



Inuit Circumpolar Council

14th General Assembly, July 19-21, 2022

Virtual locations:

Alaska: NANA Boardroom, Anchorage; ICC Boardroom, Anchorage, Kawerak Boardroom, Nome & Bethel

Canada: Kuujuaq, Nunavik

Chukotka: Anadyr

Greenland: Ilulissat & Nuuk

Proceedings prepared by ICC Greenland

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Welcome and Call to Order by ICC Chair

Ms. *Dalee Sambo Dorough* (DSD), International Chair of ICC, opened the 14th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Council by welcoming the Delegates and all others from Inuit Nunaat joining the livestream event.

After ascertaining that the four delegations from Alaska, Canada, Chukotka and Greenland had a quorum, DSD continued that the theme for the General Assembly “*Inuit – Peace and Strength*” is reflecting the events impacting the Arctic now.

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

Opening Prayer

Ms. *Marianne Platou Olsen*, Provost for Avannaa (North Greenland) gave the Opening Prayer in Kalaallisut (Greenlandic).



Qulleq Lighting Ceremony

Ms. *Tukuminnguaq Olsen* (TO), ICC Greenland Advisor performed the Lightening of the Qulleq from her home in Nuuk. TO mentioned that she grew up in Qaanaaq in the high north of Greenland. TO also said that it was an honour for her to light the lamp, especially because it is usually Elders who do this; there only are few Elders that still can do this. She mentioned that a growing number of youth are getting interested in Inuit traditions and she is so pleased ICC is including youth in all parts of this General Assembly and in ICC work.



Opening Remarks by ICC Chair

Ms. *Dalee Sambo Dorough* (DSD) noted that we are in uncharted waters with a virtual General Assembly. She paid tribute to everyone who worked to keep our communities healthy and strong during the pandemic. *"We mourn for and remember those we have lost to COVID-19."*

DSD said throughout her chairship, she paid attention to more States taking an interest in the Arctic, heightened awareness of our distinct human rights as Inuit with international actors, and engaged with Inuit inside and outside of ICC in all we do. She hopes that she achieved these goals.

*"Our present theme of **Inuit – Peace and Strength** reflects the tumultuous geopolitical events now impacting our Arctic region. The pause of the Arctic Council and preliminary discussions about the resumption of its work poses many uncertainties about the future of Arctic collaboration. Yet, we must remain vigilant about our vision for the peaceful use of the Arctic and the central, significant role that we must play in such geostrategic dialogues to safeguard our status, rights, and role as Inuit."*

DSD announced that following the end of this General Assembly, delegates would gather in Ilulissat, Kalaallit Nunaat for an in-person meeting in 2023.

Hereafter DSD introduced the Premier of Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland) and Patron of the GA.

Welcoming Remarks by Greenland Premier

Mr. Múte Bourup Egede (MBE) spoke on a pre-recorded video: *"Dear honourable fellow Inuit. In the ICC's important General Assembly, and where the war situation is intense – the world hungers collaboration. We the Arctic people need more than ever to stand together."*

The rising curiosity for the Arctic form all over the world and the war makes it very important that we fellow Inuit and Arctic People stand together.

We have lived in the Arctic – on these lands throughout thousands of years. Although others migrate to our lands, we remain. We are the ones who will develop and influence the Arctic lands. The fact that we are fewer than other countries' populations will not stop us from believing what we can achieve through unity.

Other countries will have to go through us if they wish to do trading in regard to us and the Arctic, which is why we need to stay closer together. In need of larger partnerships and unity, the Government of Greenland will continue their support for Inuit Circumpolar Council.

We will also contribute to set the frameworks for making better partnerships between our fellow Inuit. Even though ICC Assembly is being held through digital platforms, I really hope it will result in principles that derives from fellowship and care for the future. Go create a future that we all as one can be a part of. We will stand with you!"



Welcoming Remarks by ICC Vice-Chair, Greenland

Mr. Hjalmar Dahl (HD), ICC Vice-Chair and President of ICC Greenland gave his heartfelt thanks to the Premier of Greenland for his nice and welcoming words.

HD also thanked the Members of Inatsisartut (Parliament) and the various Kalaallit Nunaat governments for their continuous support to ICC since the organisation was legally founded in 1980.

HD continued and welcomed the Delegates and other participants to the virtual General Assembly, saying: *"Looking at all Inuit Homelands, we certainly have a great responsibility in our work – the next four years of work will be decided and formed within these*



coming couple of days. My biggest hope is that we keep our focus and decisions on a realistic basis to the benefit of Inuit and Inuit Nunaat for a prosperous and sustainable future."

HD then focused on the COVID-19 pandemic that has caused so much trouble and cost many lives over the world, including Inuit. *"In respect to the many families that have lost their loved ones I like to ask all you to rise and send our thoughts and prayers in memory of those we lost and their families with one minute of silence."*

One Minute of Silence

Introduction of Delegates from Greenland, Canada, Alaska & Chukotka

Full list of the ICC Delegates from each region is attached as Appendix # 1.

- The ICC Delegates from Greenland were presented by Mr. *Hjalmar Dahl*.
- The ICC Delegates from Canada were presented by Mr. *Natan Obed*.
- The ICC Delegates from Alaska were presented by Mr. *Jimmy Stotts*.
- The ICC Delegates from Chukotka were presented by Ms. *Liubov Taian*.

Assembly Chair for the remaining day: ICC Executive Council Member, Alaska, Ms. Vera Metcalf

Ms. *Vera Metcalf* (VME) was born and raised in Savoonga (Sivungaq) on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska.

Approval of the 2022 Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

Approval of the 2018 Proceedings from Utqiaġvik, Alaska

The Proceedings were adopted.



ICC Chair's Report, 2018-2022

Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough (DSD) highlighted work from the Report on Activities 2018-2022 that show fulfilment of actions specified in ICC's 2018 Utqiagvik Declaration. She said: "Our interrelated human rights have been the framework for our activities. In the last four years we have consistently advocated for recognition of and respect for Inuit rights at the international level."

She stressed that the conflation between "local communities" and Indigenous Peoples is a problem at every international forum. In October 2020, ICC released a paper policy on this issue, stressing that grouping Indigenous Peoples and "local communities" together has caused an erosion of "the distinct nature of our indivisible rights, and the hard sought recognition of our status as Inuit."

DSD mentioned our many accomplishments in the Arctic Council's Working Groups will be covered in the ICC Environment Report, which she will deliver later in the Assembly.

At the United Nations, DSD highlighted our work in several forums and agencies:

- *UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues:*
 - Aluki Kotierk will take the Arctic representatives seat on the UNPFII for 2023-2025
 - Over the last 4 years, we have contributed to several studies on Indigenous Knowledge; the rights of children; rights to lands, territories, and resources; right of self-government; and free, prior, and informed consent.
 - Also drew attention to the uneven conditions in ICC countries and the need for more recognition of our right to self-government.
- *UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP):* ICC has "emphasized the need for governments to close the infrastructure gaps throughout Inuit Nunaat by making major new investments in the communities, prioritizing basic infrastructure such as housing, water, and sanitation and telecommunications." ICC has also underlined the need to ensure that those investments will support climate-resilient infrastructure.
- Another issue is the overall participation of Indigenous Peoples in the UN system. DSD said: "In contrast to non-governmental organizations like the ICC, such a decision would ensure that the rights holders and representatives of Inuit self-government institutions, such as Nunatsiavut Government, are recognized by the UN consistent with their status as governments."
- *UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):* for the first time in ICC history, we intervened and informed FAO's work about our way of life. Governments agreed to establish a new coalition on the food of Indigenous Peoples. *UN International Maritime Organization (IMO):* ICC became the first Indigenous Peoples Organization to receive Provisional Consultative Status. DSD said: "This status provides us with an autonomous voice to address Arctic shipping and the marine environment, especially in relation to potential spills, underwater noise, black carbon, safe shipping corridors, grey water discharge, invasive species, and a host of other marine issues."

DSD then briefly discussed an important health and wellness project with *The Lancet*: "The Lancet [is] a global health journal often used to influence decision makers around the world."

We have heavily curated an initiative entitled *Urgently Accelerating Indigenous Health and Well-Being: The Lancet Commission on Arctic and Northern Health*. The Commission comprises 35 individuals, a majority of whom are Inuit medical doctors, health care providers, Inuit Knowledge holders, and ICC staff and leadership, including myself as the Commission Co-Chair. Though progress has been slow due to Covid-19, we hope to finalize the report by end of 2023.”

DSD mentioned that the UN declared an International Decade of Indigenous Languages from 2022-2032

She mentioned that more and more organizations are recognizing Indigenous Knowledge and the co-production of knowledge. She called attention to the *Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement*, noting that “the 2018 Central Arctic Ocean agreement on fisheries came into force last year. Signed by nine countries and the European Union, this fisheries agreement is the first international treaty to explicitly refer to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (...) through our direct involvement we will be able to influence long-term research, monitoring, and management relevant to this legally binding treaty.”

DSD highlighted the work of ICC and other Indigenous Peoples at the *International Union for Conservation of Nature*. After decades of advocacy, the IUCN has created a new membership category – Indigenous Peoples’ Organization, with formal voting status. This will help us advocate for our rights at the IUCN, as its decisions impact many international treaties and agreements around wildlife management.

DSD concluded her Chair’s Report with these words: “*Following my experience as Chair, I have many suggestions about the future of the ICC. Undoubtedly, the organization requires dramatic change in order to improve its relevance and effectiveness, both internally and externally. Also, recognizing extraordinary Inuit political developments in the last 45 years, at various levels, I hope these issues are given thoughtful considerations at the delegates meeting in 2023. . In conclusion, I urge everyone to read the full detailed report reflecting the multiple contributions and accomplishments of your organization(...) Though we are a small population with a modest staff and budgets, we pack a powerful punch at the international level. I’d like to acknowledge and thank all those that have contributed to fulfilling these Inuit-driven directives. Allow me to thank every Inuk that has assisted us in our collective work, through deeds both large and small, over the past four years. Quyanaq, thank you.*”

Approval of the ICC Chair’s Report, 2018-22

The Chair’s Report was approved.

TIME: 1:03

Chukotka Report by ICC Vice-Chair, Chukotka

ICC Vice-Chair and President of ICC Chukotka Ms. *Liubov Taian* (LT) presented the regional report covering the years 2018-2022. LT started thanking numerous people by name who had enabled ICC Chukotka to participate in the General Assembly.

Following that LT identified four areas of work for ICC Chukotka. Projects and programs within these four main areas include:



- *"Participation in the General Assembly (2018)"*. The project was financed by the Government of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug and gave the delegates and the team leader at the previous General Assembly the opportunity to travel, eat and live while in Russia.
- *"Yupik"*. A two-year project 2019-20, and *"Yupik: I grew up here and this land is dear to me"*. A two-year project 2019-20. Both projects were dealing with:
 - Protecting the ancestral habitat, and preserving and developing the traditional way of life, economy, trades and culture of the Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation;
 - Strengthening cross-national, inter-ethnic and inter-confessional relations and preventing extremism and xenophobia;
 - Prevention of alcoholism and drug abuse and promotion of a healthy lifestyle.
- *Competitive cultural and educational projects*. Participants in this project were in the age group of 3 to 35. Participants had to make a video of their own performance (with a mentor). These contests were a great opportunity to bring the younger generations' attention to their native language.
- *"Nunavut" (Our Land) and "Nyhl" (Eskimo Dwelling)*. Both projects were completed in 2021. *"Nunavut"* was a project to make series of small video clips based on visits to villages in Providensky District. The topic was devoted to the traditional lifestyle of the villagers: food, cooking, dances, songs, folklore, etc. This project was part of the *World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Russian Adaptation Program for Indigenous Peoples to Climate Change*. The *"Nyhl"* project established an ethno-club that brings together Inuit living or relocated to Anadyr. It creates conditions for cooperation between the *"Nyhl"* club and similar clubs in districts inhabited by Eskimos.
- *"Fiction Stories by Russian and Soviet Writers in Eskimo and Russian Languages."* The project is designed to publish a fiction book by Russian and Soviet writers in the Eskimo and Russian languages for the children of upper pre-school and elementary school. Schoolchildren and their parents will be introduced to the heritage of Russian and Soviet literature; the book aims at the preservation and development of the Eskimo language.

ICC Chukotka in cooperation with the Government and the Duma (Parliament) of Chukotka takes part in the work on the drafting of laws on ensuring the rights of the Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka. ICC Chukotka files the petition to encourage or award honorary titles to our respected countrymen, and always receives approval and support from the Government of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug.

- In 2019 a website (iccchukotka.ru) was created, and in 2021 ICC Chukotka opened an office at 11 Bering Street, Anadyr.
- In February 2022 an agreement on cooperation between ICC Chukotka and the city district administration of Anadyr was signed. The practice of partnerships has also been established with educational institutions, with state institutions, with industrial and agricultural enterprises, with commercial structures.
- ICC Chukotka is a member of the Council of the autonomous non-profit organization "Chukotka Arctic Research Center" established in 2021.

LT then mentioned more activities, such as publication of books, participation in exhibitions, folklore competitions, travels, teleconferences, and workshops. LT ended the report with this: "Looking back at the past 4 years, we are convinced that it is necessary to continue energetic, proactive participation in all events on different levels (local, regional, national and international). We are grateful to all for their help, responsiveness and assistance in the activities of our organization. We would like to acknowledge everyone who provided volunteer-based, charitable activities in the preparation and organization of the XIV ICC General Assembly in a hybrid format here in Anadyr." And she then thanked numerous individuals by name.

Alaska Report by ICC Vice-Chair, Alaska

Mr. *Jimmy Stotts* (JS) is ICC Vice-Chair and President of ICC Alaska. JS also has an Inupiaq name *Nuyaagiq* and he is from Utqiagvik.

After his introduction, JS continued:

"Originally, I thought I would give a regular speech on what ICC Alaska has been doing the past four years and report on how our four regions are faring. I decided not to do that. These are not normal times, and this is not a normal General Assembly."



JS wanted to share his view on what condition our people are living with, and this could be said about all Arctic Indigenous Peoples. The rest of the world has discovered *Inuit Nunaat* and we are no longer isolated from the rest of the world, which means that we have to fight for control of the global Arctic agenda.

