



INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL
13TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PROCEEDINGS
UTQIAGVIK, ALASKA JULY 16-19, 2018

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DAY ONE- MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018
ASSEMBLY CHAIR: OKALIK EEGEESIAK

Welcome by the ICC Chair and Call to Order

The Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), Ms. Okalik Eegeesiak from Canada, called the 13th ICC General Assembly (GA) to order. She then introduced Elder Edward Adams, Sr. from Alaska to provide the opening prayer. She asked for a moment of silence after the prayer to remember those who have passed since the previous General Assembly held in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada in July of 2014.

Opening Prayer

Elder Edward Adams Sr. delivered the opening prayer

Welcoming Ceremony – King Island Dance Group

The 13th ICC General Assembly in Utqiagvik, Alaska was welcomed with a performance by the King Island Dance Group who opened the ceremony with the traditional dances and songs from King Island, Alaska to start the proceedings in a positive spirit. Ms. Eegeesiak welcomed them to the stage by giving a brief history of King Island with an emphasis on the fact that the Island was no longer inhabited and much of the traditional ways have been lost. However, their drumming, dancing, and singing have been maintained. This is the next generation, and they are committed to continuing to preserve and build on our traditional ways. As she thanked the dancers, she stated that it was our tradition to start the GA with singing, drumming and dancing to ground us and start us on the right footing. She then took this time to welcome and thank the entire delegation, leaders, and guests to the General Assembly.

Host Welcoming Remarks

After sharing what a joy and blessing it was to be at the GA with all the people and delegates Ms. Eegeesiak then invited the hosts to welcome the delegation to Utqiagvik. These included City of Utqiagvik Mayor Fannie Suvlu, North Slope Borough Mayor Harry Brower Jr., and Charles Brower of the Native Village of Barrow.

The opening remarks were made by Fannie Suvlu, the Mayor of Utqiagvik. She welcomed attendees and wished participants a good week and safe travels returning to their homes following the GA.

Next, Mayor Harry Brower Jr. of the North Slope Borough welcomed all delegates, friends and guests to the 13th ICC GA. He acknowledged the efforts of all those involved in making the event possible through their commitment and



tireless work and introduced the theme of this year's General Assembly: "Inuit, the Arctic We Want." He described how North Slope Inupiat had to adapt to the exposure of outside influences in the area since 1854, highlighting how we regained our land through the claims process, which took decades. The evolution of municipal government was the first step to pave the way for the development of the area through taxation in order to afford the changes that were being made to the area. He forecasted that over the next 50 years, the area is looking at more changes than the ones experienced over the past century. The goal is to help the Arctic Nation have a seat at the table. He noted that over 50 non-profit organizations are operating in the area, ensuring we achieve that vision, that we be the ones to offer a seat at "our" table.

To round up the welcoming remarks, Charles Brower of the Native Village of Brower, shared his own story of growing up in Browerville. He expressed appreciation for the efforts of Inupiat leaders for bringing educational facilities to the area which removed the need for children to travel to other areas to obtain education. It was made possible by a system of taxation and proper planning. Urging unity for the Inupiaq people, he stressed the need for everyone to work together to build a lasting legacy.



Qulliq Lighting Ceremony

All four countries - Canada, Greenland, Alaska, and Russia - participated in the Qulliq lighting ceremony. The Qulliq is shared by all Inuit and it has great cultural and spiritual significance for us. The lighting of the Qulliq helps us reflect on issues and marks the commencement of discussions during the conference.

Assembly Chair Opening Remarks by Okalik Eegeesiak, ICC Chair

ICC Chair, Okalik Eegeesiak reflected on the emotional importance of lighting the Qulliq, as she declared the 2018 General Assembly open. In her remarks, she said that this General Assembly is an important step in the journey of working for the betterment of our communities, our youth, and our Arctic Nunaat. She also gave credit to the Arctic Council for being an important partner in our development.

"I believe Eben Hopson, our founder, would be proud of what we have achieved through Inuit Solidarity. The first time I realized that Inuit from the Circumpolar world met together, I'm reminded that we are related to each other and we have to work together. And I have seen many people that I recognize. And it also reminds us that the Arctic we want has a vision, and it's our Arctic."

She stressed that the power of our work cannot be underestimated.

ICC's 40th Anniversary Commemorative Video

A video was shared that was produced to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of ICC since the first meeting held in Barrow in 1977. Inuit achievements throughout the years were documented in the video and highlighted our progress from the time ICC was founded, to the present day. A lot has been accomplished, but there remains much work to do in order to accomplish ICC's vision across Inuit Nunaat.

Introduction of Delegates

Heads of National Delegations

Canada - Natan Obed

Natan Obed, head of the Canadian delegation, represented Inuit Nunangat – the four regions in Arctic Canada. He acknowledged the efforts of Canadian Inuit leaders Mary Simon and Tagak Curley, that both of them have made tremendous contributions to the cause. Although they could not attend the conference, Mr. Obed said their contributions shine bright and their friends at the GA would have loved to see them. He introduced the Canadian delegation.

Alaska – Jimmy Stotts

Jimmy Stotts, President of ICC Alaska welcomed everyone to his hometown, expressing his happiness that everyone made it safely. Mr. Stotts introduced the Alaskan delegation.

Greenland – Hjalmar Dahl

Hjalmar Dahl started with thanking the people of Utqiagvik for the warm welcome. He said that he hoped that the next few days of the conference would prove to be fruitful. Mr. Dahl introduced the Greenland Delegation.

Russia – Tatiana Achirgina

The head of the Russian delegation, Tatiana Achirgina, reflected on the time when Mary Simon was President and Chukotka joined ICC. She said that it was then that they discovered a new horizon through this organization, new friendships, organized politics and a new Arctic economy. She expressed her delight at having the opportunity to work with the ICC to serve their people and their interests. Ms. Achirgina introduced the Chukotkan delegation

Elder Welcome – Wesley Aiken

Elder Wesley Aiken from Utqiagvik welcomed delegates and spoke about how he served in the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II, after which he joined the National Guard. He thanked the ICC for support in reaching whaling quotas. He then offered up a prayer.

Approval of Agenda

The conference agenda was approved unanimously.

Presentation of the 2014 Proceedings

The 2014 ICC General Assembly Proceedings were presented to delegates and was approved unanimously.

Appointments

Per ICC processes and procedures, the Credentials Committee and Declaration Drafting Committee members were appointed with representation from each country.

Government Presentations: What are Countries Doing for Inuit and the Arctic?

Canada-Honorable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs expressed her pleasure at being a part of the conference in Utqiagvik, the traditional territory of the Inupiat people. She thanked

the elder for the prayer and honoring ancestors. She also thanked Rebecca for lighting the Quilliq to start off the conference on a positive note, as well as the host, mayors and heads of local organizations for their hospitality. Agreeing with the Chair, she said “The Arctic We Want” is very much the theme of this conference and conveyed the message that Canada wants to contribute. She noted that leadership in the Canadian delegation is working to ensure that as a new Arctic policy for Canada is developed, Inuit are at the center of those decisions. The vision is that Canada’s growth must be developed with Inuit to have a strong and shared future for the Arctic. She said that she understands the trauma of being separated from family, language and culture. Past government policies such as the residential schools caused tremendous harm.

Addressing the Arctic Policy framework first, referring to the view that colonialism has been a total failure, she said that it has no place in Canada. In the Arctic where land claims and modern treaties with Inuit have set the foundation for an Inuit-to-crown relationship that is based on a recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership, this is especially true. This characterizes the new relationship between Canada and the Indigenous people of Canada. An Arctic policy led by Arctic people that is focused on the well-being and prosperity of Inuit is the only way forward as the policy has to represent the priorities of those concerned. So the policy is being co-drafted with the people of the North to get a complete Arctic policy framework. The key priorities identified are a need for comprehensive Arctic infrastructure; strong communities; strong, sustainable, and diversified Arctic economies; Arctic science and indigenous knowledge; protecting the environment and preserving Arctic biodiversity, as well as the Arctic in its global context. Opening the highway from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk was a step in the right direction.

The Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) was created in February 2017 to signify the important relationship between the Crown and Inuit. It ensures regular meetings between the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, and senior representatives of the Government of Canada with Inuit Governments and organizations. Priorities can be presented by either side for joint decision-making to create tangible changes in the priority areas. An important aspect that the Government is working on is to ensure access to affordable and healthy, culturally appropriate foods. The ICPC has also designated environment and climate change as a priority to protect the Arctic environment against global warming. The focus is on Inuit-driven climate research. Canada has invested significant amounts in two programs to help harness the knowledge of Inuit on climate change policy. \$25-million will support Indigenous organizations participating in the development of domestic climate change policy, and more than \$83-million will help integrate traditional indigenous knowledge into community-based climate monitoring and climate change adaptation. Another key priority of the ICPC is the revitalization of the Inuktitut language. A strong connection with language supports cultural identity, helping youth in particular thrive. The Minister of Heritage is working with Inuit to revitalize and promote the Indigenous languages legislation this year. We are also working on eliminating tuberculosis from Inuit communities, and to provide better healthcare. In this regard, not only the health services need to improve but also the housing strategy, as having more than 17 people living in the same house is counter-productive to tuberculosis prevention efforts. The Inuit Nunangat housing strategy is a way to develop sustainable long-term housing solutions. Work on this strategy is progressing well, and the final version will be completed this year. From making the quality of life and healthcare better, to ensuring easy processing of claims in court, the Arctic policy framework and the ICPC is making sure that real improvements are being made for the quality of life across Inuit Nunangat. With the Indigenous Rights Recognition Framework, Canada is working to be more accountable to the agreements that have been signed as it wishes to move together across jurisdictions to work with the Inuit and Arctic.

“We are so proud of the work that you have done and the work we hope to be able to do in partnership, as we move together across jurisdictions to work with the Inuit and for the Arctic.”

Russia-Anna Otke, on behalf of Honourable Roman Kopin, Governor of Chukotka

Anna Otke gave the address on behalf of the Governor of Chukotka, Roman Kopin. Ms. Otke is a member of the Russian Federation, representing the Social Policy Committee, Government of Chukotka. She started by expressing her appreciation of ICC and its focus on Inuit and Indigenous people, as well as its impact on social development in her region.

Chukotka is experiencing economic growth with the construction of the first Arctic thermal power station, a ferry passenger terminal, and a coal mine. There has also been progress in gold-mining in the region, due to a 2030 comprehensive development plan. Chukotka is striving to improve the quality of life of its people. This is being done through investing in education, the transfer of citizens from old and substandard housing, increased salaries for medical personnel, overall improvements in villages, and the construction of schools, hospitals and community infrastructure.

“Our goal, our common goal is the preservation of the environment where our Indigenous people have been living for many years. The Arctic is plentiful in natural resources. We must be careful not to harm the ecosystem.”

Due to growth and stability, the region has about \$15 million to subsidize the cost of socially significant food products for native people. ICC Chukotka has been working closely with the government to communicate our needs for development. ICC’s eight projects have been supported by the local municipality and business partners but most of all the Government of Chukotka. As a result of these projects, two volumes of Russian Eskimo dictionaries have been published. The first conference of the teachers of native language and culture of the Indigenous people to preserve the languages of the north Siberian, Far East of Russia, has been held. The marine hunters have also doubled their earnings over the past couple of years due to the efforts of providing opportunities for growth.

Much still has to be done to raise the standard of life of the local people in areas such as improved housing conditions, increasing employment, environmental preservation, and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. Coordinated efforts are required to protect the rights of Indigenous people. Ms. Otke closed by wishing all delegates productive meetings, and good work for the future benefit of Indigenous people.

United States of America-Julie Gourley, U.S. Senior Arctic Official, Arctic Council

Julie Gourley, the U.S. Senior Arctic Official for the Arctic Council thanked the ICC Chair and everyone for extending the invitation to attend the 13th GA. Coming from the Department of State, she represents the USA’s international activity in the Arctic. During the US chairmanship of the Arctic Council from 2015 to 2017, the theme was “improving economic and living conditions”. Many projects were introduced under that theme. She noted, “we wanted to remind the world that a lot of people live in the Arctic, and it’s not just a frozen wasteland in a fragile environment.”

Starting with a focus on health - a holistic, integrated approach to human health called ‘one health’ was initiated. This initiative was not limited to the Arctic, but had a global reach. Meeting the needs and aspirations of Indigenous people has remained the primary focus, which includes improving local infrastructure. Climate change is another important concern that needs attention, promoting the need for cleaner energy in communities. She said that the best monitoring can be done on a community level which Inuit can do effectively as they live in the area. In the area of healthcare, one important aspect was suicide prevention among Inuit youth. It has been addressed through the ‘RISING SUN’ (Reducing the Incidence of Suicide in Indigenous Groups – Strengths United through Networks) project, which was developed in collaboration with the Indigenous communities, and ICC across the Arctic to ensure maximum effectiveness. The key outcome of RISING SUN was a toolkit for local youth, on the website of an

organization called the Mental Health Innovation Network (MHIN).

