



Declaration from the sixth Conference of Sami Parliamentarians in Aanaar, 19 May 2022

Parliamentarians from the Sámi parliaments in Sápmi, state the following:

The Sixth Conference of Sámi Parliamentarians envisions Sápmi as a region of peace, stability and low tension. The concerned nations, whose borders divide the traditional Sami territory, act responsibly, developing economic and energy resources in a sustainable, transparent manner, which is aligned with the principles of the Paris Agreement (COP15) as well as current principles of international law, respecting the Sami people's and other indigenous peoples' right to self-determination, language, culture, social life, and the traditional livelihoods.

1. The conference reminds the Nordic states of their support of the Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly (UNGA), to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP). We call for a implementation of the Declaration of the rights of indigenous peoples (UNDRIP) on the national level.
2. Reminds that the decision of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples was built on The Alta Outcome Document, adopted by the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference in Alta, Norway on 10–12 June 2013.
3. Notes that the commitment, made in the Outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, calls for enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples and institutions to the United Nations, is still under consideration. Notes further that the UNGA resolution A/RES/71/321 is one step in a process but does not satisfy indigenous peoples' call for permanent observer status to the United Nations. Welcomes the establishment of the temporary committee for enhanced participation of indigenous peoples to the United Nations in Quito, Ecuador in 2020. Welcomes further the financial support given by the governments of Canada, Finland and Norway for the Dialogue meeting of indigenous peoples on enhanced participation to the United Nations in Quito in 2020.
4. Welcomes the UN International Decade of Indigenous languages and Nordic countries' commitment to it, by supporting the implementation of the UN International Decade of Indigenous languages and by strengthening the Sami languages, both in terms of legislation and allocation of resources. Notes in this context that the Sami Parliament's cross-border co-operation has been consolidated through the establishment of a common Sami language centre.



5. Recognizes that reindeer herding and other traditional Sámi livelihoods, the traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous peoples make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. We acknowledge the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples, wherever possible, in the benefit of their knowledge, innovations and practices. Reminds that the processes and meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and of its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits are interlinked with process with sustainable development, agenda 2030 and to combat climate change.
6. Recognizes that the governments of the Barents and Arctic regions have, to some extent, followed up their commitments under the Paris Agreement of 2015 at the Parties Conference (COP26) in Glasgow. They also took a leading role in the work of reducing greenhouse gas emissions globally as well as regionally and included indigenous peoples in the process both nationally and in the governmental negotiation teams.
7. Welcomes the 1.7 billion USD pledge to support of Indigenous Peoples made by the governments and private funders at COP 26. Sámi people as Arctic Indigenous People suffer from climate change. Rising to the challenges presented by global climate change requires a concentrated effort that encompasses all seven socio-cultural regions of the world, therefore we urge governments and funders to include Indigenous Peoples from all seven socio-cultural regions and refine their scope of their commitment to a holistic approach that also supports Indigenous Peoples self-determination, alliance building and strengthening Indigenous Peoples local economies, governance system and resource management strategies.
8. Welcomes the conclusions and recommendations regarding Sami fishing rights in the sea, published by Norwegian National Human Rights Institution (NNHRI) in 2016. NNHRI recommended the Norwegian government to recognize sea Sami's right to fish in the sea as part of their cultural practice and based on their historic fishing. The same applies to the right to positive discrimination in the allocation of allowances and if this is necessary, to the preservation of the sea Sami's material cultural basis.
9. Welcomes the joint statement against hatred and racism by the Norwegian, Swedish, and Finnish ministers responsible for Sami affairs and the presidents of the Sami Parliaments in Finland, Norway, and Sweden in connection with the Sami National Day on 6 February 2021. The statement emphasizes that the governments of Norway, Sweden, and Finland, together with the Sami Parliaments, must, among other measures, combat hatred and racism generally and underline the importance of work carried out by truth and reconciliation commissions. Commissions work to highlight historical injustices and increase understanding of the current situation of the Sami people in the three countries, which can also counteract discrimination and racism.
10. Acknowledges that the cultural and intellectual heritage of indigenous peoples, comprises the traditional practices, knowledge, and ways of life. Welcomes the efforts



made by the Sámi Parliamentarian Council to strengthen and consolidate the pan-Sámi position on protection of cultural heritage. Reminds that the right of indigenous peoples to their own culture has been a topic of international discourse for numerous years. The issue applies to the actual possibility to maintain and develop their cultural heritage as well as the exclusive right to determine who can use traditional cultural expressions, and how.