Climate change has reached a tipping point, and it is no longer time for long speeches and research, - *"it is time for action, mitigation, and adaptation strategies. We do not have that much time."*

JS then looked at the four years since the last General Assembly where the Trump presidency set back all the key issues that ICC had worked for. *"Work on climate change issues at the Arctic Council and the United Nations were negatively impacted as the U.S. pulled its support for that work. Inuit Knowledge and science were replaced with conspiracy theories and lies."* Many other issues that the ICC works on have less support. But this backdrop has not only affected the work of the ICC, but also the average people of the USA, where human rights, civil rights protections for women and minorities are under attack, and racism is rising.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic came and changed every known routine and caused new ways

of communication. The Arctic Council asked the ICC how this organization would address COVID-19, ICC said that *"The Arctic nations should address the infrastructure gap in Indigenous communities with an eye to improving the quality of health and living conditions.' Instead, the Arctic Council took a more traditional academic research approach with little or no collaboration with our Inuit health organizations here in Alaska. Infrastructure needs continue to be a top priority for ICC Alaska."* JS also mentioned that health issues are top priorities for ICC Alaska.

On top of that, Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, which caused a pause in the Arctic Council.: *"As a practical matter, it's impossible to carry on discussions about the future of the Arctic when over half of the region is missing from the table. It's also hard to sit across the table from Russia. It's hard to take Russian commitments seriously. Peace and security are top priorities for ICC Alaska."*

JS concluded his presentation by saying that perhaps it is time for ICC to reconsider the purpose of the organization and its relations with its members..

Canada Report by Head of Delegation for Canada

Mr. Natan Obed (NO) started the Canada report by discussing the COVID-19 pandemic, the impacts it had on Inuit and their communities, and what the pandemic confirmed about infrastructure :



"Infrastructure gaps between our communities and the rest of the country create conditions of disadvantage that are compounded by the pandemic. They include chronic housing shortages in each of the four Inuit regions, coupled with poor drinking water and sanitation infrastructure, as well as limited access to high-speed broadband. We have sought to remedy these and related challenges for decades, and the pandemic appears to have made some governments more receptive to initiating the major new investments required to close major infrastructure gaps between Inuit Nunangat and the rest of the country."

In 2021 the ICC was the first Indigenous organization that achieved consultative status at the *International Maritime Organization (IMO)*. The IMO is the highest level on decision making with regard to international Arctic shipping.

In 2019 Inuit and other Indigenous organizations went into a partnership with the federal government to develop national welfare legislation that respects all Indigenous children, youth and families. This federal law allows Indigenous Peoples' treaty organizations and self-government to make their own child welfare laws and further to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation passed its own child welfare law earlier this year, becoming the first Inuit treaty organization to do so..

In 2021, the Canadian Government passed the *UNDRIP Act*. "In Canada, implementation of the U.N. Declaration is pivotal for closing legislative and policy gaps that in some cases contribute to human rights violations experienced by Inuit. This legislation stems from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 2015 Calls to Action. Inuit worked alongside First Nations and Metis to co-develop the bill with the federal government, and we continue to work in partnership with federal officials to co-develop measures to implement it." The work will continue to develop this Act, by seeking cross-border movement and immigration among Inuit due to restrictive national borders imposed on Inuit Nunaat: Also, in 2021, Ms. Mary Simon (MS), former International Chair of ICC and President of ITK, became the first

Indigenous Governor General of Canada, the British Crown's representative in Canada: "It is with so much pride that we celebrate Mary for her past and ongoing work on behalf of Inuit and other Indigenous peoples, and we welcome her focus on promoting reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and all Canadians."

Canada continues its reconciliation journey. In 2021, 215 unmarked graves of Indigenous children were discovered near a former British Columbia residential school," a reminder of the horrors that too many Indigenous Peoples have had and continue to experience in this country." Since then, many more graves have been discovered near other residential schools and the search continues for the remains of more Indigenous children.

NO also spoke about violence and sexual assault and abuse of women and children and the limited services and supports for victims in small Inuit communities, which are major risk factors for suicide. ITK and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, together with Inuit treaty organizations and community-based organizations, created an Inuit Action Plan to implement the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls..

During the past 4 years, Inuit in Canada have continued their work with the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC). "The Committee has enabled Inuit leaders to work on shared priorities with federal cabinet ministers and the Prime Minister, including in relation to infrastructure, health and wellness, and most recently, international priorities." ICPC supports ICC's work in several areas, including IMO and international shipping, security and defence, and health.

Through ICPC, Inuit in Canada and federal officials developed and endorsed the Inuit Nunangat Policy. "The policy is premised on respect and support for Inuit self-determination, and its implementation will help ensure that all federal programs and policies that are intended to benefit Inuit are accessible to Inuit treaty organizations. It is promising because it has the potential to move our people and priorities from the margins of federal policy development to being a central consideration. The Policy is premised on respect and support for our self-determination and governance, and it also sets out how the federal government will approach research and federal contracting in Inuit Nunangat."

Inuit in Canada released two significant strategies in the last 4 years: the 2019 National Inuit Climate Change Strategy and the 2021 Inuit Nunangat Food Security Strategy, which was based on Greenland's food system.

On May 27, 2022 Inuit Nunaat once again has been affected by global geopolitics with the pause in the Arctic Council work caused by the Russian invasion and war against Ukraine. This decision was taken without engaging ICC and other Permanent Participants, and for the time being the future of the Arctic Council is unknown, but it remains an important forum for cooperation between Inuit and Arctic States.

NO concluded his reporting by saying: "ICC and our voice internationally remain vitally important if we are to improve conditions in our communities, and we must continue to advocate in State capitals, at the United Nations and in other forums. *Our strength is in our solidarity, and our voice from Moscow, to Washington, Ottawa and Copenhagen has power when we decide to unite and speak clearly as one people.*"

Cultural Performance by Chukotka

ICC Vice-Chair and President of ICC Chukotka Ms. *Liubov Taian* (LT) introduced the recorded cultural performances from Chukotka. The video features different dance ensembles from

across Chukotka performing at various events across Chukotka and Russia.

Greenland Report by Delegate for Greenland, Parliament of Greenland

Mr. *Kuupik Kleist* (KK) mentioned in his opening remark that ICC Greenland has been hindered in their activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore the main activities have been conducted virtually.



In August 2020, ICC KN celebrated their 40th anniversary with several days of celebration. KK continued by saying that delegates for Greenland represent either a union, an association or other forms of interest groups, including Parliament, named these.

Since the GA in Utqiagvik, the ICC Greenland office has been partly or fully responsible for:

- **UNPFII.** Its mandate is to deal with Indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human (Indigenous) rights.
- **EMRIP** is a mechanism under the Human Rights Council that provides expertise and advice on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. It also assists Member States in achieving the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. EMRIP conducts studies to advance the promotion and protection of Indigenous Peoples' Rights.
- ICC Inuit Education Committee & language – the report will be given by others later in the Assembly.
- **Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples Secretariat – IPS:** ICC Greenland holds the Chairmanship of the IPS until Norway takes over the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council from Russia in the spring of 2023. IPS facilitates the participation of Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (IPOs) or Permanent Participants (PPs) at the Arctic Council, and assist and provide secretarial support to the PPs by facilitating and assisting in the preparation and submission of proposals relevant to the Council and its Working Groups.
- **Pikialasorsuaq/Sarvarjuaq/The North Water Polynya:** At the 2018 GA it was decided to transform the *Pikialasorsuaq Commission* into the *Pikialasorsuaq Implementation Committee* (PIC). The PIC has negotiated with the *Qikiqtani Inuit Association* (QIA) on how to split the tasks deriving from the Commission's recommendations into internal and international issues; QIA will handle internal Canadian issues while the ICC will handle the international and cross border issues. An agreement has not been reached yet. ICC Greenland has been involved in talks with *Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat* (ON KN) about their wish to be involved in the *Pikialasorsuaq* work again,.
- **The Arctic Economic Council (AEC) and International Inuit Business Association (IIBA):** ICC Greenland became a member of the AEC in the fall of 2021. The overall

background for this involvement is stated in ICC Greenland's application for membership: *"We are joining the AEC to ensure the wellbeing of the Arctic Peoples and sustainable economic development in the region. Our code of ethics is in line with the principles of the AEC and we see the organization as a guide for sustainable and responsible investments and development in the region"*.

February 2020 representatives from Inuit businesses from Alaska, Canada and Greenland initiated the founding meeting of the IIBA, but it is having a hard time getting up and running.

- Communication and capacity building report will be given by others later in this meeting.

Other issues that involve and or affect ICC Greenland:

- **ICC Greenland economy:** Over the last number of years, shifting governments have been cutting the economic support for the Kingdom of Denmark's only IPO. Thus, ICC Greenland has to increase its fundraising endeavours.
- **General elections:** In 2021, new Parliament was elected, and a new Government was formed by a coalition by the *Inuit Ataqatigiit* and *Naleraq*. Inuit Ataqatigiit is the lead party with *Múte Bourup Egede* as Premier. One year later the coalition broke apart and *Inuit Ataqatigiit* formed a new coalition with the *Siumut* Party.
- **Commission on a Greenland constitution:** In 2016, Parliament established a Commission on a Greenland Constitution for a future independent state. According to the mandate, the Commission is not to have a position on when, how and under what circumstances Greenland will declare its independence. But a public referendum following public debates is mandatory. *"I would like to recommend establishing a forum in the Inuit Regions for debates on how to increase the degree of self-determination in our respective regions."*
- **The Kingdom of Denmark's Arctic Strategy:** To ICC Greenland, which is the only IPO in the Kingdom of Denmark, it is of paramount importance to make ICC's considerations and key recommendations known before the designing of the Kingdom's new Arctic Strategy. With sending an open letter we hope that these considerations and recommendations may reach a wider circle of decision makers. ICC Greenland has a real desire that all relevant authorities, institutions, organizations and individuals from all parts of the Kingdom will be involved in the preparation of the new Arctic Strategy. At the same time, it should be clear that the strategy is a unified and common strategy drawn up with equal participation from the three countries of the Realm. The existing Arctic Strategy was signed in 2010 and there is still no new Arctic Strategy for the Kingdom of Denmark.
- **Security and Defence:** *"We seem to be back to the era of the Cold War. Both Greenland specifically and the Arctic area in general, forms a shield for the USA. The new focus is not only on climate, but definitely also on the superpowers demonstrating their military muscles across of the Arctic. The Ukraine conflict have among other not too pleasant things, also brought back tendencies and policies, which strongly reminds us on times during the Cold War."*

Denmark just voted to lift its reservation on a joint European Defence Policy. It is said that the new Defence Regime will not affect neither the Faroe Islands nor Greenland. I don't believe that! Both the Faroe Islands and Greenland are subject to the Danish policy

and, as far as I know, the public vote and its consequences for us have not been discussed at the political level and thus neither in the public. Once again, Greenlanders and the Arctic Peoples are left to be spectators to the development of Security and Defence Policies by the superpowers."

- **Misdeeds by the colonial state:** The last couple of years have been dominated by revelations of the series of misdeeds against the Greenlandic population by the Danish colonial power. The latest disclosure is that from 1966 into the 1970s, 4,500 Greenlandic women, between were subject to an "IUD-campaign" having contraceptive devises – IUD's – inserted with no or limited consent. The women and girls were of the age of 13 up to include women of child-bearing potential.

Many other misdeeds have been revealed over the last years all over the Arctic, including the horrors of the *Catholic boarding schools*, the forced relocations of whole communities, missed and murdered women, the militarization of the Arctic with severe consequences, etc. Lately, the Naalakkersuisut and the Government of Denmark have announced that they will collaborate on a historic investigation of the post-colonial era, since the end of WWII until today.

"It is clear, that Inuit share the burden of the Colonial Eras and in Greenland we see and hear new and younger voices demanding truth and reconciliation processes – highlighting the issue of truth as being the truth seen from Inuit. For too long our history has been written by outsiders, and ICC Greenland will actively support the processes we face in the coming years."

Inuit Youth (ICC Emerging Leaders Initiative), Report by ICC Delegate for Canada

Ms. Crystal Martin-Lapenskie (CM-L) noted that she is presenting this report for Voshua Vo of Alaska to present the ICC Emerging Leaders report.



The mandate from the Utqiagvik Declaration was to "Support Inuit youth organizations and encourage Inuit youth to share and participate fully in all ICC activities." In response, ICC Alaska launched the *Emerging Leaders Initiative* and was funded by a grant from the Oak Foundation.

The goal of the *Initiative* was to build the next generation of Inuit leaders. . The *Initiative* participants were mentored by ICC leadership and they attended international meetings and other meetings with ICC leaders. . This also helped with transition and succession planning for ICC.

We had several meetings with youth from the four countries to discuss issues and visions for the future. Based on an online survey with 154 participants from Alaska (69), Canada (36), Greenland (39) and Chukotka (10), three top priorities were identified for each region:

- Alaska: *Food Sovereignty, Indigenous Knowledge, Culture*
- Canada: *Environment, Food Sovereignty, Human Rights*
- Greenland: *Environment, Culture, Human Rights*

- Chukotka: *Environment, Culture, Education*

Based on the survey and the four focus groups that were held, the intent was to provide recommendations to Inuit leadership and the Executive Council of ICC – the full recommendations are detailed in the formal report. The 5 main recommendations were read out by CM-L and she encouraged everyone to read the full report.

CM-L concluded by noting that the Initiative revealed gaps and needs for Inuit youth engagement in ICC. It is hoped that ICC will find ways to implement the recommendations of the final report, including creating a youth strategy in the operational plans of each ICC office and involving youth perspectives in drafting the ICC Declaration. She finished by reading part of the conclusion of the Initiative report: . *“It has been noted that Inuit Youth aspire to participate in activities internationally but lack financial support.... There is also recognition that each region across Inuit Nunaat are very similar, yet unique and access to funding varies across the board. It is encouraged that ICC continues to leverage these existing connections in their respective partnerships to advocate for enhanced financial support for Inuit youth to engage on international matters and to ensure that we are part of the building of our future and to build our capacity amongst youth through mentorship and training opportunities within ICC.”*

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION (CLOSED MEETING)

End of the first day!

