



INUIT

Press Release

Building Momentum on Climate Change Through Meaningful Action:

ICC Urges Local and Global Action Now

November 14, 2016 – **Marrakech** – The climate change talks continue this week and ICC is using every opportunity to bring the voice of Inuit and the Arctic to the table, to the negotiators and to civil society here in Marrakech. “Paris was a step forward but real change will come when governments, implement the agreement they made one year ago,” said Okalik Egeesiak, Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC). The World Meteorological Organization has published that global temperatures are 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels and 2016 will be the hottest year on record. “We must act for the Arctic, for Inuit, for peoples” stated Egeesiak.

ICC today released our position paper for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP). Inuit recognize that collective action must build upon steps already taken by developing an integrated strategy for long-term mitigation of carbon pollution to the atmosphere. At the same time, leaders must also turn their attention to developing, implementing and evaluating short-term actions to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

“Inuit will work with Canada, Greenland, Alaska and Chukotka to do our share in our communities through Indigenous knowledge and research into adaptive measures to support our communities, including mitigation of our own carbon footprint through energy efficiency and renewable energy developments. We will work to support our governments to meet, exceed and implement the commitments made this week in Marrakech. ICC will support Indigenous communities and make certain the Arctic remains cold,” added Egeesiak.

ICC is calling on global leaders to support five actions to combat climate change: (1) recognize the role of the Arctic in sustaining global climate systems; (2) recognize the fundamental human right of Inuit to a safe and healthy environment, and respect Inuit sovereignty and the rights of Indigenous peoples to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as custodians of their homelands; (3) recognize the significant leadership efforts already demonstrated by Inuit and support, with sustained resources, the integration of Inuit and Indigenous knowledge into regional and global climate action planning; (4) commit to the equitable participation of Inuit in climate change-related processes and programs at local, regional, national and international levels; and, (5) support Inuit and Indigenous peoples with mitigation, adaptation and sustainable technology development.

To view the COP 22 ICC Climate Change position paper see www.inuitcircumpolar.com.

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