

## PRESS RELEASE

Munich, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### **International Chair of Inuit Circumpolar Council attends major security policy conference:**

#### **“Arctic Cooperation Must Continue”**

The renowned international security policy conference, the Munich Security Conference, took place in Germany this weekend. The conference brings together world top leaders and is known for being a forum for open dialogue and debate on current security policy issues. Inuit Circumpolar Council's International Chair Sara Olsvig was among those invited to this year's conference.

For the first time, Russian government representatives were not invited to the Munich Security Conference, which has brought together world leaders in opposition. This year's conference was once again attended by world leaders, including European and US leaders.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine and its global impacts in terms of security, energy, and supply policies, have already left its mark on Nordic and Arctic countries.

International Chair of Inuit Circumpolar Council, Sara Olsvig:

"The geopolitical situation affects us in the Arctic, directly and indirectly. It has changed the security dynamics of our region. Furthermore, the Arctic is under pressure from preexisting developments. The impact of climate change result in temperatures rising three to four times faster than the global average, while pollution from southern parts of the globe end up in our ecosystems. It is important to bring an Arctic voice to Munich and to world leaders".

"A variety of security issues continue to change our livelihoods affecting, including our food security and food sovereignty. The global geopolitical development is serious and adds pressure to our people. We must continue to raise our voices as peoples of the Arctic. Our collaboration and constant push for all Arctic governments to pursue a peaceful, low-tension, and prosperous Arctic must continue".

"The heartbreaking human consequences of the conflict also affect Inuit. ICC was established during the Cold War, and it took fifteen years before Russian Inuit were able to become full members of our organization. Today, our cooperation is once again impacted by the geopolitical situation. At the same time, our most important Arctic governance body, the Arctic Council, which includes Indigenous Peoples at the table, have been paused" Olsvig says.

"It is of great importance, that the collaboration in the Arctic Council continues. Development in the coming months will be determining for Arctic governance and for Arctic cooperation", Sara Olsvig concludes.

The Inuit Circumpolar Council is one of six Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Organizations that are Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council. The ICC, together with the Saami Council and the then organization of Russian Indigenous Peoples, co-founded the Arctic Council.

Sara Olsvig was invited by the Chair of the Munich Security Conference, German diplomat Christoph Heusgen. The Norwegian Foreign Policy Institute NUPI, which together with the US based Wilson Center organized an Arctic Security Roundtable at the conference, supported the participation of the ICC Chair.

More about the Munich Security Conference: <https://securityconference.org/en/about-us/about-the-msc/>

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