Call to Order by ICC Vice-Chair, Canada

Ms. *Monica Ell-Kanayuk* (ME-K), ICC Vice-Chair and President of ICC Canada, welcomed everyone to the second day of the GA, confirmed that a quorum exists and then called to order.



Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Future of International Partnerships by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Greenland

Ms. Vivian Motzfeldt (VMO), Minister of Foreign Affairs, Greenland, spoke on a pre-recorded video: “*Dear fellow-Kalaallit, Inuit sisters and brothers. (...)*

Today, four years after we last met in Utqiagvik, the world that we live in has changed dramatically. In February 2022, just as we thought that we were on the path to recovery from the COVID pandemic, war came to Europe. Putin’s Russia invaded Ukraine. And now we see a full-scale war. A war that causes horrendous pain, suffering and untold grief and sorrow.



Greenland has joined the international community’s condemnation of Russia’s illegal and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine. And we have put action to our words by joining the international sanctions against Russia, in the belief that the severe and enduring costs on the economy of Russia will help bring an end to the war.

Apart from our compassion and solidarity with our fellow human beings in Ukraine, we Inuit, who otherwise are far from the war, are also impacted by the war in different ways. Let me here express my satisfaction to see that our Inuit brother and sisters from Chukotka have found ways to participate in this Assembly and to express my sympathy for the grief and anxieties you are facing in these difficult times.

As you well know, due to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, which is a violation of the Ukraine’s territorial integrity, the Kingdom of Denmark, together with Greenland, Canada, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the United States on March 3 announced a pause in their participation in the Arctic Council. Since March 3, representatives from these States have examined modalities to allow a resumption of the work in the Arctic Council. In these processes, it is of great importance that representatives of the Permanent Participants are included in the decisions. We certainly hope that this will be the case onwards. In our mind the Arctic Council continues to have a very important role for circumpolar cooperation, and we continue to reiterate the importance of supporting the Council and its work.

The global worsening of the food and energy security because of war is felt directly by all Inuit in the form of rising costs for heating, transportation and food. And this comes on top of the already very high costs of living across Inuit Nunaat.

VMO then said that Greenland has seen a 53% decrease of persons receiving welfare allowances as well as a 31 % decrease in those receiving unemployment benefits over the past 8 years, which is an indication of a growing economy and of a more equal distribution of income. However, there are still many low-income families, and elders in particular, struggle to make ends meet. *"We will also keep a vigilant eye to ensure that the global surge in energy prices do not stifle economic growth as we transition further into the use of renewable energies."*

But the state of the economy of Greenland and its citizens also shows that all aspects of our lives at home have an international dimension. That domestic politics have a foreign or international politics dimension and vice versa. In other words, the local and the global are closely interlinked and interdependent.

This underlines the importance of international partnerships. Partnerships that are based on the rule of law. Partnerships dedicated to peace and security, to human rights and to social progress and development. Partnership that respects the principle of equal rights, not just of every human being, but also of every nation regardless of size. (...)

Greenland is covered by the core human rights conventions of UN. (...) Moreover, when it comes to the rights of Indigenous Peoples as declared in UNDRIP and the ILO 169, we are of the conviction that these are an integral to the body of international human rights law. (...)

The partnerships between successive Greenlandic governments and leaderships of the ICC have enabled an even wider circle of partnerships to extend, in the first instance to all the Nordic countries and our Saami friends in Sápmi and other Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic. Partnerships that allowed us an instrumental role in the negotiations for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the establishment of important UN fora such as the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). These partnerships are not only partnerships of the past, they are also partnerships for the future. (...)

We have also taken these partnerships to other processes outside the UN human rights machinery. Here, meetings or processes related to the conferences of parties under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change or the Convention on Biodiversity are good examples.

Furthermore, Greenland is also deeply involved in the negotiations for an international legally binding instrument under the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. This is an instrument that is important for Greenland as a coastal nation and emerging coastal state. Apart from safeguarding the rights of coastal states, it is also important for us to ensure a strong reflection of Indigenous Peoples' rights in the instrument.

In this important process ahead, I would like to invite the ICC to work more closely with us, where each of us use our positions of vantage as delegates of an Indigenous Peoples' Organization and of a government, respectively.

Talking of oceans, let me also briefly mention our reinvigorated partnership with Canada through the signing, on 14 June of this year (2022), of an agreement on the world's longest maritime border in the ocean between our two countries. This agreement also very symbolically included the delineation of the border on Tartupaluk (Hans' Island). This is indeed an enormous political and diplomatic feat that we can be proud of. We have shown the world that there are peaceful means to settle disputes. This is truly international rule of law. As I conclude I would like to say that I have noted voices stating that by agreeing to this border, a historic opportunity to designate a common Inuit territory was missed.

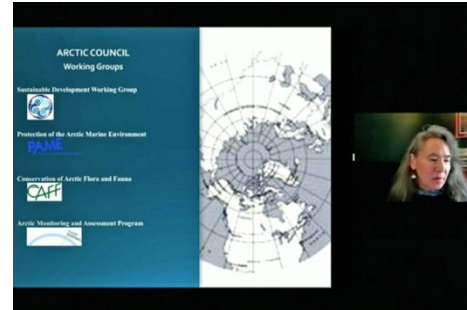
I do welcome the voices of ICC leadership, indeed of all Inuit, in the coming joint work with

Canada on schemes for Inuit mobility across our borders, and not least on and around Tartupaluk. Strong partnerships amongst ourselves as Inuit are essential for the creation and definition of our joint spaces in Inuit Nunaat today and tomorrow."

International Indigenous Human Rights and International Partnerships, Report by ICC Chair

Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough (DSD) delivered her report accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation. Her report covered ICC's involvement in the *Arctic Council*, the *United Nations* and with *youth*.

Up until the "pause" of the Arctic Council, the ICC has consistently been involved in its work since 1996. The 25th anniversary was celebrated in 2021 where an *Arctic Council Strategic Plan* was adopted.



DSD said: *"The ICC has been pushing to bring the Council back to its original objective of balancing sustainable development and protection of the Arctic environment, and its need to pivot towards respect for our culture, our perspectives, and our priorities."*

The ICC has especially focused its engagement on four out of the six Working Groups. These are: the *Sustainable Development Working Group* (SDWG); the *Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment* (PAME); the *Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna* (CAFF) and the *Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program* (AMAP).

Within the SDWG, the ICC more specifically has been active in issues on *health, wellness, and living conditions*, including the high rates of *suicide* across Inuit Nunaat.

The ICC facilitated international collaboration between circumpolar communities on preventing suicide under SDWG. Further, the ICC shared Inuit perspectives in discussions on the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased risks caused by the chronic lack of basic infrastructure, sanitation, fresh and clean water, food insecurity, low life expectancy, tuberculosis etc.

Within the UN, the ICC has done research within the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs for establishing an Arctic nuclear free zone similar to the Antarctic Treaty and other peace zones across the globe. DSD said: *"Though current geostrategic conditions do not suggest that this will occur anytime soon, it is useful to understand the precedent that has been set elsewhere in this regard."*



With regard to the UN's seventeen *2030 Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) DSD mentioned that the ICC has prepared a report on the Arctic Region where the SDGs and the objectives of SDWG has been explored. Further, the ICC and the Saami Council collaborated on an assessment of the SDGs in the Arctic Region.

While COVID-19 presented some problems for in-person meetings in the *UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues* (UNPFII), ICC intervened virtually at the UNPFII during this period. Just recently, in April 2022, in person meetings were again possible.

DSD said: *"In addition to the Permanent Forum studies that I mentioned yesterday, over the past four years, we have provided input on the Forum themes, ranging from "Traditional knowledge: Generation, transmission and protection" by sharing our definition of Indigenous Knowledge and necessary guidelines for the co-production of knowledge. We also organized a side event entitled Indigenous Children's Rights – A model for acting in Indigenous communities, featuring the important work of the National Children's Rights Spokesperson in Greenland."*

At the UNPFII, in 2020, the ICC focused on the *Pikialasorsuaq Implementation Committee* and opportunities for establishing strong Inuit-led governance and management of this region of importance to Inuit in both Canada and Greenland. ICC also delivered a joint statement with the Saami Council on the pandemic and cross-border issues, expressed concern about the implementation of Indigenous human rights and enhanced participation of Indigenous Peoples in UN processes, and showed support for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

DSD followed up on earlier mentions of the work done in EMRIP by talking about the study related to the right of self-determination where the ICC had shared its *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic*, *"and the diverse expressions of self-determination across Inuit Nunaat, while emphasizing the unity of Inuit and our work to transcend national borders. We also delivered a joint statement with the Human Rights Council of Greenland, highlighting the different colonial histories that have resulted in challenges across the circumpolar Arctic."*

Due to lack of staff and financial resources, the ICC did not have the possibility to heavily influence the *UN Intergovernmental Conference Negotiating an Agreement for Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction* (BBNJ). The main contributions to this conference were a focus on *Indigenous Knowledge* and the *Biodiversity of the Arctic Ocean*.

The ICC made an online presentation at the *World Heritage, Human Rights and Participation Conference* hosted by the UNESCO Chair on International Law and Cultural Heritage. DSD presented on the World Heritage Convention and its governance within broader developments in *international* and *human rights* law. The practices of Greenland in relation to the *Ilulissat Ice Fjord* and the *Aasivisuit-Nipisat* near Sisimiut were stressed.

The EU is developing an *Arctic Program* with a significant policy on Indigenous Peoples, and DSD mentioned that the ICC had participated in a *Roundtable with Indigenous Peoples' Experts and Representatives* in Brussels in February 2020. ICC advocated for recognition of the importance of dialogue and consultation with *Indigenous Peoples* at all levels, including EU-funded programs and projects, and our full participation consistent with our right to *Free, Prior, and Informed Consent* (FPIC).

"We reinforced the fact that FPIC is grounded in the UN Declaration and should define relations between States, the private sector, and the rights holders, and that it should be fully operationalized, including in relation to our rights to lands, territories, and resources. Here, the 2009 Act on Greenland Self-Government was addressed in regard to subsurface rights as well as the collectively owned nature of land title in Greenland and in the context of extractive industries."

DSD returned to the issue of the problematic term 'local communities' mentioned on the previous day and highlighted the importance of language in safeguarding the gains Inuit have

achieved in international human rights law. DSD noted that the policy paper she spearheaded on the topic had gained significant traction in various forums.

DSD concluded her presentation by thanking the big involvement of *Inuit Youth* from all over *Inuit Nunaat*.

Comments – ICC Delegate, Greenland (3 minutes)

Ms. *Sara Olsvig* (SO) thanked *Dalee Sambo Dorough* and mainly commented on the outstanding work of the ICC Chair throughout the last four years on issues of human rights.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Alaska (3 minutes)

Ms. *Vivian Korthuis* (VK) also thanked *Dalee Sambo Dorough* for her leadership through the four years she served as ICC Chair and her lifelong commitment to international work on behalf of Inuit.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Canada (3 minutes)

Mr. *Natan Obed* (NO) in addition to thanking the ICC Chair, NO also spoke about UNDRIP implementation in Canada, the issue of the term ‘local communities’ and the cross-border mobility of Inuit within *Inuit Nunaat*.

Comments – by ICC Vice-Chair, Chukotka (3 minutes)

Ms. *Liubov Taian* (LT) appreciated the international cooperation within the ICC and thanked *Dalee Sambo Dorough* for her fine leadership through the last four years. LT made a statement related to some of the remarks from the previous day about the “pause” in the Arctic Council.

“We the Inuit of Chukotka live in Putin’s Russia would like to state our support for our Chief Commander in what he is doing right now.” LT continued: *“We hope to see respect for our patriotic feelings in how we support our President because we are part of our country, and the respect for freedom by others also is part of democracy.”* (...) *“And right now we will throw all of our efforts so that we will be able to prevent the proliferation of Nazism, which we have seen in Ukraine right now.”*

ICC Chair’s Response to Comments on the International Indigenous Human Rights and International Partnerships Report

Ms. *Dalee Sambo Dorough* (DSD) first expressed hope that the political situation would change and the Arctic Council would resume work. In response to *Natan Obed*’s comment on UNDRIP implementation, she noted that *“our work in the halls of the United Nations, it’s significant, it’s important, we achieved the Declaration, but more important is how each individual Inuk and all of us collectively as Inuit can exercise and enjoy our rights within our communities.”* She reiterated the importance of ICC’s continued work on international human rights and suggested that ICC could become more active on disability rights.

Inuit Food Security by Cultural Sustainability Advisor, ICC Alaska

Ms. *Vernae Angnaboogok* (VA) introduced herself as *Iñupiaq* from Wales, Alaska, which is northwest of Nome in the Bering Strait Region.

“Our shared culture, language, heritage, and celebrations are deeply connected to our food security. From Chukotka to Alaska, to Canada, and Greenland, we celebrate our unity and relations as one people.”



Our hunting, fishing, and gathering way of life supports our mental, physical, and spiritual health and wellbeing, our local and regional economies, and overall food security and cultural sustainability.”

ICC continues to use its voice to advocate for *food security* and *food sovereignty* to sustain Inuit culture and way of life. In the last term, ICC completed the *Food Sovereignty and Self-Governance: Inuit Role in Managing Arctic Marine Resources* (FSSG) report and launched the *Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative*.

The *Food Sovereignty and Self-Governance* project builds upon a recommendation from ICC Alaska’s 2015 Food Security report. Stating that “*without food sovereignty there can be no food security*,” the report recommended looking at management systems across *Inuit Nunaat*.

The FSSG project was developed through partnerships across Alaska and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) of Canada and is rooted in a coproduction of knowledge (CPK) approach, utilizing methodologies from Indigenous Knowledge and science. The project and final report bring Inuit knowledge, perspectives, and expertise to the forefront to call for systemic change for equitable engagement and the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in decision-making.

In follow up to the FSSG project, in 2019, a Youth, Elders, Active Hunters and Gatherers workshop was held in Bethel, Alaska, that brought Inuit together from across Alaska and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region of Canada. At the three-day workshop, Inuit talked about the need for our management practices to be at the forefront to have food sovereignty and how we maintain and support the relationships we hold with everything around us. The workshop resulted in a valuable report, *The Role of Providing: Inuit Management Practices*, which highlights different management practices.

