism that talks in Doha will have a positive impact. Major emitters hold the balance of decision making on whether or not GHG reductions can be made.

Inuit urge the international community and governments at UNFCCC COP 18, to take measures in ensuring that global temperatures do not increase over 2 degrees Celsius and that all nations work towards a constructive 2013 – 2015 review and an appropriate approach to the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol.

*The Inuit Circumpolar Council urges global leaders to support Inuit in sustaining our ice-dependent lands and livelihoods by taking the following actions:*

1. **Recognize the role of the Arctic in sustaining global climate systems and supporting life on earth.** Global leaders should designate avoidance of further climate change impacts on the Arctic as one of the key benchmarks for effectiveness of a Post-2012 process and support research on the relationship of a melting Arctic to global processes.
2. **Support the integration of Inuit and Traditional knowledge and local monitoring into regional and global environmental assessment processes by:**
  - a. *Integrating Traditional knowledge into IPCC reports and support Inuit experts to serve as authors.*
  - b. *Supporting community-based monitoring of environmental change and developing global databases to integrate local observations and monitoring systems into regional and global scale models.*
3. **Support Inuit and indigenous peoples with adaption and sustainable technology development by:**
  - a. *Creating a Green Technology Fund that will allow developed (Annex I) countries to allocate a percentage of their contributions for indigenous peoples from their own regions.*
  - b. *Assisting Arctic, indigenous, and remote communities in developing renewable energy options that will increase their economic viability and decrease dependence on energy imports and outside resources.*
4. **Recognize the fundamental human right of Inuit to a healthy environment, and respect Inuit sovereignty and the rights of indigenous peoples to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as custodians of their homelands.** We call on the international community to recognize the human rights implications of climate change for Inuit and indigenous peoples, and to respect Inuit sovereignty over all decision-making processes in the Arctic.
5. **Acknowledge the important role of the Arctic Council as a model for cooperation between states and indigenous peoples, and encourage states to develop similar forums for addressing environmental challenges in their own regions.** The Inuit Circumpolar Council calls on global leaders to develop collaborative decision-making forums that include indigenous peoples as formal participants through which to tackle the issues raised by global environmental change and intersecting, trans-boundary environmental issues.

6. **Acknowledge the important role of Black Carbon as a short-lived climate forcer and develop research process to reduce the impact of short-lived climate forcers such as black carbon.** The Inuit Circumpolar Council calls on global leaders to support Inuit in developing appropriate research programs to assess the issue of black carbon and to use these results and other to take initiatives that will reduce the amount of black carbon entering the Arctic.

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is an indigenous peoples' organization, founded in 1977 to promote and celebrate the unity of 160,000 Inuit from Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka. ICC works to promote Inuit rights, safeguard the Arctic environment, and protect and promote the Inuit way of life. As the international voice of Inuit, ICC is calling upon global leaders at the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (CoP 18) in Doha, Qatar to listen to this Inuit voice.

*Inuit Circumpolar Council: Working to Combat Human-Induced Climate Change*

ICC recognizes the ongoing need for Inuit to engage with the circumpolar and international processes including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), and the Arctic Council to ensure the Inuit knowledge and perspective is considered and reflected in these processes. ICC is working to ensure that the 2013 – 2015 review and the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol recognizes the unique issues faced by Inuit in adapting to climate change.



Aqqaluk Lyngge  
Chair

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