11. Acknowledges that the Covid-19 pandemic has greatly hampered both the living conditions and livelihoods of the Sami people. It has had a negative effect on the cross-border cooperation in Sápmi through the inadequate coordination of national strategies and de facto measures to combat the pandemic by the countries concerned.
12. Notes that the negotiations on the Nordic Sami Convention are in the final stages and welcomes the efforts made by the parties concerned to complete the process.
13. Recommends that the Nordic governments fully implement the Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples (UNDRIP) and the commitments made in the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP), including the national action plans, strategies, or other measures.
14. Urges the Nordic countries to support the indigenous peoples' efforts both technically and economically to enhance indigenous peoples' participation in the United Nation.
15. We call for enhanced implementation of the Declaration of the rights of indigenous peoples (UNDRIP) on the national level.
16. Recommends that the governments of the Barents and Arctic regions renew and increase their commitments under the Paris Agreement of 2015 at the Parties Conference (COP 26) in Glasgow and take a leading role in designing an ambitious climate action plan for the Arctic. This includes the work of indigenous peoples in reducing greenhouse gas emissions globally and in the Arctic states, without undermining nor violating the Sami, or other indigenous peoples' right to self-determination, or preventing indigenous peoples from exercising their traditional economy and land use in the name of the green transition.
17. Welcomes the recent Supreme Court rulings in Sweden, Norway and Finland in favour of Sami fishing, hunting, grazing and human rights, namely the Girjas case versus the Swedish State (case nr T 853-1); the Sør and Nord -Fosen sijte versus Statnett SF, Fosen Vind DA, Ministry of Petroleum and Energy , Supreme Court judgment 11 October 2021, HR-2021-1975-S (case no. 20-143891SIV-HRET, case no. 20-143892-SIV-



HRET and case no. 20-143893SIV-HRET) and Finnish Supreme Court Rules on Sámi Indigenous Rights to Fish On April 13, 2022, (Finnish Supreme Court Cases KKO:2022:25 and KKO:2022:26.).

18. Urges Nordic governments to give their full support for adaptation and mitigation efforts of the Sámi people regarding Climate Change, including sufficient funding.
19. Calls on states to intensify efforts to combat invasive species such as pink salmon (humpback salmon) in rivers in the Sápmi areas which are a threat against traditional Sami livelihoods and culture.
20. Requests that the Sami Parliamentary Council organizes a Sami Climate conference, with the aim to update and consolidate the Sami and Indigenous position in 2023/24. ⁱ
21. Urges that the Swedish, Norwegian and Finnish states promptly start to revise, adjust, and implement their policies and legislation in line with their Supreme Court rulings concerning clarifications of Sami fishing, hunting, grazing and human rights with full and effective participation of the Sámi. Referring to the Supreme Court rulings in Sweden, Norway and Finland in favour of Sami fishing, hunting, grazing and human rights; namely the Girjas case versus the Swedish State (case nr T 853-1); the Sør and Nord -Fosen sijte versus Statnett SF, Fosen Vind DA, Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, Supreme Court judgment 11 October 2021, HR-2021-1975-S (case no. 20-143891SIV-HRET, case no. 20-143892-SIV-HRET and case no. 20-143893SIV-HRET) and Finnish Supreme Court Rules on Sámi Indigenous Rights to Fish On April 13, 2022, (Finnish Supreme Court Cases KKO:2022:25 and KKO:2022:26.)
22. Requests that the Sámi Parliamentarian Council (SPC) undertakes a review of both overall co-operation within the framework of SPC and also the co-operation agreement.
23. Urges that the Nordic governments strengthen and protect the Sami cultural heritage by legislations adopted with free, prior, and informed consent by the Sámi Parliaments in each of the countries. The states shall implement measures for co-operation across national borders on documentation, protection, and care of Sami cultural heritage. The states shall make efforts to ensure that Sami cultural heritage, that has been removed from the Saami areas and that is of particular interest to the Saami community, is entrusted to suitable museums or cultural institutions as further agreed with the countries' Saami parliaments.
24. Appreciates the support from the Finnish government in negotiations concerning indigenous peoples enhanced participation in all levels of the UN and the work made



by the Temporary Coordinating Body working on enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples at the UN.

25. Finally, the conference reminds the governments of the Nordic states and the Sami Parliaments to strengthen the indigenous peoples' opportunity and incentive to get involved in all levels of society and thereby strengthen trust to democracy and a society characterized by diversity.

ⁱ The draft to the declaration to the Sixth Sámi Parliamentarians Conference was communicated to the members of the Conference late 17th May 2022. It was only available in English, and the day after the Declaration was communicated in different Sámi languages and in Scandinavian language. Many of the representatives haven't either been communicated by e-mail. We have difficulties to discuss the draft because it was so late communicated. The representatives from the Nordkalottfolket have therefore difficult to support the Declaration from the sixth Sámi Parliamentarians Conference, and request that the communication of draft Declarations should be improved to the next conference.