The *Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Initiative* was another direct follow-up to ICC Alaska’s Food Security Project and the 2017 ICC Wildlife Management Summit. The initiative unified and organized Alaskan Inuit to develop an *Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Management Action Plan*. The Action Plan holds four strategies put forward by Alaskan Inuit to:

1. mobilize through a unified approach,
2. advocate for meaningful roles for Inuit in wildlife management,
3. ensure management decisions utilize Indigenous Knowledge and science, and
4. align regulatory frameworks with Inuit management practices to achieve adaptive, holistic management.

ICC was also active in the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In September 2019, the ICC participated in a *FAO Expert Seminar on Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous*

Peoples Fisheries in the Arctic Region in Rome, Italy. Inuit from Greenland and Alaska participated, and ICC served as a member of the Technical Committee that drafted the final Declaration of the Summit. In addition, in preparation for the 2021 *UN Food Systems Summit*, Inuit leaders and the FAO North America Liaison Office held a series of webinars on Inuit food systems. Further, the ICC collaborated with the Saami Council at the first *UN Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Regional Dialogue on Food Systems*, in the preparation of the Coalition governance document and in the overall Indigenous Peoples' Organizations' (IPO) statement to the plenary of the *UN Food Systems Summit*.

ICC also coordinated with the Emerging Leaders Initiative to deliver the Indigenous youth statement. ICC further influenced *The White Paper on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems*, which received international recognition; the FAO notes that it “*provides evidence on the sustainability of Indigenous Peoples' food systems, including the ways in which they have proven resilient over time. The Paper articulates the importance of respecting Indigenous Peoples' rights to ensure the preservation of their food systems, and the value this can add to tackling emerging challenges that face mankind.*”

ICC contributed to an Arctic Region Declaration in preparation for the UN Foods Systems Summit and participated in the development of a new Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems. ICC is particularly interested in the governance and funding of this new Coalition and how it is will ensure responsiveness to Indigenous Peoples' food systems across the world.

At the *International Maritime Organization* (IMO), ICC delivered interventions concerning the incremental phasing out of the use of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO). ICC pursued and secured formal provisional Consultative Status within the IMO in January 2022, becoming the first Indigenous Peoples' Organization to hold this status. This status provides greater access to the IMO in the context of monitoring the *Polar Code* enforcement and advocacy for the incremental phasing out of HFO. Through ICC's use of its new status, Inuit voices were heard at an important IMO meeting on underwater ship noise. ICC's engagement in these meetings ensures that work on reducing noise from ships uses Indigenous Knowledge and engages Inuit and our communities.

ICC negotiated and secured the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in the *Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean* (CAOFA), which went into force on June 25, 2021. The Inuit approach to the agreement is holistic and considers the impacts to food security, the entire food chain, and all aspects of Inuit way of life.

Comments – Member of Delegation, Greenland (3 minutes)

Mr. Lars Nielsen (LN) is representing the *Sheep Farmers' Association (SPS)* in South Greenland. LN spoke about the sheep and reindeer farmers' situation in a period of climate change. For the time being the situation is not positive, but in the longer run there may be positive outcomes, like the ability to grow more vegetables. As it is right now, farmers have to import food for their animals from foreign countries even as prices increase.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Alaska (3 minutes)

Ms. Vivian Korthuis (VK) thanked *Vernae Angnaboogok* for her presentation on the work done by ICC in the field of *food security*, which many people from Alaska participated in.

VK addressed the effects of climate change on food security. The behaviour of all animals has changed, not only for a short time, but for generations. Inuit have to adopt new methods in

order to feed their families and communities.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Canada (3 minutes)

Mr. *Natan Obed* (NO) also thanked *Vernae Angnaboogok* for focusing on *Inuit food security*. NO highlighted a number of ongoing initiatives and strategies on Inuit food security in Canada, and that there has been work under the *National Food Strategy*, which was released in 2021. In this strategy, priorities are very broad and, including *climate change*, *poverty* and how to change the markets to be more *sustainable*. Further, this Strategy touches on issues such as *education* and *transmission of Knowledge* to ensure that traditional food systems can stay intact.

A *National Inuit Health Survey* called *Qanuippitaa?* is also in progress. The first regional study in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region has been completed and three more will be ready in 2023. These studies will provide new knowledge on food security that is not available today.

Another relevant program is the National Inuit Climate Change Strategy, released in 2020, which includes actions on food security. Inuit in Canada have also worked with the Government of Canada to develop a harvester support grant to help Inuit feed their communities.

Comments – by ICC Vice-Chair, Chukotka (3 minutes)

Ms. *Liubov Taian* (LT) spoke about her own experiences with *food security*. The issue was discussed at the 6th *Summit of Chukotkan Indigenous Peoples*. LT is hopeful to collaborate with ICC Alaska in the future on food security work, especially with improved internet in the ICC Chukotka offices.

Families & Youth in Strong and Healthy Inuit Communities, ICC Greenland Delegate

Ms. *Aviâja Egede Lynge* (AEL) highlighted the following issues:

- Current state among Inuit Families & Youth
- Unhealthy societal dynamics
- The system is not adapted to Inuit
- Recommendations for solution
- What can we do now - Joint exercise



AEL said that over the past 7 years, she had visited at least 10 communities where she met with families and youth to talk about their living conditions. Her methods are different to those that external scientists use, because she wants to hear their own stories in their own voices followed by their own recommendations for a better life. These stories include the effects of *social control* and *taboos*. AEL called her method “*Adapted to Inuit Culture*” and emphasized the importance of speaking with families in *Kalaallisut*.

Today, there are many strong and healthy families and youth in Greenland, but there are also many families that have trouble with maintaining a healthy lifestyle and have difficulties in their living conditions, and many feel that they have the same opportunities as other families. She is concerned that there is a tendency to hear more about strong families and overlook families having difficulties.

Many of those families living under bad living conditions have not caused this situation

themselves, but simply do not have the same opportunities as other families. This has consequences for many children today. AEL explained that some of these consequences include traumas, such as sexual abuse, that have been passed down through generations. AEL stated that the political system does not take this problem seriously enough. Decision makers have to focus on this problem, and solutions have to be found to help the families.

The traumas and the heavy baggage many families are carrying are sources for the many problems society is facing today. This has to be discussed openly. Unhealthy dynamics in society have big consequences. Consequences of colonialism still affect daily life in the form of *social controls* or *informal power hierarchies*, like when people are looking at each other and talking negatively about each other or when things are reconsidered taboos.

As an example, AEL mentioned a woman from a small settlement that came to her and talked about a coworker at her school who was sexually abusing some of the children, but that she was afraid of reporting it because she was afraid how the surrounding society will look at her. Because incidents like this are taboo, people blame each other and feel guilt and shame, creating more unresolved traumas. Access to help is limited. This unhealthy culture common in a small society like Greenland where everyone knows each other. Even if you want to report such an incident to the police you may feel insecure because the police officer may be your uncle or cousin, which may result in the incident not being reported.

To break these unhealthy tendencies in society, we need to talk freely about these issues like domestic violence, alcohol/drug abuse, and bullying. People need to speak up. Many young people grow up with a high degree of physical and mental violence, and we need to ensure they speak up and reach out for help. If not, the result will be unhealthy families.

69 % of Greenlandic youth know someone who committed suicide. AEL's organization is working closely with family members and others close to someone that committed suicide. A huge problem exists because close ones are not offered any kind of help. AEL gave an example of a young man who had lost four friends to suicide, but was never offered support. Usually help is not offered before someone has tried to commit suicide, only after. Society has to intensify its help to all age groups and include youth in all the work being done.

The social system still needs to be adapted to modern Inuit lifestyles, including new family structures, because as it is now, the present norm is to put these families into a box created by a system that does not consider how Indigenous family units and culture are constructed.

AEL came up with some recommendations for solutions to these family and youth problems:

- *We as Inuit societies must break with the unhealthy societal dynamics*
 - *We must liberate ourselves as Inuit*
- *Our governments and systems must set the framework for and support around this development*
 - *The system must free itself from colonial structures in order to support a new and healthy development*

AEL offered some ways individuals can take action to promote healthy families and youth and ended with a self-affirmation exercise.

Ms. *Emma Lennert* (EL), Head of SORLAK (Children and Youth Council). In SORLAK, they witness a shockingly high number of suicides – a major problem in Greenland, Canada and Alaska that need to be addressed and prevented.

SORLAK is doing a lot of work on suicide prevention. Studies show that young people thinking about committing suicide are not seeking help from relevant authorities such as the police, health care system etc., but they turn to their loved ones, friends or others in their community to seek help. SORLAK runs courses teaching people how to respond in these situations and talk about their problems in order to prevent suicide.

EL stated that to combat suicide, Inuit need to unite and find solutions to these problems, give people tools to build better lives, and show communities a brighter road to follow.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Alaska (3 minutes)

Ms. *Vivian Korthuis* (VK) thanked *Aviâja Egede Lynge* for her presentation and said that her approach to solving *family* and *youth* problems is the Inuit way of doing it by talking directly to the children, youth, parents and families on important issues such as language, education, abuse, suicide etc.

It is important that Inuit go to their own people to find solutions, and it is also important to include Inuit youth in all aspects of the Inuit way of life.

Comments from ICC Delegates, Canada (3 minutes)

Ms. *Crystal Martin-Lapenskie* (CM-L) also thanked *Aviâja Egede Lynge* and drew attention to the *ICC Emerging Leaders Initiative* report, recommendation §2: “*For ICC to ensure youth are included in all spaces that decisions are being made,*” which called for the creation of two youth seats with voting rights on the ICC Executive Council.

Mr. *Natan Obed* (NO) also commented by talking about the work done with the Government of Canada to co-develop the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (2019) and the process of implementing the legislation in the Inuit land claim regions in Canada. Inuit in Canada have also done extensive work on suicide prevention, including a National Suicide Prevention Strategy, workshops on child sexual abuse, and various youth and mental health and wellness programs.

Comments from ICC Delegate, Chukotka (3 minutes)

Ms. *Valentina Leonova* (VL) thanked *Aviâja Egede Lynge* for her report and stated that many of the problems that were mentioned in her report are also known to Inuit in Chukotka, especially alcohol abuse in families. Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations work with communities and government agencies on these issues. Efforts are made to listen to children and youth perspectives.

VL expressed that the term ‘*colonization*’ is not used, but ‘*developing the Northern parts of the country, including Chukotka*’. She said: “*All the Indigenous Peoples that live in Russia have equal access to education, to the medical services, also to bachelor and master’s degree programs, and if a person wants to get the education, the person will be always be able to get it and find a job afterwards. It all depends on the desire of the particular person.*”

VL said that in Chukotka, work is being done to support traditional families and values and pass down these family values to younger generations.

Health and Wellness, Report by Minnie Grey, Canada

Ms. Minnie Grey (MG), newly retired Executive Director for Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services.

MG said that the 2018 Utqiagvik Declaration, instructed the 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.”



“Actions that support and enhance connections to our culture build resilience, and as Inuit, a strong sense of identity is a factor that brings us strength. The suicide crisis stands front and centre as a health emergency that greatly impacts our communities. Building off of the many positive initiatives happening across Inuit Nunaat, ICC’s 2021 Health Summit focused on our rapidly growing youth population and how best to help minimize the epidemic of deaths of despair.”

The Inuit Health Summit was originally planned as an in-person event in Kuujuaq in September 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Summit was postponed for one year and was held as virtually instead.

The Summit focused on Inuit youth connections to culture for mental wellness & suicide prevention.

“Over 6 weeks, nearly 50 participants split into 3 groups, met weekly, culminating in a finale that brought all groups together to celebrate culture.”

The Summit was held in English but with simultaneous interpretation in Inuktitut, Kalaallisut and Russian which ensured the delegates could participate in their preferred language..

The *Youth* were the centre of this event and adults and leadership were asked to listen and be open minded.

“Topics covered included:

- *How do youth go about connecting with culture and identity?*
- *What helps? What doesn’t help?*
- *How do we navigate tradition in a fast-changing world?*
- *What support do youth most benefit from adults and Elders?”*

The final event of the Summit was held on October 26, 2021, with participants from all groups gathering to share learnings and ideas for reviving culture. The group was addressed by leaders including *Canada’s Governor General, Her Excellency Mary Simon.*

“Emerging Themes

- *Messages of inclusion – the youth voice was loud and clear about being inclusive and to be support of each other whether or not we speak Inuktitut, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, or for growing up outside of Inuit Nunaat etc.*

- *Cultural revitalization – youth are already reclaiming parts of their culture that were impacted by colonialism. They are re-learning language, learning skills such as hide preparation and hunting, among other things. During the summit they discussed other things they would like to see revitalized as they move forward after the summit.*
- *Men's Health – even though it is men who are dying more by suicide, men and boys are commonly underrepresented in such events such as the health summit. Thus, we believe it will be important moving forward, to be mindful of this and design initiatives that reach men where they are at. This can be done by targeting men's programs already in existence, it could also be done by offering an event that targets men only."*

ICC hired the graphic recorder company *Drawing Change* to capture the discussions and conversations in images. One youth participant, *Olivia Ikey* from Nunavik, was invited to participate in a week-long training program in graphic recording with the company. The graphic recordings from the summit can be found online at:

<https://www.inuitcircumpolar.com/icc-activities/health-and-wellness/inuit-health-summit/>

MG listed some next steps:

- *"Youth would like ICC to hold an event that celebrates culture. They want to see this as an opportunity to celebrate who we are as a People and help build pride."*
- *"To address the need to include men and boys more in the suicide prevention work. This will be done building on existing initiatives happening across Inuit Nunaat."*

As part of preparations for the summit, ICC held an Inuit Facilitation Lab in July 2021 to help train Inuit facilitators and build capacity for discussions on topics related to mental health and wellness. Following up on the success of the first lab, a second Inuit Facilitation Lab was held in 2022.

MG announced her retirement as Chair of the *Circumpolar Inuit Health Steering Committee* and her hopes for the future of the committee.