Moving on to telecommunications, she stressed that the governments shouldn't just invest in fibre optics but it should also focus on investing in satellites because fibre optics will not be able to reach all of the Inuit communities. Better satellite infrastructure is needed to ensure connectivity for all Inuit.

The Local Environmental Observer Network (LEO) was also expanded to the Circumpolar Local Environmental Observer Network by the Arctic Council. It was expanded from where it started in Alaska and Canada, to Greenland and Russia as part of the One Health system. The United States has also introduced a new body of work on climate resilience by assessing environmental changes, climate impacts on vulnerabilities, and developing collaborative approaches and best practices for enhancing resilience. The Arctic Resilience Action Framework (ARAF) in the Arctic Council focuses on developing collaborative approaches and impacts on vulnerabilities.

She concluded by saying that these are highlights of the activities of the Arctic Council. There is a lot of positive work being done, and the ICC is very active in many aspects of the Arctic Council's work, which is invaluable to Inuit.

Greenland-Vivian Motzfeldt, Minister for Education, Culture, Church and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Greenland Government

Vivian Motzfeldt, Minister for Education, Culture, Church and Minister for Foreign Affairs presented a report on the current political direction and mission of the Government of Greenland. She explained that their coalition agreement had the primary goal of improving living conditions for the population. She provided an overview of the current situation for the government, and its vision for the future. She noted that Greenland has experienced good economic growth over the past few years. The country's earnings are mainly based on the international trade of fish products, but construction projects over past years have provided an additional boost. Tourism is also expanding, but fisheries remains the most important industry.

A new species of fish called the Atlantic Mackerel is being fished on a commercial scale. The trade deficit has been steadily decreasing as Greenland's exports have been on the rise, due to a rise in exports since 2009. This has resulted in the first trade surplus - during the first quarter of 2018 - over the past five years. About 35 percent of total exports comes from ground fisheries, accounting for more than 90 percent of total exports. On the other hand, depending on only one source for the country's entire revenue can be risky, making the economy more susceptible to fluctuation in international rates. Uncertainty in currency rates also directly influences future tax revenues. So, while this makes Greenland feel isolated in the Arctic, global political developments such as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union (EU), and Brexit, affect Greenland directly.

The unemployment rate in Greenland has gone down since 2014 due to a strong political focus on increasing employment, creating 548 more jobs in the past year. An ongoing struggle in Greenland continues to be attaining economic equality for the population, improving the level of education, and clearing an education backlog which prevents citizens from increasing their incomes. These efforts have paid off with a greater number of Inuit graduating from universities, doubling the annual professional Bachelor and Master graduates since 2003, adding more doctors, lawyers and engineers to the workforce. High school graduation rates have also doubled since 2005. While the educational development of the country is on the right track, there is still a need to do more. Greenlanders are looking at the prospect of a bright future, and the government will keep working to achieve equality for all.

The vision of the Government of Greenland is that the country should provide a haven of equal opportunities for all

its citizens to be able to pursue a good life where everyone feels safe and needs are supported by structures within society. The government is aiming to achieve this goal by continuing to strengthen the education sector. In order to keep the education system rooted in the Greenlandic language, and at the same time be accredited internationally, it needs to open up to the rest of the world, especially Greenland's western neighbours, the United States and Canada. The government is also focused on promoting a society with deep familial bonds. The culture of strong family ties is something the Government wants to keep alive as a positive cultural heritage. From an economic point of view, Greenland should be self-sustaining, through a full and reasonable use of its resources. Living off the resources of the country to the greatest extent will reduce dependency on imports and subsidies. The Arctic is rich in resources needed to sustain life and the government is focused on making sure that Greenland becomes self-sufficient. The goal of the Greenland political coalition is to ensure that the country becomes self-sufficient in terms of energy, food production, water supply, livestock farming, agriculture and vegetable production. Resources also include mineral, and oil and gas resources which the government will continue to explore to increase the scope of exporting these resources for the economic gain of the people of Greenland. This will be done without compromising the environment and the future generations of Greenlanders.

Minister Motzfeldt expressed the vision of Greenland's government is to have a Nunaat with strong and independent Inuit on the path towards a sovereign and independent country, who are educated and well rooted in our culture, living in a society that is self-sufficient in our own resources.

She then moved on to the actions that the government needs to take for Greenland to move from where it is now to the future it is planning for. The government needs to make significant reforms in order for Greenland to become a more self-sufficient country. Therefore, one of the primary objectives of the coalition agreement is to develop the necessary reforms to improve living conditions of the population, in particular continued economic development, ensuring the creation of new jobs and increasing the number of people at work. The reforms include steps such as building new schools and educational reforms while promoting cultural life; improving the social sector, providing support for the disabled; improving healthcare services and housing reforms; introducing a new fisheries act; reforming legislation on hunting, and continued expansion of production facilities in cities, towns, and villages among others.

Keeping the role of infrastructure in mind, one of the major initiatives is the construction of three new airports in Nuuk, Ilulissat, and Qaortoq to provide flexibility and efficiency in travelling to and from Greenland and decreasing airfares, which will in turn make Greenland more attractive for tourism and trade.

In conclusion, Inuit communities in Greenland are benefitting from renewable resources such as fisheries. Growth will come by investing in human resources and renewable resources that Greenland already has, to work towards a better and more sustainable country.



Patron's Address-Honorable Bill Walker, Governor of Alaska

The Honorable Bill Walker, Governor of Alaska, delivered the Patron's Address. He expressed his delight over ICC's accomplishments thus far. The Governor said that with 229 tribes in Alaska, there is a lack of connection between the governor's office and the tribes. To counter that, the Governor's Tribal Advisory Council (GTAC) has been established. The GTAC's subcommittees deal with education, public safety, health, social services, subsistence, and tribal rights. Even though Alaska is the most energy-rich state, it has the highest cost of energy in most areas, which is unjust. In order to right that wrong, they intend to bring down the cost of energy. Alaska is the only state in the US that actually owns the resources in the ground as decided by Congress at the time when Alaska became a state. Therefore, Alaska has a different relationship with its resources.

Governor Walker shared the story of Chris Appassingok from Gambell, Alaska and his harvesting of a 57-foot bowhead whale and his public sharing of that harvest on Facebook. He got a lot of pushback from people around the world who didn't understand the importance of the harvest. Governor Walker explained how they immediately gave him a seat on the GTAC. "While most 16 year olds are out feeding their egos, he was out there feeding his village."

He said that it should be noted that it is only because of Alaska that the United States is an Arctic nation. Alaska is at ground zero on climate change. The toll of climatic changes is evident in Kivalina, as the island is getting smaller and smaller without the protection of the sea ice. The same detrimental effects can be seen in Utqiagvik as well.

In order to gain the required funding to manage the environmental protection activities, Alaska needs to develop its resources to ensure regions that are most impacted by climate change are offered maximum protections, while public safety, education, and healthcare also remain primary areas of concern.

Utuqqagmiut Dancers Performance

After a break for lunch, the Utuqqagmiut Dancers from Wainwright, Alaska welcomed delegates back to the conference. The members of this dance group are descendants of the founding group. They have performed around the world, from the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) to President Barack Obama's inauguration.

Report from the Chair

The Inuit Circumpolar Council Chair, Okalik Eegeesiak began her report by reflecting on the progress and the journey that we have been on together over the past four years. She also noted the passion of all four offices working together for Inuit and to make sure the Inuit voice is heard. She spoke about how the organization has addressed Governments, the United Nations, and international organizations to improve the priorities of Inuit and help move them towards the top of the agenda. Her critical message was that for our main priorities such as food security, climate change, economic development and wellness, we have accomplished a lot, but there is still much to do. The key activities she outlined in her speech were as follows:

1. Three ICC Summits were held on: Education; Wildlife; and Economic Development.
2. The Pikialasorsuaq Commission.
3. The push to obtain greater recognition at United Nations.
4. Progress on the Kitigaaryuit Declaration.

She closed by speaking about a changing world and how our Inuit identity and culture keep us anchored as well as guides us forward. “What happens in the Arctic is important to all peoples around the world,” she concluded.

COUNTRY REPORTS

A representative from each country was given the opportunity to speak on “The State of Inuit Nunaat-Political Developments. What is the future we want?”

Natan Obed - Canada

Natan Obed, head of the Canadian Delegation, started his speech by recognizing Utqiagvik for reclaiming its official name and thanking everyone. He recognized all the hard work that ICC has been doing across Inuit Nunaat and noted the challenges of language loss as a result of colonization. He acknowledged the political significance of Utqiagvik and what started here in the 1970s. He talked about the Inuit population of 65,000 in Canada and how it was continuing to grow. He brought attention to the fact that in Canada Inuit are a very young population, and over a quarter live outside of Inuit Nunangat. He stressed the importance of



cultural and language preservation, and the challenge Inuit face as the population grows and disperses. He addressed the leadership changes in Canada in Inuit land claims settlement organizations and the government. Mr. Obed spoke about how the relationship with the Crown was improving and that they had developed the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC). The improved relationship with the Crown has been a great lever to achieve progress in the eight priority areas Inuit have developed together, even though on some points the Government still misses the mark on consulting Inuit where it may impact them. Some other key points Mr. Obed focussed on are as follows:

1. Canada’s Paris Climate Change Accord agreement contains Inuit specific considerations through the ICPC.
2. There are ongoing challenges with Government decisions impacting the Arctic without consulting Inuit, notably the example of offshore oil development bans.
3. The National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy released July 2016 to guide policy at the regional and national levels, coordinated by the National Inuit Committee on Health.
4. The National Inuit Strategy on Research (NISR), released in March 2018, coordinated by the Inuit Qaujisarvingat National Committee, is being implemented.
5. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) is working to standardize nine different Inuktitut writing systems into one.

He closed by stressing the importance of ICC and role it can play in furthering Inuit life and wellbeing through its collaboration across borders.

Vivian Motzfeldt - Greenland

Vivian Motzfeldt, the Greenlandic Minister for Education, Culture, Church, and Foreign Affairs opened by thanking delegates for giving her the opportunity to be there and to speak. She outlined her purpose of providing a report on current political directions for the future of the Government of Greenland. She also described the current formation and make-up of the Government coalition as well as its four political parties. The primary goal of her party in the coalition is to improve the living conditions and equality of the population. She spoke about Greenland’s economic growth and its reliance on fisheries, as well as the danger of relying too heavily on one source of revenue. She also spoke about increasing education levels among the population as a way to decrease unemployment rates, noting the

increase in Inuit graduates. She also said they believe that education is a critical component to achieving their goals. “Our vision is that our country should be a place where people have equal opportunities for a good life, where we all feel safe both in public and at home, where our needs are supported by the structures within our society” She stressed that Greenland was looking to learn from and partner with its western neighbors, such as the USA and Canada to achieve this objective and to make sure that their environment and culture was not compromised in the development or pursuit of this vision. She concluded by talking about what the Greenland government would be doing, summarized below:

1. Making reforms to achieve the vision to improve living conditions, ensure economic development and create new jobs and opportunities.
2. Reform school and education, housing, and legislation on hunting, and institute the fisheries act.
3. Continue to strengthen Inuit cultural life.
4. Complete three new major airport projects to better connect the Arctic.

All these actions are to support the transition towards a more independent and sustainable economy for Greenland.

Tatiana Archirgina - Chukotka

Tatiana Archirgina began her speech by speaking about policy that makes travel difficult between the Arctic states, for example having to come through South Korea. She stressed the importance of the Inuit connection, and the values of sharing, wisdom, optimism and love for each other. She talked about Chukotka’s stable government, economic opportunities for business, and their 2030 comprehensive development plan which could double if they realize their development potential. She stressed that these economic opportunities are a foundation for social well-being, to move Inuit away from subsidized structures, and to improve the quality of life. She spoke about government investments of five hundred million roubles, which helps increase salaries, provide housing, and to support industry.



