# The Arctic Indigenous Peoples cooperation within AMAP (and Arctic Council)













#### The Beginning...

# JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE ARCTIC COUNTRIES

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Ministers viewed the establishment of this new intergovernmental forum as an important milestone in their commitment to enhance cooperation in the circumpolar North. The Council will provide a mechanism for addressing the common concerns and challenges faced by their governments and the people of the Arctic. To this end, Ministers referred particularly to the protection of the Arctic environment and sustainable development as a means of improving the conomic, social and cultural well-being in the North.

Ministers noted that the indigenous people of the Arctic have played an important role in the negotiations to create the Arctic Council. The Declaration provides for their full consultation and involvement in the Arctic Council. To this end, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Saami Council, and the Association of the Indigenous Minorities of the North, Siberia, and the Far East of the Russian Federation, are named as Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council. Provision is also made for additional organizations representing Arctic indigenous people to become Permanent Participants.

Ministers acknowledged the significant work accomplished under the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS), whose existing programs will be integrated within the Council. They agreed to complete the integration process by the time of the final AEPS Ministerial meeting being held in Norway in 1997.

# OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

AFFIRMING our commitment to the well-being of the inhabitants of the Arctic, including recognition of the special relationship and unique contributions to the Arctic of indigenous people and their communities;

RECOGNIZING the traditional knowledge of the indigenous people of the Arctic and their communities and taking note of its importance and that of Arctic science and research to the collective understanding of the circumpolar Arctic;

DESIRING further to provide a means for promoting cooperative activities to address Arctic issues requiring circumpolar cooperation, and to ensure full consultation with and the full involvement of indigenous people and their communities and other inhabitants of the Arctic in such activities;

RECOGNIZING the valuable contribution and support of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Saami Council, and the Association of the Indigenous Minorities of the North, Siberia, and the Far East of the Russian Federation in the development of the Arctic Council;

# CELEBRATING THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF IPS: Building on Indigenous Achievements in the Arctic Council





#### Fundamental Principles for the Use of Traditional Knowledge in Strengthening the Work of the Arctic Council

- The use of Traditional Knowledge is an overarching mandate of the Arctic Council and is a central commitment for implementation by the Senior Arctic Officials, Permanent Participants, and all Arctic Council Working Groups.
- Traditional Knowledge enhances and illuminates the holistic and shared understanding of the Arctic environment which promotes and provides a more complete knowledge base for the work of the Arctic Council.
- Recognition, respect, trust, and increased understanding between Traditional Knowledge holders, scientists, and representatives of the Arctic States are essential elements in the meaningful and effective inclusion of Traditional Knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council.
- 4. The inclusion, use, review, and verification of Traditional Knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council will occur at all stages of every agreed-to initiative and will be led and facilitated by the Permanent Participants. Recognizing that Permanent Participants will determine the appropriate use of Traditional Knowledge in work of Arctic Council.
- Traditional Knowledge is the intellectual property
  of the indigenous knowledge holders, therefore
  policies and procedures for accessing data and information gathered from Traditional Knowledge
  holders should be developed at the appropriate
  ownership level, recognizing and adhering to each
  Permanent Participants' protocols.
- In order to maintain the integrity of specialized information and avoid misinterpretation of Traditional Knowledge, it is crucial that evaluation, verification and communication of analyzed information be conducted by Traditional Knowledge holders with appropriate expertise, to be identified by Permanent Participants.
- Each of the Permanent Participants represent their respective cultures, communities, peoples

- and Traditional Knowledge systems and holders; processes of including Traditional Knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council will respect and reflect this diversity.
- The inclusion of Traditional Knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council requires adequate capacity and resources to address the unique needs and circumstances of the cultures, languages, communities, governance processes, and knowledge systems of Arctic indigenous peoples represented by the Permanent Participants.
- Traditional Knowledge and science are different yet complementary systems and sources of knowledge, and when appropriately used together may generate new knowledge and may inform decision making, policy development and the work of the Arctic Council.
- The use of Traditional Knowledge within the Arctic Council must benefit the knowledge providers and appropriately credit indigenous contributions.
- The co-production of knowledge requires creative and culturally appropriate methodologies and technologies that use both Traditional Knowledge and science applied across all processes of knowledge creation.
- Communication, transmission and mutual exchange of knowledge using appropriate language conveying common understanding, including strategies to communicate through indigenous languages, is critical to work of Arctic Council.
- Recognize the need to bridge knowledge systems, including leveraging existing indigenous knowledge networks, institutions and organizations, as well as developing education strategies to broaden mutual understanding.













#### Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme States + PPs + observers



International Agreements (e.g. UNEP):

- Stockholm Convention on POPs
- Minamata Convention on Mercury
  - IPCC (UNFCCC/ PA) Etc.



### **Effective Participation**

#### **Preamble of the Stockholm Convention:**

"Acknowledging that the Arctic ecosystems and indigenous communities are particularly at risk because of the biomagnification of persistent organic pollutants and that contamination of their traditional foods is a public health issue."

#### Preamble of the PA:

"Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities (..) "

- Research is extremely important to inform decision making
- Publishing research is only a first step
- Need for use of results in policy development, decision making
- People that are affected need to be involved and represented: Indigenous peoples, civil society





Gaejtoe! Thank you!