Comments from ICC Delegate, Greenland (3 minutes)

Ms. *Aviaaja L. Olsen* (ALO), University Student's Organization of Greenland. ALO talked about Inuit Knowledge and how it relates to health and wellness, including how to use traditional medicine. She also talked about the negative consequences of colonialism, including forced relocations.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Alaska (3 minutes)

Ms. *Vivian Korthuis* (VK) recognized *Minnie Grey* for her work on *health and wellness* across the ICC regions using Inuit methodology and graphic recording.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Canada (3 minutes)

Mr. *Natan Obed* (NO) thanked *Minnie Grey* for her service and reflected on how essential suicide prevention work is. He mentioned current work on health infrastructure and efforts to combat racism within the Canadian health care system. Canadian Inuit are also working with the Government of Canada to eliminate tuberculosis by 2030. He also noted the publication of the

report on *Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls* in 2019. There are efforts to increase youth engagement through projects like a Treaty Negotiation Simulation currently planned to be held in Nunavik.

Comments – by ICC Vice-Chair, Chukotka (3 minutes)

Ms. *Liubov Taian* (LT) thanked Minnie Grey for her outstanding work and underlined how important the circumpolar suicide prevention workshops were to Inuit of Chukotka. LT expresses that both health workers and youth in Chukotka are eager to continue cooperation.

Response to Comments on the Health and Wellness Report

Ms. **Minnie Grey** (MG) emphasized the importance of mental health, youth engagement, and Inuit methodologies in this work. She noted that colonialism presents difficulties in implementing health and wellness programs in an appropriate way for Inuit communities. Programs that involve going out on the land may be more useful than colonial correctional systems.

Cultural Performance by Alaska

A pre-recorded cultural performance video by Byron Nicholai was shown.

Education and Language – ICC Delegate for Canada and Kattie Motzfeldt from Greenland

Ms. *Kattie Egede Motzfeldt* (KEM), representing [Ilinniartitsisut Meeqqat Atuarfianneersut Kattuffiat](#) (IMAK, teacher's union) made a presentation about education. KEM is also a member of the ICC Education Committee that was established as a follow up on the 2018 Utqiagvik Declaration § 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:*



- *Inuit-focused educational initiatives: pedagogies, curricula, materials etc.*
- *Including Elders Knowledge and experience*
- *Share best practices to enhance Inuit language and writing systems*
- *Communication of Inuit educational best practices”*

The Committee has seven members, two from Alaska, Canada and Greenland and one member from Chukotka. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, three virtual meetings were held in 2020 and 2021.

The committee discussed COVID-19 impacts, the 2018 Education Summit Outcome Document and committee Terms of Reference, and educational systems in each country. After introducing the educational systems and the situation of teachers in the four regions, other themes were touched on, such as a holistic world view including Indigenous Knowledge and how this could be used in developing an educational system based on Inuit culture and identity.

Today most educational material used in schools is derived from other cultures and therefore

it is important to have textbooks developed within the Inuit culture. Special attention has to be given to the fact that the Inuit language has many dialects.

The future of Inuit Education:

1. *Important that INUIT HISTORY is part of curriculum - told by Inuit*
 - a) *Collect information on habits and values*
 - b) *Maintain INUIT HERITAGE at schools*
 - c) *Elders' Knowledge*
2. *Maintain INUIT LANGUAGES*
 - a. *Teacher college on Inuit languages*
 - b. *Collect data on dialects – enable use in education*
3. *Teacher exchange program across Arctic regions*
4. *Textbook exchange across Arctic regions*
5. *Collect data on:*
 - a. *What educations are needed?*
 - b. *Inuit educated academics; valued and implemented in Inuit Society?*
 - c. *Which prevention projects works for Inuit?*

Ms. Aluki Kotierk (AK) talked about the UN and Indigenous Languages:

“Following the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL), the UN General Assembly proclaimed the period 2022-2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL). This is an opportunity for Inuit to again underscore the importance of our language and all its dialects.



The intent of IDIL is to maintain the momentum from IYIL in focussing on Indigenous Languages through the continued engagement of Member States, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, academia, public and private actors, and other stakeholders.

In anticipation of IDIL, a Global Task Force was established with members from Member States as well as Indigenous Peoples' Organizations from seven sociocultural regions.” (...) “The Arctic Region Indigenous representatives include two Sami (...) and one Inuk, Aluki Kotierk.

The Global Task Force has developed a Global Action Plan, which is an overall document that provides strategic information on IDIL including the impact statement, outcomes, specific outputs, key activities and their linkages to international commitments.” (...)

“ICC in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) hosted a virtual Inuit Launch for IDIL on February 21, 2022 which coincided with International Mother Language Day. It was an opportunity to celebrate Inuit language, culture and excellence. We were so pleased that there were Inuit participants from Chukotka, Alaska, Canada and Kalaallit Nunaat.

During this Decade ICC could, if interested, develop an Inuit Nunaat Language Action Plan. This plan could include an Inuit flagship initiative and outline how the Inuit language could be

supported so that it may thrive for generations to come.”

Comments from ICC Delegate, Greenland (3 minutes)

Ms. *Qivioq Løvstrøm* (QL), teacher at the University of Greenland, said that there is no doubt that education and language are connected. The Greenlandic language is used in the educational system, but when it comes to higher education and examinations, the Danish language is dominant. This year is the first year the Greenlandic language has been used, which has successfully improved the examinations. The use of the *Mother Tongue* resulted in that no student failed their examination this year. This shows that using your own language in the educational system is a successful tool.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Alaska (3 minutes)

Ms. *Vivian Korthuis* (VK) made it short and thanked *Kattie Egede Motzfeldt* and *Aluki Kotierk* for their presentations and the work of the Inuit Education Committee.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Canada (3 minutes)

Mr. *Natan Obed* (NO) thanked the presenters and wanted to highlight some of the work done by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) in creating a new *Inuktitut* writing system. He noted the passing of the *Indigenous Languages Act* in 2019 and the creation of the *Indigenous Languages Commission*, where further work is being done to advance Inuktitut in Canada. An *Inuktitut Costing Model* is being developed through the *Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee* (ICPC) tables, aiming to promote Inuktitut as an official language at the same level as English and French. He ended by saying that there is a lot of work to do; in most communities there are no instructions on teaching Inuktitut further than third grade, which means that no one can complete a secondary education in their own language.

Comments – by ICC Delegate, Chukotka (3 minutes)

Ms. *Valentina Leonova* (VL) said that Russia has multiple languages and many policies that support this fact. Chukotka is participating in the *International Decade of Indigenous Languages* (IDIL) and ICC Chukotka participates in numerous projects as mentioned earlier by the ICC Chukotka Vice-Chair in the Chukotka Report.

Indigenous languages are taught in schools in Chukotka, but there are some issues with student interest as well as limited hours allotted to Indigenous languages, currently being worked on. After ninth grade, examinations can be taken in *Eskimo* language. There are also Indigenous language events for preschools and secondary students. ICC Chukotka publishes textbooks and novels in Indigenous languages.

Response to Comments on the Education and Language Presentation

Ms. *Kattie Egede Motzfeldt* (KEM) emphasized the importance of knowledge sharing across the four Inuit regions to understand best practices. She noted the issue of youth dropping out of school. Education systems must respect students' culture and language.

Indigenous Knowledge Report by Carolina Behe, Alaska

Ms. *Carolina Behe* (CB), Indigenous Knowledge & Science Advisor, ICC Alaska presented the work done to respond to the directives within the 2018 Utqiagvik Declaration related to *Indigenous Knowledge*.



The focus was on three of the directives:

1) to engage in appropriate international fora (...) 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 the utilization of both Indigenous Knowledge and Science.

ICC has focused on promoting the involvement of Inuit and Indigenous Knowledge in national and international discussions, increasing knowledge on what the co-production of knowledge is and how it can be implemented. These efforts include includes utilizing materials created through working directly with the communities, members, regions, and governments.

2) to continue to educate the international community on what Indigenous Knowledge is and work on the creation of political and intellectual space for Indigenous Knowledge holders at international fora by protecting the intellectual property rights of Indigenous Knowledge holders. and to advance co-production of knowledge.

In many conferences, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Arctic Council, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), and the Minamata Convention. The ICC has also made contributions to the PCC's Special Report on the Oceans and Cryosphere and the report on Impacts, Vulnerability, and Adaptation. In addition, the ICC has been working for Indigenous rights within the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which led to the adoption of an *Indigenous Peoples Organization* (IPO) membership category within the IUCN.

The last directive on Indigenous Knowledge in the Utqiagvik Declaration is:

3) 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.

ICC produced the Ethical and Equitable Engagement (EEE) Protocols with input from Inuit across the circumpolar region, including a series of international workshops in 2021. The EEE Protocols are a collection of Inuit rules, guidelines, protocols and values for the engagement of Inuit communities and *Indigenous Knowledge* from across Inuit Nunaat.

There are eight protocols:

- *Nothing About Us Without Us – Always Engage Inuit*
- *Recognize Indigenous Knowledge in its own right*
- *Practice Good Governance*
- *Communication with Intent*
- *Exercising Accountability – Building Trust*
- *Building Meaningful Partnerships*

- *Information, Data Sharing, Ownership and Permissions*
- *Equitably Fund Inuit Representation and Knowledge*

Comments from ICC Delegate, Greenland (3 minutes)

Mr. Aslak W. Jensen (AWJ), appointed by the Greenland Parliament. AWJ spoke about the struggles in Greenland, because the hunters feel that their concerns are not heard by the government. AWJ found what Carolina Behe said about collaboration between government and community on these projects very important.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Alaska (3 minutes)

Ms. Vivian Korthuis (VK) thanked *Carolina Behe* for the important work done on *Indigenous Knowledge*. This work is built on the participation and effort of many Inuit across Alaska and the Arctic. It is important to publish this Indigenous Knowledge to validate it and use it to advocate for Inuit priorities.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Canada (3 minutes)

Mr. Natan Obed (NO) pointed out that *Indigenous Knowledge* is not less important than scientific knowledge and that there is still an ongoing struggle in Canada to incorporate *Indigenous Knowledge* in legislation, policies, and decision-making at all levels. So far, a *National Inuit Research Strategy* has been developed, regional research strategies are in progress, and an Inuit Ethics Board was created for the Qanuippitaa? National Inuit Health Survey. NO also noted Inuit research partnerships with ArcticNet and work at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to include Indigenous Knowledge.

Comments – by ICC Vice-Chair, Chukotka (3 minutes)

Ms. Liubov Taian (LT) expressed that they were ‘very jealous’ of the fact that ICC Alaska has such a skilled person as *Carolina Behe*.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Greenland (additional 5 minutes)

Mr. Qulutannguaq Berthelsen (QB), representing SIK (*The National Confederation of Trade Unions of Greenland*). QB thanked everyone for all the work done in the many *Working Groups* and the reports presented.

Comments and Question – Head of Delegation, Alaska (additional 5 minutes)

Ms. Vivian Korthuis (VK) commented that most of the reports presented were about common issues covering the whole of *Inuit Nunaat*. Although there are shared priorities, Inuit in each country have different relationships with their respective governments. The question was addressed to current ICC Chair Dalee Sambo Dorough: “*How does ICC, as a whole, effectively engage on the international level to ensure that actions taken by the body move our priorities forward while ensuring the actions strike a balance between our economic and cultural needs?*”

Comments – ICC Delegates, Canada (additional 5 minutes)

Mr. *Johannes Lampe* (JL), President of Nunatsiavut. JL thanked the speakers, especially *Minnie Grey* for her report. He noted the need for special focus on the mental health of men and boys and talked about current issues in Nunatsiavut.

Mr. *Adamie Delisle Alaku* (ADA) talked about cross-border mobility and mentioned that Inuit should have the right to do subsistence harvesting all across Inuit Nunaat.

Comments – by ICC Vice-Chair, Chukotka (additional 5 minutes)

Ms. *Liubov Taian* (LT), commented that despite different views and positions, we have a great deal in common!

Answer to Alaska Delegation by ICC Chair

Ms. *Dalee Sambo Dorough* (DSD): “Sustainable development and our ability to express both our cultural values as well as our very real economic needs has been a big part of the foundation in our messaging to the outside world. Even if we take infrastructure gaps, the ability of our own communities, our own leadership, to identify what the gaps are and what the priorities are, what the actual needs are, and then offering the solutions to those needs, that results in a much better expression of our right of self-determination to deal with the issues that face us.”

DSD also referred to the comment by *Adamie Delisle Alaku* and said it is crucial to consider and find solutions to cross-border resource management as well as mobility.

End of the second day

Call to Order by ICC Vice-Chair, Greenland

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. *Hjalmar Dahl* (HD), ICC Vice-Chair and President of ICC Greenland welcomed everyone to the third day of the GA, confirmed that a quorum exists, and then called the meeting to order.



Wildlife Report 2018-2022 by ICC Vice-Chair, Canada

Ms. *Monica Ell-Kanayuk* (ME-K), President of ICC Canada, presented the ICC Wildlife Report. ME-K: *"Harvesting rights across Inuit Nunaat remain central and foundational to our food security, culture, and way of life. ICC continues to work within each country and internationally to monitor activities to strengthen these rights and ones that may erode our rights through animal rights advocacy, international legislation, and regulatory instruments."*



As with most of the previous speakers, ME-K mentioned the difficulties COVID-19 caused to the work performed on the work of ICC, *"however, our communities were able to continue our research and undertake wildlife-related research and monitoring in our communities for ourselves and for others. For Inuit by Inuit."*

There are many challenges to Inuit harvesting rights, such as climate change, public opinion and conservationists, and global regulations. ICC remains active and engaged in all international forums to remain informed and protect Inuit rights, wildlife, and food security.

ICC has been active in the Arctic Council on wildlife issues and has noticed progress in four Working Groups: *Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment* (PAME); *Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna* (CAFF); *Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program* (AMAP); and *Sustainable Development Working Group* (SDWG).

Within the SDWG there is not much focus on wildlife issues, but more on food production and distribution. Within CAFF, focus has been on implementation of the *Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program* and the *Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative*. CAFF has started development of the *Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2021+* and a future workplan.