Additionally, these subsidies preserve the way of life for Indigenous People, in terms of reindeer slaughter stations, motorboat provision and repair, fuel oil, and weapons. She stated that the marine hunters strive to raise their funding independently, but funding is always an issue, and they dream of a time when they can sustain themselves. ICC Chukotka has worked hard over the last four years to improve relationships with Governments. They implemented eight projects primarily funded by the Government of Chukotka to do the following initiatives:

1. Russian-Eskimo dictionary and language course.
2. A documentary video, and “Seas” book about marine hunters.
3. Community gatherings on Indigenous issues.
4. A memorial for Yuri Pankov.
5. The first Congress for native teachers of language, culture, and Indigenous literature.
6. Siberian language preservation.
7. Participation in many conferences, several government of Chukotka initiatives, and ongoing work with the department of hunting affairs.

She closed by recognizing all the efforts of the people in her region to build the economy and small and medium

sized businesses. She stated her region is tight knit because they are only fifteen hundred people. She also recognized those from her region who were earning master's degrees and furthering their education. She then urged that we need to continue to stand for Indigenous rights, because even though we have made progress, they are still not fully implemented.



Jimmy Stotts – Alaska

Jimmy Stotts, President of ICC Alaska, opened by again welcoming everyone to his hometown. He talked about his familial connection to Greenland and the dream of having an Inuit homeland. He stated how proud he was that Barrow decided to rename itself Utqiagvik and reclaim its roots. "It's like a stamp of cultural possession, cultural ownership. It's like being who we really are." He talked about how the younger generation are the true driving force behind this reclamation and how it gives him hope for the future of Alaskan Inuit.

He named the leadership changes that took place in the Alaskan Inuit organization since the last GA. He highlighted the complexity of the structure and leadership Alaska has between tribes, corporations, and municipalities. He stressed how all were struggling to maintain healthy funding for infrastructure, health, education, economic development and wellness. He talked about the membership structure and status of ICC Alaska and how they had lost one participant but were looking at new membership prospects. He described the political situation in the United States from election to election as being one step forward and two steps back. He stressed the importance of remaining true to our principles and priorities for Inuit in the current political climate. He stated how our goals have not changed in wanting to be respected, for our people, our culture, and to be able to have a strong influence on political decisions that affect our daily life. He talked about how over the last forty years our goals have not changed that much. "We want to preserve our way of life as our elders taught us, and as we should teach our children." He talked about the three summits on wildlife, education, and economic development and how we are striving for closer communication, and collaboration amongst our people. He closed by talking about two major issues of language preservation and the elimination of suicide, and included a statement about gender balance. He stressed that we are running out of time on these issues and that we need to act now, not just talk. He closed by giving a vision of the future where our youth are empowered to tackle their challenges.

"We have come back together as one people. What we have always wanted is respect for our people and for our culture, with strong influence over political decisions affecting our daily life."

Youth – The Arctic We Want

Youth representatives from each country present their vision of the Arctic they want and what they need to achieve it.

Victoria Melnik - Chukotka

Victoria Melnik opened by talking about the establishment of her village in 1959. Prior to that there were three villages, and all were consolidated into one. When the elders moved there they described the area as "lifeless", because it was a place where the walrus and whales don't go, and they had to travel very far to hunt. She spoke about how they work to preserve their traditions and culture, and outlined what goals and priorities she sees as necessary for the improvement of life in her village. She described the social structure and demographics of the village with a particular focus on the school which has eleven Eskimo teachers. Native languages, traditions and culture are taught in grades one through nine. They also hold language Olympiads. She addressed language loss and the ongoing fight to preserve it. She stated that their college has three degrees: Art, Fish and Marine Processing, and Hunting. She talked

about how sports are taught, and how it is an important part of life, and teaching. She said she really wanted to focus on helping young Inuit in Chukotka face their problems and to go back home to share the wonderful spirit of Inuit she experienced in Utqiagvik.

"I dream that more youth, more young people from my region be involved at the international level, in education, business, culture and language so my young countrymen will have opportunities to meet with their brothers and sisters across the borders and share their stories and priorities, as I have been fortunate to do."

Nicole Kanayuruk - Alaska

Nicole Kanayuruk, ICC Alaska board member, opened by stressing the importance of the space and freedom to be able to speak our language. She introduced herself in the traditional Inupiat way, by talking of her parents and grandparents, highlighting the importance of family to Inuit as a fundamental value. She stressed that youth want to continue to thrive in Inuit Nunaat and to carry on the traditions and values that have been passed down from elders. She also pointed out that it is not so much about what youth want, as it is about youth taking initiative and being confident in their voice and the ability to contribute to the conversation. She stressed that youth are the change agents to achieve the Arctic we want and have the tools to do so within them.



"We want our communities to be open to our ideas that may be outside the box," she said.

She talked about Inuit ingenuity and how youth want to leverage and embody that as well as to share their stories so the outside world can understand and know who Inuit are. She had a strong thread of unity and partnership in her speech. She talked about wanting to impact policy that impacts our homeland and to be working on Arctic issues. "We as youth want to forgive and continue to make peace with the questions that may cross our minds, to find it within ourselves to continue to thrive," she said.

She closed by talking about the priorities and the work of ICC to advance the Inuit agenda while including youth. She closed by emphasizing the responsibility youth have to achieve the founding ICC vision and the inherent beauty of the forum.

Qulutannguaq Berthelsen - Greenland

Qulutannguaq Berthelsen, President of the Sorlak youth umbrella organization, began his speech by outlining that he would be speaking of youth priorities and needs. He spoke about the need for economic development, and the differing motivations of youth who participate, and those who don't. He stated there was much the youth could do to fight poverty and support human dignity. He talked about the need for housing, and education, urging youth to support Inuit language and culture. He said all it takes is for us to look around and see who cherishes our culture.



“We have to adapt to everything today, just like when you think about kayaks and now, we have motorboats.”

He stressed the importance of maintaining our culture, noting our language is strong and we use it. He addressed the travel difficulties across Inuit Nunaat, mining impacts, and the preservation of the environment when it comes to hunting and subsistence. He closed by talking about the economy and growth. He said that today he sees Inuit working together and helping one another more and that is a good goal in itself.

Ruth Kaviok - Canada

Ruth Kaviok, President of the National Inuit Youth Council (NIYC), began her speech in Inuktitut. She described her organization and the four regions it represents in Canada. NIYC holds an annual summit with approximately one hundred Inuit youth participants, to hear their concerns and gather input for Inuit priorities. She outlined their priorities as follows:

1. Language and cultural preservation.
2. Suicide prevention and mental health.
3. Youth empowerment and education.

She stated that to achieve their vision more youth are needed on the ground advancing and fighting for these ideals. There should be a youth coordinator in each community to raise the youth voice and identify needs. She closed by talking about how youth have had enough of colonization and the traumatic impacts caused by it.

“We Inuit youth have been through enough with the colonization era, dealing with intergenerational trauma, and many negative things that have happened to us including high suicide rates. But this is a time for us to regain control and take action for the betterment of our future, and for future generations.”

Closed Meeting-Presentation of ICC Financial Statements

The plenary session was adjourned and guests were dismissed for a closed meeting of the delegates. The ICC Financial statements were presented by Jocelyn Durocher, ICC Canada; Kelly Eningowuk, ICC Alaska; and Elias Rosing, ICC Greenland during the closed session.

Conclusion of Day One

Following the closed meeting, the respective delegations met in the caucus rooms to discuss the events of the day, and then headed out to enjoy an evening cultural program.

DAY TWO-TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2018
ASSEMBLY CHAIR: NANCY KARETAK-LINDELL

Chaired by: Nancy Karetak-Lindell, ICC Canada President, and Herb Nakimayak, ICC Council Member
Opening Ceremony – Canada – Deantha Ramsey-Edmunds

The second day of the 13th ICC General Assembly was opened by Deantha Ramsey-Edmunds of Canada. A soprano singer, she is Canada's first and only classical singer of Inuit descent. The unique music that she shared with the audience has a long and rich history. In the 18th century, it was brought from classical composers in Germany to Northern Labrador. Once in the Labrador coast, the music was reimagined by Inuit musicians and became a regular feature of religious celebrations as well as community events. It was performed and transformed by the remarkable Inuit singer who brought this music to light.



For the ceremony, Ms. Ramsey-Edmunds chose to open with two pieces from the sacred Moravian repertoire, and also performed the unofficial Nunatsiavut anthem.

ICC Summit Reports

ICC held three Summits in the last term. Delegates were provided with a report on each Summit.

ICC Economic Summit: Richard Glenn, Vice-President Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

Richard Glenn presented a report on the Circumpolar Inuit Economic Summit held in Anchorage, Alaska in March of 2017, as mandated by the 2014 Kitigaaryuit Declaration. During the Summit, a task force was created to explore the formation of an International Inuit Business Council. He described the structure of the task force and broad ICC representation. He talked about the issues involved in launching the Business Council, and membership participation. It was decided the organization would set its own rules, be independent from ICC, and an organizational structure would be developed as a starting point. Some of the key decisions made were as follows:



1. Recommendations for membership, functions, powers, and qualification for membership.
2. Recommendations of three options for structure, sustainability, and reporting.
3. How to co-exist with ICC.

ICC Wildlife Summit: Duane Smith, CEO Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Duane Smith began his presentation by sharing a quote from ICC founder Eben Hopson, highlighting the importance of our global Inuit cultural connection, and the idea that we are a sovereign nation. He spoke about the importance of protecting the Inuit practice of feeding our people through whaling, using the example of 16 year old Chris

Apassingok, of Gambell, Alaska, who became a target after sharing his joy of this tradition on social media. He talked about the impacts of colonization and the need to exercise our traditional rights, which he does as a hunter. He spoke about food security and sovereignty and the fact that too many children in our communities go to bed hungry at night.

“The solutions can’t only lie in making market foods cheaper and more accessible in our communities. They must be solutions by Inuit for Inuit.”

He spoke about the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Management Summit held in Ottawa in November 2017. Inuit from all regions gathered to develop a plan for wildlife management. His main points were about Inuit standing up united with one voice to assert our rights to our food, land, and how the ecosystem is managed, learning from one another and developing common methods and strategies. The summit was guided by the Alaskan Inuit food security conceptual framework. Even so, he commented on how Indigenous Knowledge continues to be marginalized. The next steps from the summit are as follows:

1. Establish a Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Committee and network.
2. Establish an interim wildlife management steering committee.

The committees and the resulting proposals should lead to the Inuit Wildlife Committee becoming an ICC subcommittee, providing guidance and recommendations to the ICC Executive Council on the implementation of activities related to the sustainable Inuit use of wildlife resources. Additionally, the committee would provide a vision for a sustainable ecosystem, a mechanism to galvanize a united Inuit voice, and work to overcome barriers to food sovereignty. Lastly, this group would leverage global human rights policy, foster relations with non-indigenous groups, and facilitate the activities of the broader wildlife management network. He concluded by expressing his excitement about the wildlife committee, and its potential to make a positive impact for Inuit around the globe.

ICC Education Summit: Nuka Kleemann, ICC Executive Council Member, Greenland

Nuka Kleemann began his speech by addressing the importance of education, how it empowers our youth and lays the foundation for a better future. He spoke about the history of education being a priority for ICC and how we need to provide strong education in order to develop strong leadership. He emphasized how in Greenland they focussed on language proficiency in the education system because of its cultural importance and impact. What is needed are bilingual programs, an Inuit centered curriculum, and language resources for success in post-secondary education. One of the primary Summit outcomes was to establish an education committee. The key recommendations of the summit are summarized as follows:

1. Establish an International Education Secretariat.
2. Inuit centered educational institute.
3. Share pedagogical assessment, education practices, curriculum, and resources.

He closed by emphasizing the importance of knowledge exchange, and sharing experiences.

PLENARY SESSION - 1

The State of International Indigenous Rights

Panellists discussed UNDRIP, Sustainable Development Goals and other instruments that provide Inuit rights to culture, food and land.

Facilitator: Dalee Sambo Dorough, Ph.D. Associate Professor, University of Alaska

Dalee Sambo Dorough expressed her gratitude for the invitation to address the important issue of the state of international Indigenous rights. She introduced the speakers, including Hjalmar Dahl and Sarah Jancke.

She provided an opening statement, giving context to the session. She said the issue of human rights is not limited to Indigenous people; it is a global concern. Human rights are not limited to a specific group, but are universal and apply equally to all human beings. Even if the rights are being denied, they cannot be alienated or destroyed. To advocate for the rights of Inuit, ICC was organized in the early 1970s. At the same time an Arctic Peoples Conference was also organized at the United Nations on racism against Indigenous people. Thirty years later, on September 13, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It is a comprehensive instrument which affirms that “Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination,” among other rights.



The UNDRIP also affirms the right of Indigenous peoples to determine priorities for development. Inuit can make considerable contributions to the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, as they are not only aware of what their rights are but are also engaged in economic activities. Governments have also vowed to end poverty and hunger, combat inequalities, protect human rights, and promote gender equality – a goal we all want to achieve by 2030.