ICC has advanced Inuit-led conservation through discussions of Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECM) with nation-states at PAME and the IUCN. Progress has also been made in Canada and Greenland on the implementation of the recommendations of the Pikialasorsuaq Commission.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) held its World Conservation Congress (WCC) in September 2021 as a hybrid Congress with online participation for those who could not participate in-person. ICC Canada participated virtually as an Indigenous Peoples Organization (IPO) member of the IUCN.

“A lot of focus for IPOs during this Congress was advocating for the rights, recognition of their traditional lands and territories, and the importance of Indigenous Knowledge in combatting the climate and biodiversity crisis globally. The next Congress in 2026, ICC will ensure that Inuit be on hand to provide further participation.”

The *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) completed a series of virtual meetings in 2021 on the *Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework* (GBF). The Third Meeting of the *Open-Ended Working Group* (OEWG) on the *Post 2020 GBF* was held virtually, and ICC participated as an observer and worked with other Indigenous observer organizations through the *International Indigenous Biodiversity Forum* (IIFB). The CBD Conference of the Parties 15 (COP15) was split into two meetings; the first was held April 2022, and the second half is planned for Montreal in December 2022. ICC is planning a side event at the meeting.

ICC participated in virtual meetings of an Intersessional Working Group regarding Indigenous Peoples, Rural and Local Communities, which will be reporting at the next CITES COP in November 2022. There was concern regarding a potential uplisting of polar bears on the endangered species list, but it did not occur.

ICC is active at the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement (CAOFA) to ensure the recognition of Inuit offshore rights, including harvesting rights and the right to fully participate in the management and development of marine resources.

“Signed by ten [countries] in 2018, this legally binding agreement is the first international agreement of this magnitude to be reached to pursue the precautionary principle before commercial fishing takes place in a high seas area.”

ICC was very active in CAOFA negotiations and successfully ensured Indigenous Knowledge was written into the Agreement. ICC’s approach at CAOFA focuses on ensuring assessments are holistic and consider all possible impacts on the Inuit way of life. There have been concerns about United Kingdom’s elephant ivory ban and a proposal to extend the ban to include CITES listed species such as narwhals and walruses. In response, Inuit in Alaska released a media campaign on walrus ivory and its importance to Inuit art, culture, economies, and food security. ME-K highlighted the 2021 ICC Alaska report on *Food Sovereignty and Self-Governance: Inuit Role in Managing Arctic Marine Resources*.

ME-K concluded by talking about the *Circumpolar Inuit Wildlife Committee* (CIWC), composed of representatives from each ICC country office. CIWC serves as a mechanism for a united Inuit voice on wildlife management issues and will be central in developing collective positions based on Indigenous Knowledge and advocating for Inuit rights and interests across international fora.

Comments from ICC Delegate, Greenland (3 minutes)

Mr. *Nikkulaat Jeremiassen* (NJ), Chairman of KNAPK (Hunters’ and Fishermen’s Organization) commented that it is our ancestors that have taught us to live in a sustainable way. The Inuit way of thinking includes respect for the environment and the wildlife. However, everyone is facing the challenges of today, whether it is in economics, wildlife management, climate change, or other issues. Hunters and fishermen are especially facing these challenges – an example: recently a large group of narwhals came to Sisimiut and a lot of hunters engaged in hunting them when they suddenly appeared. However, hunting them was in conflict with the legislation, so the whales were confiscated and the hunters brought to court. The realities of

hunting and legislation have to go hand in hand so that hunters can sustain their lives.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Alaska (3 minutes)

Ms. *Vivian Korthuis* (VK). In Alaska, food security work is a priority. Inuit are facing a depletion of salmon in the ocean and the rivers, which causes a lot of stress on Indigenous families, individuals and whole communities. Inuit live holistically and when one Inuit region suffers, our whole Inuit community suffers. That is the Inuit worldview, everything is connected throughout the Arctic.

Comments – Delegate, Canada (3 minutes)

Mr. *Adamie Delisle Alaku* (ADA). There is a great need to advocate for Inuit values and traditions that existed before jurisdictional boundaries were created. There is a need to promote Inuit free trade. There are currently many barriers and regulations making it difficult to use and trade Arctic resources. Advocacy and action are needed for Inuit economic sovereignty, control of sustainable wildlife management, and Inuit free trade across the Arctic.

Question – by ICC Vice-Chair, Chukotka (3 minutes)

Ms. *Liubov Taian* (LT) asked about the Working Groups in the Arctic Council, because there are four working groups dealing with sustainable wildlife management. ICC Chukotka would like to express its concerns regarding of the pause in the activities of the Arctic Council. LT understood from an earlier speech that it was decided that the Russian Federation and RAIPON should be excluded from Arctic Council activities, but what about ICC Chukotka? ICC Chukotka is in a difficult position. LT expressed hope that the activities within the Arctic Council will be resumed fully.

Answer to Chukotka Delegation by ICC Vice-Chair, Canada

Ms. *Monica Ell-Kanayuk* (ME-K) answered with reference to her report: “*Recognizing the Arctic Council activities were suspended in February based on Russia’s unprovoked invasion of the Ukraine. The Arctic Council has begun a limited resumption of existing projects related work in June 2022, excluding the Russian Federation and RAIPON.*” The suspension of Russia and RAIPON was a decision made by the *Arctic Council Member States*, not by the *Permanent Participants* (PPs).

ICC has PP-status within the Arctic Council, which includes ICC Chukotka. The PPs were not involved. The PPs are hoping to be more included in decisions taken by the Arctic Council.

Comment – by ICC Vice-Chair, Chukotka

Ms. *Liubov Taian* (LT) expressed her concerns about PPs not being included in decision making.

ICC Chair's Report on the Environment

Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough (DSD), ICC's environmental activities across Inuit Nunaat have brought Inuit voices to international decision-makers. DSD highlighted a few important developments.

Within AMAP, ICC worked to ensure that Inuit perspectives were reflected, including contributions to *mercury research, persistent organic pollutants (POP's), climate change and human health.*



Within PAME, the focus has been on *plastics and pollution* and a new initiative on Arctic Indigenous Peoples' values in relation to the marine environment. ICC hosted a webinar on *Inuit Values in an Ecosystem Approach* webinar where Inuit provided input on how current management practices can integrate Inuit values in decision-making. ICC is also involved in PAME projects on *marine protected areas; ecosystem approach; shipping; resource development; marine litter; and meaningful engagement in marine activities*

Within CAFF, work has been focused on implementing the *Arctic Biodiversity Action Plan*, the *Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP)* and the *Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI)*, etc. ICC helped CAFF host the *Second Arctic Biodiversity Congress* and aided in the organization of an *Arctic Youth Summit*. ICC also advocates for Inuit involvement in numerous sessions, including those on *co-production of knowledge; food security; equitable and ethical engagement*, institutional adaptation; and Inuit management.

DSD said: "*In regard to the Sustained Arctic Observing Network, referred to as SAON, we are pursuing equitable participation of Inuit consistent with our self-determination in research and monitoring, utilization of Indigenous Knowledge, as well as community-based and community-led monitoring activities. As a member of the SAON Board and Executive Committee, we assisted in organizing the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS). We also actively influenced the third Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM-3) in 2021 as a member of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).*"

In 2018-2022, ICC participated in the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*, especially in its newest body, the *Facilitative Working Group (FWG)*, the only UNFCCC body with balanced *Indigenous and State* representation. DSD and *Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk* served as the Arctic Indigenous representative and alternate on the FWG from 2019 until 2022, when the seat was handed over to the Saami Council for the next term. The ICC co-led two activities focused on *Indigenous climate-related curricula and ethical engagement of Indigenous Knowledge*. In all this work, ICC highlighted the need for a clear distinction between Indigenous Peoples and "*local communities*".

ICC participated in COP24, 25, and 26. At COP24 ICC played a significant role in ensuring that the UNDRIP was recognized in its entirety and that no seats were allocated to "*local communities*" during negotiations regarding the FWG. At COP25, Inuit youth from Tuktoyaktuk screened their film "*Happening to Us*" about coastal erosion in their community. ICC also made a submission to the UNFCCC's *Ocean Dialogue*, pointing out the interconnections between biodiversity and climate change. At COP26, ICC led side events featuring *marine governance, youth, and infrastructure across Inuit Nunaat* and hosted both an *INUIT NIGHT* reception and an *INUIT DAY* event.

DSD continued. "*We remain active within the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change, or, really, the Indigenous caucus, to ensure that the Arctic Region is well represented, and that the UNFCCC does not limit Indigenous Peoples to one voice but rather recognizes the diversity of Indigenous Peoples across the globe, starting with the seven UN*

Indigenous Peoples' sociocultural regions, including the Arctic, which is composed of Inuit and Saami.

Inuit made history as the first Indigenous Peoples' Organization to be an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] contributing author and the only IPO to gain Observer Status to the IPCC. We have worked to increase our participation in the IPCC process as an expert reviewer of Special Reports and Working Group Reports under the 6th Assessment Report Cycle."

ICC has also contributed to the *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* and a Polar Regions cross-chapter in the Working Group II's report on *Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*.

"In Feb 2022, we participated in the approval session for the Working Group II's report, marking the first time in the history of the IPCC that an Indigenous Peoples Organization participated and took the floor formally as an official Observer."

"The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty that aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Since Inuit are disproportionately affected by these chemicals, ICC has been involved in the negotiation of this treaty, established in 2004. We are an accredited observer and remain active in its implementation.

New contaminants continue to be added to the Convention, which started with 12 POPs in 2004. As of June 2022, 31 POPs are listed while several new chemicals are under review and may be included in the years to come. All of these POPs, and the new ones under review, are found in the Arctic, throughout our homelands, with some Inuit reporting higher levels than national averages and frequently exceeding health guidelines. ICC together with local Inuit organizations, for example in Nunavik, are actively advocating for the listing of these chemicals."

ICC is an observer to the *Minamata Convention on Mercury* and remains active in negotiations, attending COPs and working within technical expert groups. ICC is advocating for *"the inclusion of Indigenous representatives in the process, as well as for specific language in associated documents and guidance on the need for Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous self-determination in mercury-specific research."*

ICC also participated at the 5th meeting of the UN Environment Assembly, where a resolution was made to initiate negotiations for a global, legally binding agreement on plastics. DSD recommended that ICC remain active in these negotiations.

DSD concluded with a summary of comments that ICC contributed to the Arctic Science Ministerial declaration.

Comments from ICC Delegate, Greenland (3 minutes)

Mr. *Aqqalu Jerimiassen* (AJ), Member of the Greenlandic Parliament. AJ talked about being proud of being a Greenlandic living in a beautiful environment and feeling the responsibility to hand this over to the next generation. AJ gave an example that he tells to tourists – When someone steps out their door, they step right into nature. It's a place of true silence with fresh air and all kind of animals. This may be very different from the places where they come from. Everyone has a great responsibility to protect nature.

Living in the North with sea ice, Inuit feel the effects of climate change particularly in the form of reduced ice with more ice-free months. This has great impacts on the Inuit culture and way of life. Therefore, he hopes that everyone participates in CO2 reduction and rethinks their lifestyles to be more responsible and protect the environment.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Alaska (3 minutes)

Ms. *Vivian Korthuis* (VK). Environmental issues are a major concern for many Alaskan communities, who are witnessing changes in the places Alaskans hunt, study, work, play, and live. Inuit are not separate from the environment, because the environment is our home in our respective regions. This is directly connected to the Inuit worldview.

The erosion and disappearance of land has made Inuit in Alaska take action on infrastructure and climate change adaptation. VK called for Inuit research that engages with communities and addresses the whole environment: land, water, and air.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Canada (3 minutes)

Mr. *Natan Obed* (NO). NO feels that the work Inuit have done on environmental issues over the past decades has made a big impact on the world. He expressed concerns that Inuit are not always respected in regards to the environment, despite the fact that Inuit Nunangat (all Inuit territories in Canada) consists of one third of the land mass of Canada and more than two-thirds of Canada's coastline. Inuit have worked constructively with the Government of Canada on climate action and participating in different UN processes, but Canada still has a long way to go in taking climate change issues seriously. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami created a National Inuit Climate Change Strategy to ensure that Inuit Rights and Inuit positions are respected and incorporated into climate action. He concluded by expressing interest in current work on plastics.

Comments – by ICC Vice-Chair, Chukotka (3 minutes)

Ms. *Liubov Taian* (LT) thanked *Dalee Sambo Dorough* (DSD) for her report. She said that the Inuit way of life revolves around the sea; without the sea and its waters, Inuit would not exist. ICC Chukotka is working together with some environmental NGOs on environmental work in cooperation with the government. DSD's report shows the importance of starting work at the local level and then bringing it to the international level.

ICC Chair's Response to Comments on the Environment Report

Ms. *Dalee Sambo Dorough* (DSD) responded to a question raised about the issue of *plastic pollution* and said that negotiations are just beginning, so how to take action will be a major issue for the new leadership of ICC. She mentioned the memorandum of understanding between Inuit in Canada and the United Kingdom on climate change and noted that ICC contributed to the Status of Tribes and Climate Change (STACC) report in 2021. She concluded that Inuit have a responsibility to protect Inuit Nunaat for future generations of Inuit to enjoy and exercise their rights.

Sustainable Development, Report by Liz Cravalho, Alaska

Ms. *Liz Cravalho* (LC), ice-President of Lands for NANA Regional Corporation, Chair of the International Inuit Business Association, and a Commissioner of the US Arctic Research Commission.

LC discussed the connection between *Sustainable*

Development and Self-Determination and the International Inuit Business Association

LC then explained what the NANA Regional Corporation (NANA) is.



In all the work NANA does, it follows Inuit values such as Respect for Nature, Responsibility to Tribe, Love of Children, and many more. Similar values and challenges appear in Inuit communities and organizations across the Arctic.

The ability to participate in sustainable economic development is key to Inuit self-determination and self-sufficiency, especially as other countries seek to assert their own interests in the Arctic.

LC also spoke about the Red Dog Mine, located on land owned by NANA and operated in partnership with Teck Alaska.. The mine is one of the largest exporters of zinc in the world and exports across the world from its own port. The mine was developed after years of consultation with communities in the region, and the agreement with Teck Alaska includes provisions for training and maximizing employment of NANA shareholders and working with local hunters to minimize environmental impacts.

The Red Dog Mine Subsistence Committee, consisting of Elders and hunters from the nearby villages, meets regularly with representatives of the mine to review subsistence and environmental issues. Shipping schedules are adjusted to minimize possible effects on sea mammal hunts, and road traffic is regulated to protect caribou herds and their migration routes. LC thanked Marie Greene and other leaders for their work to develop the mine.

LC also mentioned the large sums that NANA and others had earned from the Red Dog Mine over the years. Approximately 70% of these earnings are shared among all the Alaska Native Regional Corporations according to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Section 7(i). Funds from the mine make up most of the local municipal government funding. The Red Dog Mine shows how Inuit ownership of Inuit lands can allow for economic development that aligns with Inuit values and interests. NANA has also expanded economic development activities into the federal sector and renewable energy projects.

There are many opportunities for sustainable development in both non-renewable resource development and renewable industries across Inuit Nunaat. There are also many challenges, such as barriers to international trade worsened by COVID-19. LC also noted concerns with public perceptions of Arctic conservation that ignore Inuit views.

In 2020, the *International Inuit Business Association* (IIBA) was founded in response to the Utqiagvik Declaration. *"The mission of the International Inuit Business Association is to encourage sustainable and equitable expansion of the economy through the Arctic to promote greater self-sufficiency in Inuit Nunaat."* Unfortunately, so far IIBA has suffered cancelled meetings due to COVID-19 and changes in staff and leadership. It is critical to reinvigorate the vision of IIBA and consider partnerships with organizations like the Arctic Economic Council. The IIBA is currently planning to conduct studies on trade barriers.

Comments – ICC Delegate, Greenland (3 minutes)

Mr. Aslak Jensen (AJ) mentioned that the COVID-19 pandemic had had a negative impact on the export of fish, which has created frustration among the fishermen and led to conflicts between the government, exporters like Royal Greenland, and fishermen. If there are

discussions about a fragile environment and a fragile economy, it is important that Greenland listens more to what the hunters and fishermen has to say. Greenland does not have mining activities in the same sense as other parts of Inuit Nunaat, the economy of Greenland is mainly based on hunting and fishing. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen the political voice of hunters and fishermen.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Alaska (3 minutes)

Ms. *Vivian Korthuis* (VK) briefly thanked *Liz Cravalho* for her important report. She emphasized the idea that Inuit need to write their own narrative in the Arctic.

Comments – ICC Delegates, Canada (3 minutes)

Mr. *Olayuk Akesuk* (OA) expressed the need for Inuit to be included in wildlife management and monitoring to a greater extent. This includes the effects of extraction industries on our lands and shipping that crosses our waters. He noted that governments want written documents, but Inuit are more used to speaking. Qikiqtani Inuit Association is starting to transcribe past statements on mining and shipping to support current advocacy.

Mr. *Natan Obed* (NO) thanked *Liz Cravalho* for her report. He noted the creation of an *Inuit Development Corporation Association* in Canada, which will be working with the IIBA. Inuit in Canada have also worked with the Canadian Government on the adoption of an *Inuit Nunangat Policy*, which includes lines on economic development and business.

Comments – by ICC Vice-Chair, Chukotka (3 minutes)

Ms. *Liubov Taian* (LT) thanked *Liz Cravalho* for the report and mentioned that the President of the Russian Federation has recently signed into action a large program called ‘*Clean Arctic*.’ Arctic Indigenous Peoples organizations will take part in sub-projects of this program. LT noted that there are both differences and similarities in how Inuit in Alaska and Chukotka deal with these matters.

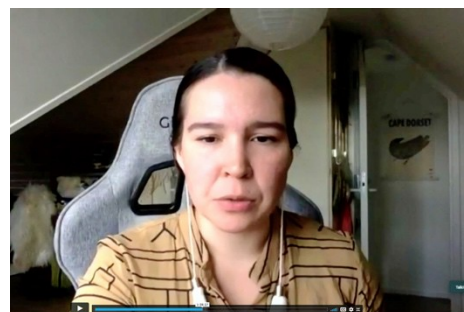
Response to Comments on the Sustainable Development Report

Ms. *Liz Cravalho* (LC) thanked delegates for their comments. She stated that one of the greatest challenges of sustainable and responsible resource development in the Arctic is the need to build understanding with partners regarding Inuit values, way of life, and the importance of subsistence.

Communication and Capacity Building – Tukuminnguaq Olsen, Greenland

Ms. *Tukuminnguaq Olsen* (TO), ICC Greenland Advisor. TO’s presentation summarized the work done by all four offices of ICC.

The work started with an ICC Strategic Planning Workshop in December 2018. The title of the Workshop was ‘*Improving Communications (Internal and External)*’.



One idea that came from the workshop was the importance of youth engagement in capacity building, an idea which is also seen at this General Assembly. TO expressed the importance of

further strengthening collaboration and teamwork.

Regarding communications, it is important to show that the ICC is one organization speaking with a united voice, which includes what information shared on social media and the website. It would be preferable to have one ICC website including all four regions, and it would also be better if ICC only had one email domain instead of four different ones. Another issue is that the e-mail systems and calendars are very different in the four regions and even between the ICC offices.

For the future, ICC should have systems that can work together, such as e-mail systems, calendars, reporting etc. TO also mentioned the success of creating podcasts to communicate about ICC's work.

As an example of how to engage more youth in the work of ICC, TO mentioned that ICC Greenland is working together with the University of Greenland to take interns. Another way of engaging youth is the *Emerging Leaders Initiative*, which has been a success.

There is a lot of interest in student exchange programs, but so far there has not been much success because of the different education systems in the different countries. *"Most importantly, children & youth (and Elders) should know that we have Naggueqatit and that Inuit are ONE. When I tell kids that we are 56,000 Inuit here in Greenland but counting all Inuit is 180,000, their eyes are so happy. We have way too many inoqatit who do not know they are Inuit, and we have Naggueqatit."*

TO concluded by explaining how this work has achieved resolutions from the *Utqiagvik Declaration*. Communications like the website, social media, and podcasts are very important, because they ensure people know about what ICC does and what principles and values Inuit have.

Comments from ICC Delegate, Greenland (3 minutes)

Ms. Qivioq Løvstrøm (QL), teacher at the *University of Greenland*, has noticed that many people do not know their rights. QL thinks it is very important to continue to inform the public about Indigenous human rights and other relevant rights.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Alaska (3 minutes)

Ms. Vivian Korthuis (VK) made some short comments praising ICC's work on including youth in its work.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Canada (3 minutes)

Mr. Natan Obed (NO) thanked the presenter and passed the floor to Ms. Crystal Martin-Lapenskie (CM-L) who has worked with ICC Canada on *youth* and *capacity building*. CM-L mentioned that ICC Canada held a virtual seminar for youth between 16 and 35 to discuss climate change and improve awareness about what ICC is doing. It seems that many young people are very unfamiliar with what the ICC is. The need for more youth involvement matches the recommendations from the *Emerging Leaders Initiative*, and CM-L hopes that leaders will continue to discuss ways to build capacity among Inuit youth across Inuit Nunaat.

Comments – by ICC Vice-Chair, Chukotka (3 minutes)

Ms. *Liubov Taian* (LT) also had some short comments and said that with new high-speed internet, ICC Chukotka will be able to participate in all the work on youth engagement and the *Emerging Leaders Initiative*.

Announcement by ICC Vice-Chair & Assembly Chair, Greenland

Mr. *Hjalmar Dahl* (HD) gave thanks for the final reports and the many comments on the last day of this General Assembly. Since the GA was ahead of schedule, HD allowed another series of comments from the ICC Delegations.

Comments from ICC Delegate, Greenland (5 minutes)

Ms. *Sara Olsvig* (SOL) talked on behalf of the Delegation. She noted that questions on climate change and its consequences were especially highlighted by the hunters and fishermen. SOL pointed out that Inuit are affected first hand by climate change. Even if our natural resources can be used in a different way, which may mean that climate change can benefit Inuit in many ways, the ICC must have a clear voice about the consequences of climate change. ICC should have a united voice regarding climate change adaptation and mitigation, and a united voice in protecting the Arctic against the superpowers in the international community.

It must be made clear that these nations have a great responsibility for the pollution that affects Inuit and our Arctic environment so much.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Alaska (5 minutes)

Ms. *Vivian Korthuis* (VK) noted that since Alaskan delegates were joining the meeting from different locations, she would call on each location to speak.

- *Utqiaġvik (Barrow)*: Delegate found ICC's work on education and youth very important, and highlighted the phrase "*Nothing about us, without us.*" Another delegate noted that just like youth do not know about ICC, in the North Slope Borough, many younger people don't know about the history of the Borough or other Iñupiat organizations. Whaling teaches people that working together you can get so much more done than on your own; it's the same with working with ICC.
- *Kotzebue*: Delegate *Marie Greene* (MG) likewise found the ICC initiatives on communication, education, and youth important. She reflected on the importance of what past Inuit leaders have done for everyone today.

Due to time constraints, only delegates from *Utqiaġvik* and *Kotzebue* commented.

Comments – Head of Delegation, Canada (5 minutes)

Mr. *Natan Obed* (NO) passed the word on to Mr. *Pita Aatami* (PA), who asked what would be done with the recommendations from the *Emerging Leaders Initiative* that *Crystal Martin-Lapenskie* gave a report on earlier. He announced that *Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk* was appointed as ICC Canada President. PA emphasized that it is not just one country running ICC, it is everyone working together. He noted that a virtual General Assembly is very different and that he missed seeing fellow Inuit from Alaska, Greenland, and Chukotka in person. Throughout the history of ICC, most of the issues it has focused on were environment ones,

and this will of course continue on issues like plastic pollution. He said: *"We're 180 thousand strong in this world. And I know that we're not governments, but in my opinion, as a People, we ARE a government. We were always a government in the past, we will always be a People. Where we live, as a People, in the Arctic, we're all connected one way or another."* PA also mentioned global warming and the melting sea ice which allows big cruise ships to travel through the Northwest Passage, but PA also expressed that these waters are Inuit waters and our home, and need to be treated with respect.

Comments – by ICC Vice-Chair, Chukotka (5 minutes)

Ms. *Liubov Taian* (LT) expressed as others also have done that the Chukotka Delegation is looking forward to the in-person meeting in 2023 in Ilulissat. LT also expressed that this ICC General Assembly has shown Inuit solidarity among the four Inuit regions in four Nation States.

End of Presentations and Q&C – Photo session – Break – Cultural Performance, Canada

A pre-recorded cultural performance video by *Sandy Emudluk* and *Janice Parsons* was shown.

Quorum and Adoption of the 2022 Declaration

Ms. *Dalee Sambo Dorough* (DSD) said that there have been many challenges in drafting the Declaration, but it was finally managed. Some comments regarding cross-border issues had previously been raised by the Canadian Delegation, but Mr. *Natan Obed* (NO) gave a brief comment and said that the comments from Canada could wait until 2023 when the ICC Delegates would meet in-person in Ilulissat. DSD then asked the four Delegations if there was consensus on the adoption of the *Declaration*:

- *Alaska*: Approved.
- *Canada*: Approved.
- *Greenland*: Approved.
- *Chukotka*: Approved.

DSD thanked delegates for the approval and hereby declared the adoption of the *2022 INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL DECLARATION: INUIT – PERTUJAASSUSEQ EQQISSINERLU INUIT - STRENGTH AND PEACE*.

Election of the ICC Chair 2022-2026

Ms. *Dalee Sambo Dorough* (DSD) thanked and introduced the incoming ICC Chair: *"As everyone knows, the ICC will be led by the host country of Kalaallit Nunaat for the 2022-26 term. As everyone also knows, we have a single candidate. Barring any statements or interventions to the contrary, it gives me immense pleasure to introduce our sole candidate for Chairperson of the Inuit Circumpolar Council for the 2022-2026 term."*

Sara Olsvig is a PhD-fellow at Ilisimatusarfik, the University of Greenland. She is an appointed member of the Constitutional Commission of Greenland and a member of the Human Rights Council of Greenland. She served as a member of the Parliament of Denmark from 2011 to 2015 and the Parliament of Greenland from 2013 to 2018. She holds an MSc in Anthropology and has previously worked as the Executive Director of the ICC Greenland office, and today she serves as one of the Delegates of the ICC Greenland Delegation. She lives in Nuuk with her partner and

their children.

We all recognize that this Chairmanship will be held by Greenland because of this single nomination. Does she enjoy the support of each delegation?"

- *Alaska, Canada, Chukotka & Greenland: Approved the election of Sara Olsvig as ICC International Chair.*

With that approval, DSD announced *"the election of Sara Olsvig as the international Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council by acclamation and for the 2022-2026 term. Congratulations, Sara."* She invited Sara Olsvig to give brief comments.

Comments by the new International Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council



Ms. Sara Olsvig (SOL) briefly spoke in *Kalaallisut* and then gave a longer speech in English. SOL said: *"We stand on the foundation that our predecessors built, on ICC's long and strong advocacy for the human rights of all Inuit, on the strong partnerships ICC has created with other Indigenous Peoples of the world, on ICC's clear voice in bringing the changing climate and the consequences of climate change to the world's attention and fighting for our inherent right to self-determination and as a people to be united and connected across the borders of our four nation states also through hard and difficult times. (...) We know the Arctic – it is our home - and we know that Inuit Nunaat is a place for cooperation, for dialogue, and for diplomatic solutions. That is how our organization, the Inuit Circumpolar Council, was created, and that is how we will continue to work."*

Presentation of the new ICC Executive Council Members (ECM)

- *Chair: Ms. Sara Olsvig (Greenland)*
- *Alaska: Vice-Chair: Ms. Marie Greene; Member: Ms. Nicole Kanayurak Wojciechowski*
- *Canada: Vice-Chair: Ms. Lisa Koperqualuk; Member: Mr. Herb Nakimayak*
- *Chukotka: Vice-Chair: Ms. Irina Mishina; Member: Ms. Zinaida Chernousova*
- *Greenland: Vice-Chair: Mr. Kuupik V. Kleist; Member: Mr. Nuka Kleeman*

See photo presentation of the ECM as Appendix # 3.