The UNDRIP has diverse legal effects, and much can be accomplished for Inuit by taking advantage of the human rights measures contained within it. She called for a need to be vigilant and engaged at the international level to safeguard the integrity of the UNDRIP for the benefit of Inuit. She expressed the need for Inuit to remain united in this effort and also have a strategic plan in place for the future.

Regarding self-determination affirmed in the UNDRIP, she stated that “If you think about it, that’s all we need, right? Why bother with a long document with forty six articles. In underscoring that this is the same right as affirmed in the International Covenants, it is important to note the last sentence in the second paragraph of Article 1 is a critical example of our rights being protected: In no case may a people be deprived of their own means of subsistence.”

Hjalmar Dahl, Executive Council Member, ICC Greenland

Hjalmer Dahl began by stating his agreement with Dalee Sambo’s views and thanked her for the comprehensive and clear presentation that provided an overview of the rights that are essential to the Inuit community. He said that the most challenging aspect of the UNDRIP is its implementation. Following up on commitments made by governments can sometimes slip through the process. But the declaration is an important tool which has been used to address issues such as a Fishermen’s Association in Greenland. The Declaration has paved the way forward, providing freedom from always having to wait for governments to act.

He explained that Inuit have three areas within the UN to take action. First is the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) dedicated to the rights of Indigenous peoples; second is the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) that can be called upon regularly; and the third area is the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples which was established in 2001 by the Human Rights Council to promote good practices, assess laws, government programs and constructive agreements between Indigenous peoples and states.

Mr. Dahl described the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, known as the SDGs, which has 17 goals. The elimination of poverty is goal number one, followed by eliminating hunger, provision of healthcare, quality of education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequality, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water and on the land, peace, justice and strong institutions, and partnerships. In some instances, these goals are already in action. To conclude he said that ICC is an international organization which allows participation from everyone working nationally or locally, and together we will strive for a better future for the Arctic.

Sarah Jancke, Former Co-Chair Global Indigenous Youth Caucus

Sarah Jancke began by thanking ICC for the invitation. She described how the youth council evolved from selling pop and chips together to working for the rights of Inuit after being exposed to the hardships faced by their community.

In terms of youth engagement, she highlighted some key factors including her belief that there is a need to consider and put energy into thinking about the future with UNDRIP and the UN for youth engagement. She noted the ICC and all Inuit organizations have youth around the table to gain a fresh perspective, and they give due attention and time to hear

from the youth and appreciate their participation. She appreciated the efforts to include youth in the mission towards achieving their goals. Mentorship by elders is very important for the growth and development of Inuit youth to become productive citizens in all four countries. This mentorship provides the support and stability that helps youth flourish. Through elders, youth learn about our rich history, which is often a humbling experience. She said it means a lot to youth as it builds capacity, confidence, and instills a sense of pride and identity as we remain linked to our roots. This is what keeps youth volunteering and striving to solve problems faced by our community in collaboration with our elders.



PLENARY SESSION - 2

State of the Family: What are the Influences Affecting Inuit Families?

The session included country specific presentations, from four countries, who discussed family and the influences impacting Inuit families.

Canada-Minnie Grey, Chair Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee

Minnie Grey started her presentation with a personal story from when she was younger and learning leadership skills. She said in those days, it felt like elders were the leaders and the voice of the people. So, youth did not often have a



voice. As Vice-President of the Youth Council, she had to report on the activities of the youth. When her turn was over, one of the elders in the meeting raised the question, 'when will the youth be given a voice?' That is what she is doing for the youth now – letting them have a voice.

Addressing the topic of the presentation, she stated family is important to all of us - the question is what does "family" mean to us as Inuit? What are the factors that keep the family together? And how do we recognize our own family, the bonds created within the family? These questions bring forward various perspectives. There is a need to recapture Inuit family values, which is a challenge due to extreme societal changes. The experience of residential schools, increased communication and travel, and many other factors, all contribute to the unravelling of family systems. They hinder passing on values and traditions from the elders.

She stressed that building community, family and individual strength is essential so that communities have a stronger sense of independence and autonomy. She also stressed how essential it is to acknowledge past traumas and heal from them in order to reclaim what was purposefully dismantled and removed through colonization. She concluded by saying, "We as a people have survived because we also have intergenerational resilience and wisdom."

Greenland-Avijaja Egede Lyng, Children's Spokesperson for Greenland

Avijaja Egede Lyng presented by video. Family has always been the foundation of our survival, our culture, and identity. This continues, even though family life has been greatly challenged in many ways. For this presentation the focus is on families who have difficulty taking care of their children, and how they are trying to solve these problems in a way which is better adapted to our own family structures and culture.

Some of the biggest challenges children experience are lack of protection, which allows for physical and psychological violence, neglect, being taken advantage of sexually, substance abuse and addiction, lack of security, and poor standard of living. Parents who are responsible often lack proper resources. Most families want access to resources so they can advance and raise their children. Traditionally Inuit families have protected their children in strong and loving ways through the generations with the entire community contributing to their upbringing. The contrast between the home life and the world they step into as soon as they leave the house in the modern world is dramatic. The modern world places a lot of focus on the individual instead of the family. The ever evolving social system has also made it harder to seek help. In order to keep benefitting from the familial system, efforts must be made to hold on to the cultural and traditional values passed down through generations.

"Family has always been vital for our survival, our culture, and identity and it continues to be even though life has been greatly challenged in many ways."

Aklavik Drummers and Dancers Performance

After the lunch break, the Aklavik Drummers and Dancers performed for delegates. The Aklavik Drummers and Dancers have been performing for more than 30 years. Originally formed by Inuvialuit elders to revive the songs and dances taught to them by their elders, they travelled to Inuvialuit communities to encourage others to take part. Now, though many of these elders passed away, the group thrives,



showcasing the traditions and cultures of the Inuvialuit around the globe. The group continues providing youth, both in and outside of school, with lessons and thus passing on their culture and language.

Chukotka: Economics and the family-Irina Popova, Elder from Uelen

Irina Popova began by saying that they are very proud of their seal hunters in Chukotka, as the earnings from the hunters, and the products that they supply to the village, are the most important contribution to the budget of many families. In recent years, the situation in the community has improved greatly due to improved logistical support. She gave, as an example, a tractor being provided, with fuel, lubricating materials, accessories, and spare parts. The Union of Marine Hunters of Chukotka also provides special clothes for hunters.

Unfortunately, the percentage of people in the workforce doesn't always attain the minimum subsistence income established by legislation. This is especially true for industrial workers, nurses in hospitals, and technical personnel in schools, and other employment categories. Furthermore, there is also not enough social housing - 104 families are waiting for housing, and existing housing needs repairs. The government is providing financial help in this regard. The Great Motherhood Capital Program is also a state sponsored initiative under which mothers receive child allowance on a monthly basis, but the main responsibility still lies with parents.

"The main task of our local authorities, and the international Inuit organization, is to promote the creation of jobs to help develop production in the rural areas where most of our people live."

Alaska: Culture and Identity-Byron Nikolai and Piiyuuk Shields

Byron Nikolai and Piiyuuk Shields from Toksook Bay, began their presentation by introducing their families in the traditional Yu'pik way, commenting about coming from a large, connected family. As they showed a picture, they joked that it would take "ten slides" to show the whole family, and if they were all on one slide the people would be too small.

Ms. Shields said in her family she was raised by her grandparents to be the perfect Yu'pik wife, which meant knowing how to take care of food well, to take the role as a sewer, and all the various traditional practices that define the woman's role in the family. The clothes we create in our culture aren't just practical, they are beautiful as well. The regalia has tremendous meaning, and when creating it you have to impart peace, calm and goodness into the clothing, otherwise negativity will pass on to the wearer. In talking about the family's contribution to their upbringing, they learned they were protected by being told how to do things the right way, and scolded only because their families want the best for them. Kids are like sponges that soak everything up so it is important to instil proper values.

They talked about the changing times and their desire to stick to traditional values and language while embracing modern life as well. Ms. Shields spoke about the woman's role in taking care of and raising kids and described her aspiration to be a teacher in order to teach children the Yu'pik way. Mr. Nikolai spoke about the value of being scolded, not to be mean, but in a way that means, 'I am telling you this because I love you'. He also talked about the tradition



of encouraging men to go out and work to hunt, to be out in the land to learn about your surroundings for survival. He said that we are stronger because we pass down knowledge to the younger generation so they can survive in the future. They greatly encouraged supporting and living our hunting traditions and values that have guided our people for centuries.

“We come from a very rich community, Toksook Bay, where kids speak our language. Yu’pik is our first language and it is the language we prefer to speak.”

They closed by highlighting the importance of learning from one another, from our parents, our elders, and from each other.

Plenary Discussion – Plenary Sessions 1 and 2

Herb Nakimayak opened the floor to questions and comments on the sessions. The following items were highlighted by the delegates:

- We need to understand urban Inuit populations, homelessness, and how to reach and include them, as well as those who were adopted out or taken from Inuit families. What is the relationship to culture and language loss, and how do urban and rural Inuit interact?
- Addressing the impacts and occurrence of sexual abuse of children in Inuit homes.
- Children are being taken from Indigenous homes by the government, supported by federal funding.
- Recognition of the fact that many urban Inuit go back home to share their education, knowledge and time to further language, culture, and build a better future for Inuit.
- The idea that self-determination and being a self-governing people is important and that is what Inuit should strive for.
- In Canada many Inuit women leave home for the city to escape violence in the home, and the issue of sex trafficking is impacting this population.
- The idea that we consistently talk about elders and youth, but we also have a middle-aged population we need to empower, inspire and include.
- We as Inuit need to strengthen our right to all resources in our homeland, and exercise our human rights.
- The importance of giving youth a voice and building our Inuit education systems.

Silla and Rise Throat Singers Performance

The second day plenary wrapped up with a performance by the Silla and Rise Throat singers. The Silla and Rise Throat singers are Cynthia Pitsiulak who is originally from Kimmirut, NU and Charlotte Qamaniq is originally from Igloolik, NU. Pitsiulak and Qamaniq have been performing throat singing since 2005. They are based in Ottawa and blend traditional Inuit throat singing with electronic dance music. Their album debut was a Juno Award nominee for Indigenous Music Album of the Year at the Juno Awards of 2017.



Conclusion of Day Two

At the conclusion of the plenary session, respective delegations met in the caucus rooms to discuss the events of the day, followed by an evening cultural program.

Opening Ceremony – Chukotka – Chukotka Dance Group

Assembly Chair Vera Metcalf opened the day's proceedings by inviting a dance performance by the Chukotka Dance Group.

PLENARY SESSION - 3

State Of The Arctic Environment

Vera welcomed delegates and opened up the session, which addressed the state of the environment in Inuit Nunaat through Indigenous Knowledge and science. Questions posed were: where are things at with terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems, water quality, wildlife, climate change?

Keynote: Overview of the Arctic Environment: International Politics and the Environment in the Circumpolar Arctic-Mary Simon, Former Circumpolar Ambassador and Former ICC President

Mary Simon began her address by expressing her delight at being invited to the ICC General Assembly. Connecting through Skype, she said that she is sitting in the office of the President of ITK, Natan Obed. She also congratulated the newly appointed ICC representatives. She said that the fact that she was able to be a part of the conference through Skype is a testament to the importance of internet connectivity for the Arctic.

Addressing the tug of war between the Arctic environment and the economy, between animal rights and the right to hunt, she highlighted the transformation that the Arctic is undergoing and the reasons behind it. Regarding the Arctic environment, she stated, "Our lives, our rights, our future all lie in the connection we have with the cold, dynamic, harsh Arctic environment. The snow, the ice, the land, and animals bind us together. We are indeed part of the rhythms and flow of the seasonal cycles and we are impacted by any change to these."

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) stated in 2018, the Northern Hemisphere winter maximum sea ice extent was the second lowest on record since 1979, which is very alarming. A change in the Arctic environment means a change in the entire planet's environment as it affects weather patterns around the world. If the rainforests are the lungs of the planet, the Arctic is its refrigerator. The Arctic ocean and atmospheric currents play an important role in regulating global temperatures.

Mary Simon stated when the prospects of Arctic oil and gas exploration raised environmental concerns, she petitioned the then Canadian Prime Minister to pause offshore exploration until its effect on the environment can be determined. As the ice is melting, more ships and vessels are coming into the Arctic, not just for oil and gas but also for tourism which is good for the economy but is taking a toll on the environment. Inuit are working with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to consider a ban on Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) in the Arctic. Inuit communities are dependent on fossil fuels but there is a need to pursue alternative energy resources that are green and renewable to ease the burden on the environment.