Jens Ole Nathanielsen, Vice Mayor of Avannaata Kommunia on behalf of Mayor Palle Jerimiassen

Mr. Jens Ole Nathanielsen (JON) congratulated the new ICC Chair and Executive Council Members.

JON expressed that the municipality is proud to be the host of the 2023 *Delegates Meeting* in Ilulissat. The

Steering Group to prepare the meeting is functioning well, but still has a lot of work to do. While the municipality focuses on local issues, the shared challenges in the Arctic mean it is important to think internationally and reach out to *'our fellow Inuit'*.



Closing remarks by the former ICC Chair

Ms. Dalee Sambo Dorough (DSD) thanked all participants and gave special thanks for staff and others for their service to ICC.

CLOSING CEREMONY AND FINAL CULTURAL PERFORMANCE – GREENLAND

APPENDIX # 1

Delegates from Greenland

Hjalmar Dahl	Nuuk
Nuka Kleemann	Ilulissat
Aviâja Egede Lynge	Nuuk
Emma Lennert	Sisimiut
Sara Olsvig	Nuuk
Lars Nielsen	Kang.
Aviaaja L. Olsen	Nuuk
Aslak W. Jensen	Nuuk
Kuupik V. Kleist	Nuuk
Lena Reimer	Sisimiut
Qulutannguaq Berthelsen	Nuuk
Nikkulaat Jeremiassen	Nuuk
Ululinánguak Kleist	Nuuk
Qivioq Løvstrøm	Nuuk
Jensine Ottosen	Qaqortoq
Harald Bianco	Tasiilaq
Aqqalu Jerimiassen	Ilulissat
Hans Reimer	Aasiaat

Delegates from Alaska

Dalee Sambo Dorough	Bering Strait
Jimmy Stotts	North Slope
Vera Metcalf	Bering Strait
Mary David	Bering Strait
Roy Ashenfelter	Bering Strait
Merlin Koonooka	Bering Strait
Harry Brower Jr.	North Slope
Doreen Leavitt	North Slope
Rex Rock Sr.	North Slope
Miles Cleveland	Northwest
Percy Ballot Sr.	Northwest
Elizabeth Saagulik Hensley	Northwest
Elizabeth Ferguson	Northwest
Marie Greene	Northwest
James Paul	Southwest
Edward Adams Sr.	Southwest
Vivian Korthuis	Southwest
Thaddeus Tikiun Jr.	Southwest

Delegates from Canada

Duane Smith	Inuvik, NT
Evelyn Storr	Aklavik, NT
Alexandrea Gordon	Inuvik, NT
Aluki Kotierk	Iqaluit, NU
Olayuk Akesuk	Kinngait, NU
Kono Tattuinee	Rankin Inlet, NU
Stanley Anablak	Cambridge Bay, NU
Brian Pottle	Rigolet, Nunatsiavut
Natan Obed	Nain, Nunatsiavut
George Berthe	Kuuujuaq, QC
Adamie Delisle Alaku	Kuuujuaq, QC
Pita Aatami	Kuuujuaq, QC
Johannes Lampe	Nain, Nunatsiavut
Gerald Asivak	Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Nunatsiavut
Terry Vincent	Hopedale, Nunatsiavut
Monica Ell-Kanayuk	Iqaluit, NU
Lisa Koperqualuk	Montreal, QC
Crystal Martin-Lapenskie	Sanirajak, NU

Delegates from Chukotka

Ekaterina Ionova	Sireniki
Elena Glagoleva	New Chaplino
Elena Kaminskaya	New Chaplino
Galina Shak	Egvekinot
Irina Mishina	Uelen
Liubov Taian	Anadyr
Anna Agnagisyak	New Chaplino
Maria Karnaukhova	Provideniya
Valentina Leonova	Anadyr
Nellya Omrynto	Lorino
Vasily Dobriev	Lavrentiya
Zinaida Chernousova	Uelkel

APPENDIX # 2



2022 INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL DECLARATION

As declared by the Inuit of Greenland, Canada, Alaska, and Chukotka,
on the occasion of the 14th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)
from 19-21 July 2022, held through a hybrid gathering due to the COVID-19 pandemic,
and in the context of the Assembly theme

INUIT – PERTUJAASSUSEQ EQQISSINERLU

INUIT - STRENGTH AND PEACE

Reaffirming that the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) exists as the unified voice for Inuit at the international level. The principal goals of ICC are to strengthen unity among Inuit of the circumpolar region; promote Inuit status, rights, and interests on an international level; develop and encourage long-term policies that safeguard the Arctic environment; and seek full and active partnership in the political, economic, and social development of the Arctic,

Emphasizing that when Inuit address issues of common concerns through a unified voice, we find strength in our unity. This principle was articulated at the founding meeting of ICC in 1977 and it remains true today,

Remembering that a strong family foundation based on Inuit kinship is necessary for the health and wellness of all our people, including the care and inclusion of our children, youth, and Elders. We should all feel safe and welcomed, and know we are valued and cherished by all,

Celebrating our rich oral history, and the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, we recognize our language, among other cultural characteristics, as foundational to Inuit culture, knowledge and identity, and our culture cannot be separated from who we are as a people. Our language is powerful. It is, and continues to be a mitigating force to every issue that impacts us, from mental health to climate change, to hunting and food security, to sustainable development,

Reaffirming Inuit Knowledge is embedded in our language, culture, values, customs, families, and our intimate relationship to the environment, we continue to develop and use our distinct knowledge,

Confirming that ICC is a safe and inclusive space, where Inuit of all ages, gender, sexual orientation, and degree of cultural knowledge and language are welcome,

Reflecting on the COVID-19 Pandemic and **recognizing** that it has amplified the concerns for equity and justice of the overall health and wellbeing of Inuit,

Recalling the 2008 Ilulissat Declaration of the *Arctic Five States* and their commitment to working peacefully within legal frameworks, we recognize the increasing competition over the control of the Arctic, and the interrelated issues of climate change, marine vessel traffic, industrialization, militarization, and other activities that continue to threaten the well-being of our environmental, cultural, food, and socio-economic security,

Reaffirming ICC Resolution 77-11, recognizing that it is in the interest of all Circumpolar peoples that the Arctic shall continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful and environmentally safe purposes, and shall not become the scene or object of human conflict or discord,

Recognizing that our communities are at the forefront of the rapid changes occurring within the Arctic, we are acutely aware of the diverse human rights, cultural, health and social impacts related to climate change. Our knowledge, adaptation and mitigation strategies and management practices are critical to addressing the challenges,

Bringing attention to the vital role of the Arctic Ocean in shaping weather and climate across the entire planet, the Arctic Ocean, sea ice and its waters are central to our overall existence, health, and well-being,

Recalling the Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic, which calls for Arctic States to work closely and constructively with Inuit to address concerns about international relations and the resolution of international disputes and to chart the future of the Arctic,

Recognizing the need to engage with governments to enable our people to move freely across the national borders dividing our people and to establish residence in other regions of our homeland,

Recognizing that we emerged in an era of environmental and global insecurity, again the Arctic geopolitical landscape is changing, and ICC is uniquely prepared to assess and address new challenges across Inuit Nunaat,

Affirming that the Inuit Circumpolar Council is one of the founding Arctic Council Permanent Participants and we must remain an integral part of this regional organization. We express our deep concern about the current pause and call for a resolution,

Asserting that international instruments, intergovernmental fora, and Arctic specific developments that have or may in the future impact our communities, must ensure our direct participation in procedural and substantive aspects, including the Arctic Council, United Nations' entities and specialized agencies, and all other intergovernmental organizations that we deem relevant,

Stressing that our traditional foods are core to our identity and culture, and our respect for our hunters and fishers, and their invaluable contributions are celebrated. Accessibility, availability, culture, stability, health and wellness, decision-making-power and management are required for food security and a healthy environment. Our adaptive and holistic management has sustained us and our homelands for thousands of years. Our food sovereignty, our right to define our own policies and approaches, is critical to our existence and food security,

Condemning the threats to our food security, including unprecedented salmon crashes, changes in wildlife health, environmental and industrial impacts, large-scale unsustainable commercial fisheries and **asserting** the need for Inuit to be at the forefront of management to ensure sustainability of our foods and health of our environment,

Underscoring the urgent need to address the profound infrastructure deficits, including housing; water and sanitation; telecommunications; transportation and medical facilities and services; and waste management. These deficits contribute to the vulnerability and underlying health and social challenges experienced by our people and impede our human rights,

Declaring and asserting the urgent need for basic public safety services across Inuit Nunaat and the unacceptable conditions in our communities. Everyone deserves to feel safe in their own communities, safe and free from domestic violence, substance abuse, sexual abuse, and violent crimes. Safe communities mean healthy communities, and healthy communities serve as the foundation for a thriving Inuit society,

Expressing Concern for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons crisis as well as other misdeeds by colonial powers, and the need for continued attention and action to ensure policies prioritize addressing these issues and their underlying causes,

Considering, that Inuit have experienced injustices from colonizers. The impacts of colonization are profound, and we are still learning to understand the diverse layers of trauma inflicted on us, and in our resilience, we find strength and healing,

Recognizing the interrelated human rights and specifically the right of Inuit to directly participate in processes that affect us as affirmed in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169,

Celebrating our new, provisional consultative status in the International Maritime Organization, our Observer status in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the development of the Coalition of Indigenous Peoples Food Systems within the Food and Agriculture Organization,

Building upon the success of the Circumpolar Inuit Summit on Health and Wellness and the session focused on *'Inuit youth and connection to culture for mental wellness & suicide prevention'* we recognize the pathways Inuit youth have identified toward mental wellness as well as the barriers that many Inuit face to improve our mental health,

Celebrating the successes of the Emerging Leaders Initiative, embracing its recommendations for improving youth engagement and capacity-building, as well as, continuing to ensure that the leadership “pipeline” is intact, with clear avenues for our young people to engage in our work effectively and directly must remain a priority,

Emphasizing equitable and ethical engagement and the utilization of Inuit Knowledge is required to inform decision-making, policy, research, assessments, monitoring programs, and governance, we welcome the Circumpolar Inuit Protocols for Equitable and Ethical Engagement,

Celebrating the establishment of the International Inuit Business Association, whose purpose is to encourage sustainable and equitable expansion of the economy throughout Inuit society to promote greater self-sufficiency in Inuit Nunaat, to enhance the livelihoods of Inuit and to promote greater economic cooperation between the ICC member countries, we look forward to the first annual meeting of representatives to continue building business connections across international borders. To address and pursue these goals at an international scale, ICC representatives from Greenland and Alaska have been engaged in the Arctic Economic Council, and

Reaffirming that our sustainability depends upon a balance between a healthy environment, thriving economy, our culture and way of life.

Compelled by the above statements of issues and positions and taking them into consideration, we hereby:

1. **Welcome and adopt** the ICC Report on Activities 2018 – 2022 and endorse all forthcoming actions to continue and commence with the work necessary to respond to the concerns sincerely raised by our people.
2. **Look forward** to an in-person Delegates Meeting in Ilulissat, Greenland, in July 2023, to reflect on the progress of the work of ICC, take note of recent developments, further develop ICC work plans, including an Ilulissat Declaration, as well as celebrate our unity and culture.
3. **Declare** the priority areas during the 2022-2026 term to be Good Governance, Security and Inuit Nunaat, Health and Wellness, Language and Culture, Hunting and Food Security, Arctic Ocean and the Marine Environment, and Infrastructure Deficit. We collectively agree to the following necessary actions that will bring us towards progress for all Inuit.

4. **Direct the** ICC Executive Council to appoint a working group to evaluate ICC's governance structure and develop recommendations to be tabled for endorsement during the 2026 GA addressing the integration of democratic principles, improving collaboration, transparency between regions and inclusiveness of ICC's work as well as the effectiveness of its advocacy and responsiveness to Inuit priorities.
5. **Direct** the ICC Executive Council to improve upon the first ICC strategic planning workshop held in 2018, to assess the current opportunities at the international level, identify gaps in our areas of influence, and strategically develop a united, cooperative plan.
6. **Direct** ICC to continue to improve internal and external communications through effective, ongoing collaboration and continue the Circumpolar Waves podcast.
7. **Instruct** ICC Executive Council to continue to evaluate and strategize ways to use the Arctic Council as a key arena to further the interests of Inuit and to strengthen the unique role of ICC as a Permanent Participant in the Arctic Council.
8. **Instruct** the ICC Executive Council to continue participation in relevant UN entities, specialized agencies, and other intergovernmental fora, including follow-up on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and direct engagement with Special Rapporteurs to advance Inuit status, rights, and roles as reflected in this Declaration.
9. **Assert** that the rules governing our marine regions must stem from Inuit and cannot be created without us. For example, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other instruments were created without us. This must not happen any longer.
10. **Call on** researchers, policymakers, governments, as well as relevant institutions to respect and support the right of Inuit to self-determination in all aspects of research conducted in Inuit Nunaat, to engage Inuit and our communities equitably and ethically and work with us to bring forward the best available information to make sound decisions that respond to conditions facing Inuit.
11. **Direct** ICC to implement the Circumpolar Inuit Protocols for Ethical and Equitable Engagement at the international level to force a paradigm shift within institutions and forums that guarantees *nothing about us, without us*.
12. **Call on** the ICC Executive Council to investigate the feasibility of conducting a research project, including a methodology and funding plan, to analyze the elements concerning Inuit sovereignty and self-determination, including the affirmation of such rights by the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

APPENDIX # 3



KUUPIKV. KLEIST
Vice Chair:



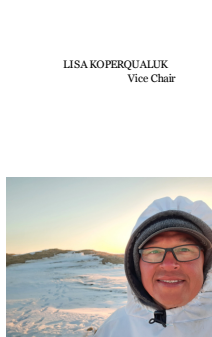
NUKA KLEEMANN
Council Member



MARIE GREENE
Vice Chair



NICOLE WOJCIECHOWSKI
Council Member



LISA KOPERQUALUK
Vice Chair



HERB NAKIMAYAK
Council Member



IRINA MISHINA
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ZINAIDA CHERNOUSOVA
Council Member