She concluded by noting that we are responsible to take good care of nature, the environment, and the ice for the generations to come. ***"Never forget the past, but rather carry the lessons and voices of our elders with us for healing and for hope,"*** concluded Mary Simon.

“The Meaning of Ice”: Lene Kielsen Holm, Researcher and Project Leader with the Greenland Climate Research Centre, at Pinngortitaleriffik, Greenland Institute of Natural Resources

Lene Kielsen Holm presented on the Meaning of Ice project which started in 2007 and has three major components: the first is sea ice knowledge exchange; secondly, gathering a group of experts from Greenland, Canada and Alaska; and thirdly, sea ice issues.

One of the results from this project and the Siku-Inuit workshop in 2009 was the sea ice terminology, with 69 terms all relating to the sea ice. Referring to the concept of traditional knowledge, she said, “In the past few years, there has been a movement away from the concept of traditional knowledge and work has been done to introduce a bigger concept illustrating the knowledge of indigenous peoples of the Arctic in a more flexible and understandable way.” She stressed the importance of being more specific when referring to traditional knowledge as ‘Indigenous Peoples Knowledge’. The journey of sharing knowledge between Inuit is an ongoing one as the production of knowledge is a key to solving issues faced by the Arctic.

Discussion - Plenary Session 3

The floor was opened up for questions and comments following Plenary Session - 3. Highlights included:

- The idea of examining the Antarctic moratorium on research for applicability in the Arctic.
- Setting the agenda for research in Inuit Nunaat and drafting guiding principles.
- China’s policy and strategy on the Arctic, include fisheries, and shipping. We need to participate in that discussion because it will impact our people.
- Outside interest in the Arctic in general and the need to protect our environment, traditions and culture especially from people who don’t have the same principles and values, and only want to take.
- What will we do about waste management and pollution in the Arctic?

CASE STUDIES: CASE STUDIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WERE PRESENTED BY EACH COUNTRY.

The Pikialasorsuaq Commission - Kuupik Kleist – Greenland Commissioner

Kuupik Kleist began his presentation by expressing his gratitude at being given the privilege to address the 13th ICC General Assembly. Historically, we have been struggling to negotiate and sign land claims. These struggles have resulted in some unbelievable victories due to the determination and hard work of the dedicated and motivated Inuit youth. Taking the efforts one step further, the Pikialasorsuaq Commission was established by ICC in January 2016. The mandate of this commission is for Inuit in Nunavut and Greenland to take back control of the area that has been divided into two parts due to state borders. We are calling for common control on the sea area by Inuit. The commission is working to eliminate the artificial borders that have been imposed, with a vow to manage the land and sea together.

ICC has taken on a huge task, and it will not be easy to implement the commission’s recommendations. But although it will be a difficult task, this is no reason to give up, but rather to concentrate efforts and try harder than ever. The ICC has a longstanding history of achieving seemingly unreachable goals.

Regarding the characteristics of the Pikialasorsuaq, it is an incredibly diverse area with areas of icy waters that remain unfrozen throughout the winters. “This is one of the most biologically productive regions north of the Arctic Circle, and it is a critical habitat for many migratory species. It is an Arctic haven teeming with marine life that has nourished

Inuit subsistence culture for thousands of years. Today the Pikialasorsuaq is increasingly being threatened. Rapid and large scale changes with unknown consequences are now taking place.”

These rapid changes include climatic and environmental change, increased shipping activities, tourism, commercial fisheries, oil and gas exploration and development. Echoing Mary Simon’s proposal of creating Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) to support the vision of a working landscape, and to support a conservation economy for Northern communities, he described it as a strong vision for Inuit leadership based on the Inuit culture and way of life that will help build a sustainable economy for the Arctic. The Pikialasorsuaq Commission recommendations reflect community concerns about the interdependence and intimate relationship with the land, especially the Polynya. The commission also addressed concerns about the impacts of climate change and food security. The Polynya is a major food source of marine mammals, birds and other species. Preserving the Polynya is not just for food security but also a matter of survival. Through the commission a common agenda was developed to jointly manage activities such as tourism and shipping in a responsible and sustainable way that will reduce the damage being caused to the natural habitat.

Food Security and the Marine Ecosystem - Austin Ahmasuk, Marine Advocate, Kawerak

Austin Ahmusuk began his presentation by expressing his happiness that we are talking about food security and the marine ecosystem in a holistic way. The government doesn’t always take a holistic approach when it comes to Inuit food security and the marine ecosystem. The key points from his case study are as follows:

- The Marine program was established in 2014 to advocate for tribes in their region against the potential impacts of shipping.
- There is massive climate change impacting people. He cited as examples the empty drying racks in the villages and NASA imagery highlighting drastically warmer water temperatures.
- Changes in species, change in behavior of animals due to climate changes, and a shift from being a sea ice region to a pelagic zone.
- Impacts of dietary changes and health impacts with higher instances of diabetes.
- Instances of harvesting heavily oiled birds and mammals because of heavy fuel oil used in tankers, noting many examples of spills.
- Instances of algal blooms that create paralytic shellfish poisoning and contribute to saxitoxins in the water, how they are managed and monitored elsewhere but not in the Bering Strait yet and may be contributing to large die-offs in some species.

Understanding Arctic Change through Indigenous Knowledge - Aluki Kotierk, President Nunavut Tunngavik, Inc.

Aluki Kotierk began her speech with a saying, “Sila is boss”, meaning regardless of what we plan, the weather will not necessarily cooperate. She related that to planning a community gathering, or planning a hunting trip. The highlights of her presentation are outlined below:

- Hunting is one example of how we learn about and understand the intricacies of our environment, with many types of snow and ice, and animal behaviour.
- The weather means survival to a hunter; it teaches



him about the environment and how to have a successful hunt.

- She spoke of the value of Indigenous Knowledge and how it has guided our political struggles throughout history and our people through its principles.
- Indigenous Knowledge is transmitted through family. Inuit are interconnected.
- Nunavut marine monitoring and data collection indicated in 2006 indicated marine traffic increased sixty-three percent.

She concluded by talking about the partnerships and international cooperation required to be successful in our endeavours, as well as to ensure that Indigenous Knowledge is included and respected.

“We must continue with important international cooperation to advance our shared vision of a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable Arctic,” said Aluki Kotierk.

Environmental problems which threaten the traditional way of Chukotka Inuit - Aleftina Pavlova, Librarian, Sireniki

Aleftina Pavlova started her presentation by sharing the history of the Chukotka region, noting her village name translates to: “the valley of the sun”. She spoke about the threats to their way of life from pollutants and a general disrespect of the land and way of life that they love. The highlights of her presentation are outlined as follows:

- Russian order 631 states that the whole region is an area for traditional villages and people. This order gives them the right to carry out their traditional activities.
- There are twenty-eight specially protected natural areas in the region, including three natural hunting reserves.
- She spoke of the pollution because of use of coal in boilers, but they also have some modern treatment facilities.
- She talked of the walrus having less fat due to low ice thickness and foul-smelling whales being harvested. They are hoping to have all animal harvests tested for contamination.
- She talked about the impacts of mining and how they are working more to protect the environment.
- In terms of energy she spoke of a floating nuclear power plant being constructed. Although this project has been approved, it is something that bothers their people.

PLENARY SESSION - 4

State of the Arctic Economy

The fourth session, chaired by Jimmy Stotts, was on the topic of how the Arctic economy is changing. Panellists addressed how Inuit can take advantage of these changes. Before the presentations began, Mr. Stotts explained that members of the Inuit Economic Summit Task Force have identified six Inuit businesses that have agreed to work together with ICC to move the initiative for economic development forward with the creation of an International Inuit Business Association (IIBA).

Alaska: Arctic Oil and Gas: Rex Rock, President Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

Rex Rock addressed the challenges faced by Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) and the need for adaptability. He stated, *“We adapt, and we thrive. We love challenges because we know we can always find opportunities in them. The ASRC has been very open in its support of responsible exploration and development on both onshore and offshore resources in the Arctic.”*

He expressed concern over the evolution of onshore oil exploration and production towards the offshore. There is a need to find a way to align oil and gas exploration and development for the sustainability of the community. Reflecting on the positive aspects of oil and gas exploration, he said that it often provides us with the opportunity to directly lower the costs of living for people, which is a win-win situation. Oil and gas exploration contributes significantly to the local economy by increasing the tax base. The North Slope Borough's tax base contributes to health clinics, gymnasiums, roads, and clinics while at the same time providing a lower cost of energy for the local community. He concluded by saying that we take current and future challenges in stride as we believe in the Arctic because we are from the Arctic.



Canada: Renewable Energy, Charlie Watt, Sr. President Makivik Corporation

Charlie Watt, Sr. stressed the fact that Inuit need to be well organized, develop proper strategies, and build strong financial support to succeed. On the topic of energy, he said, "In my mind, energy is a strong link to the issue of sovereignty. Our self-determination and our economic development enhance self-determination in all areas. Part of sovereignty is undertaking commercial activities building on our own economy. And we have a huge opportunity to do so in renewable energy."

Looking forward to "the Arctic We Want," the focus must shift to creating agreements with other governments, and other countries to explore the possibilities related to renewable energy. The transition to renewable energy will stimulate the Arctic economy, lower the cost of living, and most importantly, it will improve our quality of life and enhance progress. Makivik Corporation is making investments in renewable energy and are seeking creative business ideas for improving living standards and the economy. Hydroelectricity holds great promise as a source of renewable energy to shift communities from diesel generators to hydroelectricity. A regionally owned renewable energy company is being developed to create projects tailored to the individual Nunavik communities and to provide maximum benefit to the region in terms of capital, job creation and skills development.

He concluded that Nunavik is determined that future renewable energy production in the region will be under Inuit control. The intent is to engage in direct negotiations to develop hydro-power purchase agreements with Hydro-Quebec. The circumpolar Inuit have shared ancestors, and shared dreams of an Arctic nation of Inuit and together we will take steps towards achieving the Arctic we want.

Greenland: Harvesting and Fisheries-Jens K. Lyberth, Director for Corporate Relations of Royal Greenland

On the topic of harvesting and fisheries, Jens K. Lyberth noted there has been an increase in the global catch of fish, now 93.4-million tons annually, which is unfortunate. In Greenland, collaborating with the fishing and hunting organizations, we decided that Greenlandic fisheries must be certified by the Marine Stewardship Council, which ensures sustainable development and sustainable harvesting.

He said, "*We have to remember that fishing for Greenland is the most important income we have. Our export of fish is very crucial for the Greenlandic economy. Fish prices on international markets are very important to monitor.*"

Fish in the waters off our coasts don't follow the political boundaries, which makes maintaining a dialogue with each

other all the more important. We must continually be able to exchange data and resources from the different areas of research being conducted. He concluded by highlighting the large investment Greenland has made in this industry to grow it sustainably.

Chukotka: Mining-Svetlana Ashkamakina

Svetlana Ashkamakina from Chukotka discussed the mining industry in Chukotka. She noted the Chukotka Autonomous Region is important in the Russian Federation, and the basis of the region's economy is the mining industry, with its rich mineral deposits and raw materials. Based mainly on gold mining, the economy of the region has improved greatly over the past 70 years, ever since deposits of gold, tungsten, copper, mercury, and oil and gas have been discovered and explored.

A major impediment in the mining process is the poor transportation infrastructure in Chukotka, which is why the Government is focusing on developing the road network. Significant planning and progress has already been made on this issue, and is aimed to be completed in 2020.

To conclude she said, "We must continue our partnership through mutual understanding. I would like to add that it was very interesting to hear about your experiences in your countries, and the various partnerships between industries and Indigenous People."

Keynote: Building strong Arctic Economies - Liz Cravalho, Vice President External and Government Affairs, NANA Regional Corporation (NANA)

Liz Cravalho began by stating there is no separation between us and what sustains us. We are part of the ecosystem and our heritage and culture are an important part of the ecosystem. While our traditional tools have sustained us, we now have new tools in the form of corporations, and governance structures. She noted the staggering pace of change over the last fifty years.

"Greater Inuit economic, social, and cultural self-sufficiency is an essential part of greater Inuit self-determination." The tools and structures we have built are a means to an end for greater Inuit sovereignty. Development in the Arctic needs to be in sync with our culture and benefit our communities. She spoke of the importance of global partners as well as a need to see how our economies are connected to the larger global system. She talked about our adaptability and ingenuity as Inuit, and how we are looking at ways to adapt our infrastructure as well.

"As opportunities to partner with Arctic and Non-Arctic partners present themselves, it is incumbent upon us to lead these partnerships for the future we want."

She shared the example of NANA's partnership with Teck Resources Limited in the Red Dog Mine. They viewed the partnership as a lever to assert self-governance and develop greater self-sufficiency. They had to choose a partner that would be environmentally responsible. She spoke of the growth of NANA and leveraging those investments to develop the business, but also to give back to the community for education and other social cultural needs. She concluded by saying, "If we want more sustainable economies in the Arctic, we must lead the development of these economies through our businesses, our communities, and our government."

Discussion - Plenary Session 4

The floor was opened up for questions and comments following Plenary Session - 4. Highlights included:

- A comment on small boat fisheries in Greenland and the impacts of quotas, even though large fisheries are harvesting a tremendous amount.
- Resource development on Indigenous lands can be done responsibly and with the right partners, and that Calista Corporation was exploring the Donlin Gold Project.
- We as a people can advance our rights through ownership of the resources to have greater influence, economies, and opportunities.
- Through investing in each other and taking ownership we can better leverage our sovereign powers and rights.
- Protection of Inuit Intellectual Property (IP).
- We are finally doing something beyond talking in terms of Arctic Inuit business partnership and development.

Conclusion of Day Three

At the conclusion of the plenary session, the day concluded with caucus meetings, a traditional potluck, and an evening cultural program.



Opening Ceremony – Greenland – Qissiat Singing Group

The last day of the General Assembly began with a moment of silence in memory of the ICC members who have passed away. The Qissiat Singing Group dedicated a hymn to their memory. “Qissiat” stands for drift wood or timber which has reached the Greenland shores from Siberian and perhaps even North American forests and rivers. This made it possible for the first Greenlanders to build their kayaks and boats and therefore able to sustain life in the tough arctic environment. The men in the choir are all “migrants” to the capital Nuuk from all parts of Greenland and therefore the name “Qissiat” suits us well. Next, they performed a song that was originally prepared for the GA in 2010 in Nuuk, followed by a traditional Inuit drum chant.

PLENARY SESSION - 5 The Future of Inuit Nunaat – Building Relationships and Partnerships for a Stronger Inuit Nunaat

Hjalmar Dahl presented the agenda for the day, beginning with the theme focussing on the future of Inuit Nunaat, covering areas such as building relationships and partnerships for the development of a stronger Inuit Nunaat.

Partnerships – Building Relationships within Inuit Nunaat and Beyond

Canada: Honourable David Akeeagok, Deputy Premier of Nunavut

David Akeeagok began his address by expressing his gratitude at being invited to the 13th ICC General Assembly. Aligned with the concept of building relationships and partnerships for a stronger Inuit Nunaat, the Government of Nunavut is united in the desire to start building nation to nation and government to government relationships that will preserve and promote the rights and culture of the Inuit. In celebrating the 25th anniversary of signing the Nunavut agreement, this is what started the process of creating our own government guided by Inuit societal values. *“We have many needs and many competing priorities, but we are a jurisdiction of hope, opportunity, and great strength. This means that Nunavut looks to develop respectful partnerships that benefit our people as we work to close socio-economic gaps between Inuit and non-Inuit.”*

To this end, the Government of Nunavut is committed to working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), the regional Inuit organizations, the Canadian government, and the municipalities to make this goal a reality. We are striving for collaborative approaches to build a strong prosperous territory where Nunavummiut have equal opportunities to flourish as residents of the Arctic. The aim is to promote participation in the international community and economy as global citizens.

Combining our energies and seeking active partnerships in the political, economic, and social development of the circumpolar region will further this cause. Teamwork and determination are keys to moving forward into a brighter future. An example is the partnership with Canada’s federal government to develop a strong Arctic policy framework. To conclude he stated, “Together we are dedicated. We are dedicated to the possibilities of strength in numbers, united as single people within the circumpolar Arctic.”

Alaska: Marie Greene, Former President of NANA Corporation, previous ICC Alaska Board Member, and Member of the US Arctic Research Commission

Marie Greene started her presentation by expressing how honored she felt at being a part of the 13th General Assembly in Utqiagvik. She also agreed that building relationships is crucial within our communities, between the regions, across generations, and with potential partners to promote Inuit rights and values. She paid homage

to Inuit elders, who are now a part of our history, for their important role in leading, guiding, and working together with fellow Inuit to preserve and maintain the well-being, culture, language and traditions, and for protecting the land and sea as the world continued to change and evolve. These changes have brought with them some major challenges, such as land claims, lifestyle, social well-being, and food security. Reflecting on her own experience of being brought up among Inuit culture and traditions that instilled discipline and a sense of self-determination and respect of authority, she said, *“As we were raised in the village of Deering, Alaska, we were taught the Inupiaq values. We were taught respect by example and love for one another and the appreciation of hard work through the actions and behaviour of the Deering Inuit relationships and partnerships. For many of us in our Inuit regions, this is how we were raised, taught, and mentored throughout our childhood and adult lives by the leaders we looked up to as they served our people.”*



Across the circumpolar Arctic, each region carries out their leadership role and responsibilities differently, yet the guiding values remain constant. Through years of experience, we have come to the conclusion that in this region, establishing and nurturing partnerships is an important element in accomplishing organizational goals. She concluded by stating, *“For the future Inuit, we all know our hearts, mind, and soul must follow the Inuit ways of knowing revealed by our past leadership and what they have accomplished during and after each of our general assemblies. We must continue to think beyond ourselves and take action for the whole Inuit community.”*

Greenland: Sara Olsvig, Member of Inatsisartut (Greenland Parliament), and Member of the ICC Greenland Delegation

Sara Olsvig began by expressing her gratitude for being given the opportunity to share her views of the shared future with all in attendance. She said being here is a great feeling, to have a place which feels like home so far away. We should continue building our relationships beyond the ICC general assemblies by remaining in contact on a more regular basis. Reflecting on the unique relationship the Inuit community shares, she stated, *“We the peoples of the Arctic hold a very special and, if you think about it, incredible position. We live in a region of the world where our states and governments, different as they are, work together based on dialogue and diplomacy. We live side by side, sharing cultures, languages, and resources. We have a huge responsibility to do things right, to maintain our strong partnerships both among Inuit and with other Indigenous Peoples and with our other partners in the Arctic and beyond. We have a responsibility to take the lead of the development of the Arctic.”*

Reflecting on some of the challenges that are shared between national and international partners, and the challenges faced internally in our communities, it is more important than ever to lead the advocacy for the Arctic to be declared a zone of peace. Believing in peace means believing in people, hope and human rights. As new challenges continue to emerge, compounding older issues, it is imperative to continually keep improving our efforts to meet these obstacles. A lot of work lies ahead to achieve this goal. Joining hands with new partners and fostering meaningful relationships is the only way forward.

Discussion – Plenary Session - 5

The floor was opened up for questions and comments. Highlights included:

- A vision of a peaceful Arctic was outlined with no conflicts, harmony and cooperation.
- There was a highlight on partnerships, using the example of cross-border collaboration among Inuit to support whaling.
- A need to reinforce our Inuit education and bring a strong voice to support the education of our children.
- To use education to build a vision that is reflective of future Inuit leadership needs.
- The need to carefully manage relationships with outside interests seeking to benefit from the Arctic without including Inuit.
- The issue was raised that there is not enough capacity to help and support people dealing with trauma particularly from sexual abuse in our regions.
- The issue was brought up that we need more health and wellness representation.
- Partnering with other indigenous peoples around the world will strengthen our work.
- There was a call to focus on the foundation of economic development.
- Generally, the plenary was used to express gratitude for being full of spirit, unity and love.

Awards and Gift Presentations

The Bill Edmunds Award was established by ICC to honour those individuals who have made a selfless contribution to the promotion of Inuit rights and interests, with a particular focus on international endeavours. This year's award was presented to outgoing ICC Chukotka President Tatiana Achirgina. Each country's head of delegation was also provided with the opportunity to present gifts.



Presentation and Adoption of the Utqiaġvik Declaration: Chair, Okalik Eegeesiak

Ms. Okalik Eegeesiak presented the Utqiaġvik Declaration for approval. There were fifty-eight articles under the following priority areas:

- International Indigenous Human Rights and International Partnerships
- Food Security
- Families and Youth
- Health and Wellness
- Education and Language
- Indigenous Knowledge
- Sustainable Wildlife Management
- Environment
- Sustainable Development
- Communication
- Capacity Building

After the presentation and adoption of the Declaration, the document was signed by the ICC Executive Council.

Selection of 2022 General Assembly

Ms. Okalik Eegeesiak introduced Hjalmar Dahl to announce the next host of the 2022 General Assembly. The 2022 General Assembly will be held in Ilulissat, Greenland.

Introduction of ICC Chair

Ms. Eegeesiak introduced Dalee Sambo Dorough as the new ICC Chair for the 2018-2022 term. Ms. Sambo Dorough expressed gratitude, and shared her personal history, and how she came to be involved with human rights, as well as her experiences with school as an Inupiaq person. She talked about her long-term relationship with ICC and the work she accomplished in her early days with founder, Eben Hopson, and how that led her to be at every ICC General Assembly. Her story evolved to work with Hjalmar Dahl at the United Nations for human rights. She encouraged the youth and commended their presentations and participation. She outlined her vision and approach to leverage human rights and build sound interconnected strategies. She concluded by talking about the need for unity among our 180,000 Inuit, and the need to celebrate and elevate every Inuk, to collaborate to ensure our vision becomes a reality, and by stating that she would do everything she could to make everyone happy, and thrive.



Presentation of the New ICC Executive Council

ICC Chair: Dalee Sambo Dorough (center)

Canada

Vice Chair: Monica Ell-Kanayuk

Council Member: Lisa Koperqualuk

Alaska

Vice Chair: Jimmy Stotts

Council Member: Vera Metcalf



Greenland

Vice Chair: Hjalmar Dahl

Council Member: Nuka Kleemannn

Chukotka

Vice Chair: Lubov Taian

Council Member: Elena Kaminskaya

Closing of the 13th ICC General Assembly

Okalik Eegeesiak reflected on the proceedings of the past week towards the end of the four day conference. Thanking elders Edward Adams and Wesley Aiken she said it is our elders who ground us and provide guidance to the youth by lighting up their path with examples of their admirable work. She thanked everyone from the Governor of Alaska to

the volunteers for their role in making the event a success and also the cultural performers who brought a taste of our rich traditions to the proceedings, making us all very proud of our traditional Inuit culture.

This conference provided an opportunity to share a vision of the future with our youth, as it is the youth who will be carrying this vision forward. Discussing our work and achievements highlights our commitment to continue fighting for our rights, environment, hunting culture, food security, health and wellness, language, education, and our economy. At ICC we work carefully with the limited resources available to us so that together we can create a united and progressive Inuit Nunaat.

Closing Prayer

The General Assembly concluded with a closing prayer by Wesley Aiken.

Conclusion of Day Four

At the conclusion of the plenary session, the day concluded with an evening cultural program.



Annex A: Signed Utqiaġvik Declaration



Utqiaġvik Declaration 2018

As declared by the Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka on the occasion of the 13th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) from 16-19 July 2018 in Utqiaġvik, Alaska, and in the context of the Assembly theme:

Inuit – The Arctic We Want

Appreciative of the warm welcome from the North Slope Borough and the community of Utqiaġvik, which lies at the confluence of the Beaufort and Chukchi seas and has been home to the Iñupiat since time immemorial;

Reaffirming that Inuit are one Arctic people living in four nations across Inuit Nunaat, our shared homeland, that today encompasses northern Alaska, Chukotka, Canada, and Greenland, as declared in the 2009 *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*;

Further reaffirming that the rights to lands, resources and territories and the right of self-determination, affirmed by the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration)*, applies to our entire homeland, including lands, waters, ice, air space and resources;

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of ICC and recalling that Eben Hopson, Sr. invited Inuit from across Inuit Nunaat to Utqiaġvik in 1977 to work together in solidarity, to share regional experiences, celebrate our strength and unity as Inuit, and pursue and coordinate collective international and local actions;

Envisioning a future defined by Inuit, reflective of our General Assembly theme, “*Inuit-The Arctic We Want*” and respectful of our rights, as Indigenous Peoples, to protect Inuit Nunaat and enhance our culture, health, and wellbeing and protect our language;

Committing to take full and effective action to prevent suicide among Inuit by advancing cultural and evidence-based interventions;

Understanding that food security is central to Inuit identity and way of life; is characterized by a healthy environment and encompasses access, availability, economics, physical and mental health, Inuit culture, decision-making power and management, and education. Therefore, it will be promoted and endorsed in all aspects of ICC’s work;

Acknowledging the value of each ICC General Assembly Declaration as instrumental for guiding action on our shared priorities and for monitoring ongoing issues;

Affirming that this *Utqiaġvik Declaration* is a strategic document in support of the actions that we consider achievable over the next four years and that reflect our priorities.

We hereby:

1. **Thank** the city and people of Utqiaġvik for hosting ICC's 13th General Assembly;
2. **Welcome and Adopt** the ICC Report on Activities 2014–2018;
3. **Recognize** the value of the reports, and presentations provided, and discussions held throughout, this General Assembly which have informed our actions and priorities;
4. **Direct** ICC to collaborate and enhance communication within our membership and with the rest of the world.

International Indigenous Human Rights and International Partnerships

The interrelated, interdependent and indivisible rights of Inuit are recognized and affirmed in the *UN Declaration* as an international human rights instrument as well as in other legal and political instruments and mechanisms, including land rights legislation and agreements, and self-government, intergovernmental and constitutional arrangements.

We were central in the creation of the Arctic Council and we remain an important voice as a Permanent Participant. Among other human rights, our United Nations Consultative Status provided us with the opportunity to advance our rights to lands, territories and resources as recognized in *UN Declaration*, including those lands, territories, and resources that we have "*traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired*". Our role within the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), as a central United Nations coordinating body for Indigenous Peoples, remains a priority of the ICC.

Recognizing the importance of international fora, ICC will continue its advocacy work and participation in decision-making processes and pursue the following actions to affirm and strengthen Inuit rights throughout Inuit Nunaat and globally:

5. **Mandate** that ICC immediately develop a strategic plan for improving coherence and coordination of inclusive engagement in international fora and to map out the four-year term to implement and further the directives contained in this Declaration being mindful of the *ICC Arctic Policy* and *ICC Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*, and the *ICC Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat*;
6. **Acknowledge** that the Arctic Council is an important forum for achieving the aims of "*Inuit-The Arctic We Want*" and that there is a need to improve capacity to fully engage in the work of the Arctic Council at the Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) and Working Group levels, including our insistence on equitable engagement in all activities and a meaningful leadership and decision making role.
7. **Mandate** ICC to initiate diplomatic talks for the purpose of laying the groundwork for negotiations to declare the Arctic as a Peaceful Zone;
8. **Direct** ICC to follow the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals closely to ensure that our people are informed about the progress and efforts made on these goals.

9. **Encourage** ICC to enhance Inuit participation and capacity within the United Nations General Assembly, relevant United Nations agencies and organizations, including but not limited to the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and to monitor implementation of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Inuit Nunaat;
10. **Direct** ICC to support and encourage the full implementation of the *UN Declaration* throughout Inuit Nunaat as advocated by the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document;
11. **Engage** in the UNPFII through active participation and be prepared to engage in new processes within the UNPFII to further our goals and objectives;
12. **Support** the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and to defend the rights of the Inuit at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and expansion of its mandate to engage with States and other Indigenous Peoples to assist them in addressing country-specific situations, and be permitted to seek, receive, gather and consider information from all sources, including specific cases and matters of concern for Inuit rights as affirmed in the *UN Declaration*;
13. **Mandate** ICC to strengthen its role within other international, multinational and bilateral fora including the European Union (EU) and others by participating in meetings related to the Arctic;
14. **Direct** ICC to prioritize and support our youth to participate in the United Nations Global Youth Indigenous Caucus and other international meetings and conferences relevant and of importance to Inuit;
15. **Direct** ICC to advance the rights of Inuit in the United Nations Intergovernmental Conference that will be negotiating an agreement for Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

Food Security

Inuit food security is multi-faceted and reflective of interconnecting elements, such as language, child development, mental and physical health, high cost of transportation, economic development and management. The Arctic's living resources and the ability of our hunters to harvest and process these resources are fundamental to food security and is core to Inuit identity, making the health and availability of Arctic wildlife of utmost concern. At the same time, access to store bought foods is also a concern that needs to be addressed.

Recognizing that the health of our people is connected to the health of the animals and overall environment, climate-related changes provide both opportunities and challenges that contribute to food security or insecurity. Changes, such as increasing temperatures, changes in sea ice coverage and movement, thawing permafrost, increase in storm surges, shifts in animal migration patterns, and arrival of new species is resulting in a need to adjust hunting strategies and ways of storing food. Furthermore, loss of multi-year sea ice and thawing permafrost are leading to enhanced cycling of contaminants that may have adverse impacts throughout the food web.

Achieving food security will require holistic approaches, Inuit innovation, and depends

on the capacity to mobilize governments, regional stakeholders and community residents to address the challenges faced and to move toward food sovereignty. To achieve food sovereignty there is a need for Inuit to hold authority to manage our living resources.

The following actions are needed to support food security in Inuit Nunaat:

16. **Urge** ICC to continue its work to enhance food security through research and advocacy and further educate others, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, about Inuit food security priorities in order to ensure that we can supply ourselves with traditional food;
17. **Direct** ICC to address components of food security that will aid in enhancing self-governance across Inuit Nunaat, inclusive of exploring ways of enhancing our networking capabilities, facilitating the exchange of information and practices across Inuit Nunaat;
18. **Direct** ICC to advocate for the enforcement of the International Maritime Organization Polar Code, other international and national regulations, advance emergency response, and phase out heavy fuel oil (HFO) in order to minimize impacts on marine mammals and fish and to prevent disruption of seasonal hunting, and for safety and environmental protection.

Families and Youth

Healthy Inuit families are central to the sustainability of our communities. Our families are changing and we recognize that the future lies with our youth to achieve "*Inuit - The Arctic We Want*". There are many strong families and youth that find pride, empowerment and strength within our culture, language and identity. However, our families are facing many challenges and require culturally relevant support based upon our cultural values, which are central to the sustainability of our families and communities. The most important needs of families include poverty reduction, access to adequate housing, access to affordable energy, enhanced food security, improved health and wellbeing, and educational attainment. Inuit, States and the international community must immediately address these priorities within Inuit Nunaat.

The following actions are needed to support families and youth in Inuit Nunaat:

19. **Urge** ICC to support UN member States and international activities that recognize the relationship between family and culture, which address the SDGs within Inuit Nunaat and that share best practices that support and strengthen Inuit families;
20. **Support** Inuit youth organizations and encourage Inuit youth to share and participate fully in all ICC activities;
21. **Advocate** for infrastructure and Inuit-specific interventions that will address family violence;
22. **Consider** the unique needs and challenges based on gender in Inuit communities.

Health and Wellness

Inuit health and wellness must be approached in a holistic way that recognizes that physical and mental health cannot be addressed separately and solutions should build upon the knowledge and strengths found within our communities. Children with mental health issues require our special support and help as acknowledged by the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* in Articles 19 and 39.

Inuit face significant health disparities today. We experience unacceptably high rates of cancer, diabetes, infectious diseases including tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections and diseases, addiction, and suicide which have serious, negative impacts on our families and our communities. The appropriate physical and mental health services, including necessary clinical, financial and human resources, are inadequate or non-existent in Inuit Nunaat.

In particular, the ongoing mental health crisis facing Inuit of all ages today is unacceptable by any world standard. The elevated rate of suicide among Inuit is an urgent challenge.

A combination of community and evidence-based, globally informed and culturally specific suicide prevention strategies and initiatives must be further developed and implemented throughout Inuit Nunaat to address risk factors and reduce suicide.

To achieve health and wellness in our communities we must start by undertaking the following:

- 23. Direct** ICC to host a Circumpolar Inuit Summit on Health and Wellness focusing on efforts and initiatives to reduce and eradicate health disparities harming our families and prioritizing mental wellness, addictions, and suicide prevention;
- 24. Facilitate** and support the ongoing development and implementation of regional and national evidence-based, suicide prevention strategies;
- 25. Instruct** ICC to support knowledge sharing and communication of Inuit innovation and best practices around mental health and wellness, including community-based solutions and to continue to take leadership in projects and initiatives, specifically on suicide prevention and addictions to encourage meaningful connection with communities, children, and youth, and link Indigenous Knowledge and action with scientific research;

Education and Language

Our languages are the foundation of our culture and identity. Legally protecting and revitalizing our languages is urgent and paramount. For our languages to remain strong, Inuit language schools and learning institutions need to be established by the appropriate authorities.

The model of education introduced and utilized to this day has had limited success. Effective education requires new pedagogies that reflect our values, culture and languages. For our language to remain strong the Inuit language must be the primary language of instruction in our schools. In addition, Inuit language schools and learning institutions need to be established. Language and education support our culture. Inuit hunting, gathering and food practices are a way in which our culture is taught. ICC affirms that Indigenous traditional hunting should sustain and enhance our cultural practices.

The ICC Education Summit hosted by ICC Greenland, was the first-ever international Inuit organized summit on the state of Inuit education. The Summit produced an outcome document that called for a number of essential actions.

ICC is called upon to:

- 26. Support** an Inuit Education Committee with membership from all Inuit regions, to implement the recommendations developed at the ICC 2018 Education Summit in Greenland, including:
- a. **Support** the development and implementation of Inuit-focused educational initiatives, pedagogies, assessment and evaluation practices, curricula, teaching materials and resources;
 - b. **Effect** systemic change to strengthen Inuit education grounded in our environment, including elders knowledge and experience, history, language and culture;
 - c. **Influence** educational institutions and political bodies to support and fully fund development and implementation efforts;
 - d. **Encourage** ICC to share best practices to enhance Inuit language and writing systems;
 - e. **Facilitate** communication of Inuit educational best practices; and,
 - f. **Support** the University of the Arctic as it delivers higher educational services to Inuit and other institutions that support Inuit students outside the Arctic and paves the way for student and researcher exchanges across the Arctic.

Indigenous Knowledge

Indigenous Knowledge is a systematic way of thinking applied to phenomena across biological, physical, cultural and spiritual systems. It includes insights based on evidence acquired through direct and long-term experiences and extensive and multigenerational observations, lessons, and skills. It has developed over millennia and is still developing in a living process, including knowledge acquired today and in the future, and it is passed on from generation to generation. Consistent with this definition, it is recognized that Indigenous Knowledge is a way of life. It goes beyond observations, ecological knowledge, and research, offering a unique "way of knowing".

Inuit have a right to self-determination in all facets of life, including in the promotion of Indigenous Knowledge and research.

Recognizing the work that ICC has done to advance the understanding and utilization of Indigenous Knowledge, it is important to continue this work and furthermore focus on advocating for Inuit driven research and monitoring, equitable partnerships in all aspects of research, information sovereignty, and working to increase intellectual and political space for Inuit across scales.

The following is needed to advance self-determination and recognition of Indigenous Knowledge:

- 27. Direct** ICC to facilitate the development of International Inuit protocols on the equitable and ethical utilization of Indigenous Knowledge and engagement of Inuit communities to provide guidance to international fora, such as the Arctic Council;
- 28. Instruct** ICC to engage appropriate international fora (e.g. Arctic Council, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)) in all aspects of Arctic science and research to contribute to the advancement of Inuit self-determination by promoting and contributing to activities that achieve partnerships and reflects the utilization of both Indigenous Knowledge and science;

29. **Direct** ICC to continue to educate the international community on what Indigenous Knowledge is and to work on creation of political and intellectual space for Indigenous Knowledge holders at international fora by protecting the intellectual property rights of Indigenous Knowledge holders;
30. **Call** for an Inuit review of the consultation process of the Arctic Council that led to the Arctic Science Cooperation Agreement, and all appropriate United Nations agencies to identify actions to ensure these legal instruments adhere to the human rights affirmed in the *UN Declaration*.

Sustainable Wildlife Management

Sustainable wildlife management is an important element for achieving Inuit food security. Inuit have rights in national and international agreements that protect Indigenous hunting and fishing activities. These human right instruments affirm Inuit rights to self-determination, including our right to govern wildlife management. We have experienced international trade bans and treaties that prevent us from exercising our rights to use Arctic living resources resulting in serious impacts on our culture, health and economies. We will exchange information amongst ourselves to build capacity regarding human rights instruments and apply them to co-management regimes and other governance bodies to advance our food sovereignty and self-governance of land, wildlife and ecosystems.

Inuit strive to build on human rights instruments, including the *UN Declaration*, to assert and advance self-determination to protect our rights to hunting, fishing, and gathering. The 2017 ICC Wildlife Management Summit hosted by ICC Canada concluded that as we move forward collectively to achieve healthy and sustainable use of resources across Inuit Nunaat, we must continue to share our unique knowledge and experiences with each other to advocate for the utilization and equity of Indigenous Knowledge within wildlife management practices, and evaluate what approaches and practices best serve and support our rights and self-determination on wildlife management issues.

The following actions are required to support sustainable wildlife management:

31. **Direct** ICC to support the Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Committee (CIWC) whose mission is to collaboratively, cooperatively and inclusively preserve and protect Inuit food sovereignty by providing a unified Inuit voice led by a wildlife strategy for 2018-2022;
32. **Urge** ICC to support a Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Network (CIWN) to link activities on various bi-lateral and international wildlife activities including, but not limited to, the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and others, and to support information sharing, learning and communication about Inuit rights, wildlife management and food sovereignty within the Wildlife Network and with the Wildlife Committee;
33. **Direct** ICC to participate collectively and strategically to ensure the CBD post-2020 action plans support and enhance our monitoring and sustainable use of Arctic biodiversity and for CBD to support on-going participation of Inuit throughout its working groups and intersessional meetings;

34. **Engage** in the process of formally establishing the IUCN Indigenous Peoples Organization (IPO) category that enhances and nurtures current IPO participation and encourages and facilitates new membership;
35. **Collaboratively** identify opportunities for our collective engagement in the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Rural Communities to safeguard the distinct rights of Inuit as an Indigenous Peoples.

Environment

Our environment continues to undergo profound, rapid and unpredictable change. Our communities witness and suffer the effects of these changes and respond by sharing our knowledge, adapting our communities, working with researchers and negotiating national, bilateral and international agreements to reduce or eliminate the causes of these changes where possible.

We know that the Arctic environment is unique and plays a fundamental role in global climate change regulation. Our culture is dependent on the land and sea. Therefore, the sustainability of the Arctic environment and its living resources is crucial to our communities and essential for supporting families and Inuit society. More than 40 years ago, concern for the security and integrity of the Arctic environment prompted the establishment of ICC. ICC was the first non-governmental organization to call for the precautionary principle and vocalized the human rights dimension of the implications and impacts of a rapidly changing Arctic environment.

The following actions are required to protect Inuit Nunaat and guide academic institutions, governments, and researchers in the conduct of the Inuit Nunaat research:

36. **Enhance** ICC's work with Arctic research efforts, such as the Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) Working Group, Sustained Arctic Observing Network (SAON), International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), the European Union (EU), and during high-level ministerial processes to ensure our views and concerns are addressed on how research in the Arctic should be conducted and to highlight how ethical approaches for research in the Arctic advance Inuit self-determination in research;
37. **Urge** ICC to promote the interconnectedness of drivers of change and the interrelated impacts and implications on our health, economy and environment in high level political discussions and decision-making at fora such as the Arctic Council, the EU and UN agencies among other relevant international fora;
38. **Mandate** ICC to participate actively in the operationalization of the United Nations "Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform" to create a space to share best practices, relevant climate change programs and policies, and build capacity for Indigenous Peoples to engage in the UNFCCC process;
39. **Instruct** ICC to share research and actions that build climate resilience and to share and showcase the adaptation and innovative mitigation responses, including but not limited to monitoring the movement of animals due to climate change, erosion and community relocation, that are being designed and implemented by our communities across Inuit Nunaat;
40. **Direct** ICC to advocate its positions on contaminants through the implementation and effectiveness monitoring regimes of the United Nations Stockholm Convention

on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the United Nations Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRoC) and the United Nations Minamata Convention on Mercury;

41. **Recognize** the importance of short lived climate forcers such as black carbon and support work through programs such as the EU Action on Black Carbon;
42. **Support** national and global programs that safeguard our marine ecosystems and wildlife from marine litter and micro-plastics;
43. **Direct** ICC to advocate for Inuit-led environmental monitoring and management of Inuit Nunaat (marine and terrestrial) and adopt in principle, the report, *People of the Ice Bridge: The Future of the Píkiyasorsuaq*, and establish a committee to advance the implementation of the recommendations. These include creation of an Inuit Management Authority, an Inuit-led monitoring regime, and increased mobility for Inuit between Canada and Greenland, with the goal of supporting similar authorities across Inuit Nunaat. These initiatives should be undertaken with an objective of improving the self-sufficiency of Inuit over time with the overall objective of aligning economic development and our cultural way of life.

Sustainable Development

Our economy is changing rapidly with growing international interest in marine shipping, commercial fisheries, tourism and natural resource development. Economic development is central to the sustainability of Inuit communities. As noted in the 2011 *ICC Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat*, healthy communities and households require a healthy environment and a healthy economy. We know economic development and social and cultural development must go hand-in-hand, resulting in self-sufficiency, which is an essential part of greater political self-determination.

We recognize that employment and wealth creation are building blocks for autonomy and that equitable, sustainable economic development and employment must be a priority. Building capacity is a key to success and a foundation for economic vitality. Strategic issues in the employment sector are at a critical state which will require a long-term, sustained and well-funded employment training effort that must link with coordinated efforts with the education system, the employment and training system, and employers.

We are part of a connected world and connectivity or broadband, is crucial to provide societal benefits (e.g. health care, public safety, education, training, business and social services). The Arctic poses extreme challenges to connectivity and overcoming these challenges requires political will and infrastructure.

The 2014 *Kitigaaryuit Declaration* called for the ICC Economic Summit. The 2017 ICC Economic Summit hosted by ICC Alaska was tasked to cultivate collaboration among Inuit businesses internationally. The Summit established the International Inuit Business Council (IIBC) to promote business collaboration among Inuit across the circumpolar region and established a Task Force to develop Terms of Reference for an International Inuit Business Association. These Terms of Reference and a Report are now ready for further consideration and implementation by the Inuit business community.

The following actions are required to achieve these goals:

44. **Direct** ICC to advocate for policies that facilitate cross-boundary Inuit trade, employment, and travel, across our circumpolar homeland;
45. **Urge** ICC to promote sustainable economic and business development through the Arctic Council and its working groups, the United Nations agencies, and collaborate with other economic development fora and networks focusing on the Arctic, including the Arctic Economic Council (AEC);
46. **Instruct** ICC to advocate for high-capacity broadband internet, share best practices and engage in international discussions on broadband development in Inuit Nunaat;
47. **Urge** the use of the internet to increase availability of Inuit language programming through television, radio, and other platforms, as well as the connectivity of residents in Inuit communities;
48. **Direct** ICC to support responsible mining policies that reflect the 2011 *ICC Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat*;
49. **Urge** ICC to compile Arctic tourism best practices, and develop an ICC Statement on Tourism to help guide tourism initiatives;
50. **Utilize** Indigenous Knowledge to advise all future processes of the Central Arctic Ocean Moratorium on Commercial Fisheries;
51. **Instruct** ICC to explore and pursue potential for mapping and other visual aids related to Inuit sea ice and coastal sea use and the multiple dimensions of such use of our Arctic homelands and territory;
52. **Direct** ICC to advocate for our rights to fresh water;
53. **Urge** ICC to advance within the Arctic Council an agenda to address a crisis of public infrastructure in Inuit Nunaat including energy, roads, housing, sewer and water, and to promote investment in climate resilient infrastructure;
54. **Acknowledge** the Terms of Reference prepared by the Task Force on an International Inuit Business Association and urge ICC to support the formation of an International Association for Inuit Businesses.

Communication and Capacity Building

Inuit are more connected today than ever before due to the advent of the internet and social media. However, practical measures should be taken that enhance communications with and between Inuit that in turn foster greater cooperation and unity. Improving access to information about ICC and its work is necessary to enhance the impact and effectiveness of ICC as an organization, including at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

Achieving greater cooperation and unity among Inuit remains a priority. ICC is uniquely positioned to facilitate formal opportunities for academic, professional, political, and cultural exchange between our membership.

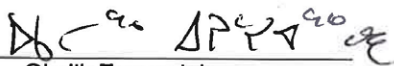
In order to build on our past achievements in these areas, enhanced communication is required to promote understanding of Inuit priorities and activities among our membership as well as more broadly at the national and international levels. This can be achieved by facilitating access to information about ICC activities in a timely manner, creating greater transparency and understanding of ICC's governance structure and priorities, as well as

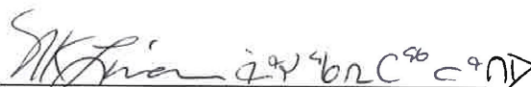
by coordinating communications with and between Inuit regions and their respective media. In addition, ICC will pursue novel initiatives that foster greater social, cultural, and political exchange between Inuit regions in order to enrich Inuit cooperation and unity.

The following actions are required to achieve these goals:

- 55. Develop** a comprehensive four year communications strategy and action plan by January 2019 that includes practical measures for achieving greater cooperation and unity among Inuit;
- 56. Facilitate** a formal program of professional exchange through exchange of Inuit professionals between member countries;
- 57. Develop** greater awareness and understanding among our people about ICC's participation in international fora and the connection to our communities;
- 58. Support** communities who are working to reclaim formal recognition of their original place names.

The Chair and Executive Council of the Inuit Circumpolar Council hereby confirm that the 2018 Utqiaġvik Declaration was unanimously adopted by delegates at the 13th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Council on 19 July 2018.



Okalik Eegeesiak
ICC Chair


Nancy Karetak-Lindell
Vice-Chair, Canada


Hjalmar Dahl
Vice-Chair, Greenland


Herb Nakimayak
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Vice-Chair, Alaska


Tatiana Achirgina
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Vera Metcalf
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Elena Kaminskaya
Executive Council Member, Russia

Annex B: Participants

2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Wesley Aiken
Liz Cravalho
Richard Glenn
Julia Gourley
Marie Greene
Byron Nicholai
Rex Rock
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Fannie Suvlu
Governor Bill Walker
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Pearl Brower
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Jayda Sittichinli Kogiak
Edward James Kogiak
Dean Mason Arey
Edwin Gordon
Angus Wayne Alunik
Freda Alunik
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Charlotte Qammaniq
Cynthia Pitsiulak
Angela Rose Hovak Johnston
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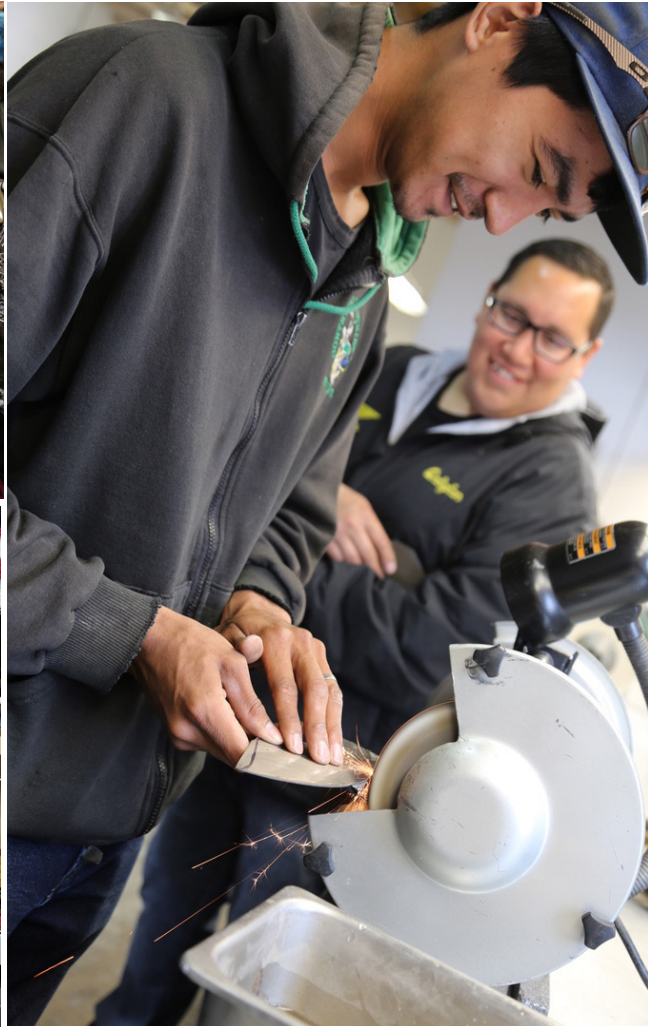
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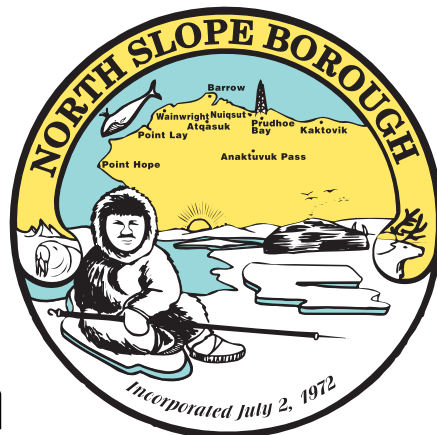


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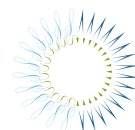
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