



The 4th Sami Parliamentary Conference held on 20 February 2014 in Umeje/Umeå, for Sami commissioners from Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish parliaments and participation by Russian Sami representatives as well, has decided on the following joint pronouncement¹:

We confirm our commitment to support the earlier parliament conferences in Jåhkåmåhkke/Jokkmokk, Ruávinjargâ/Rovaniemi (2008) och Girkonjárga/Kirkenes (2011) as to the realisation of the adopted declarations,

We demand that the Finnish, Norwegian, Swedish and Russian states contribute to the realisation of the goals in the climate policy strategy that the Sami Parliamentary Council adopted in 2010,

We remind that Article 1 on self-determination in The Convention on Civil and Political Rights also applies to indigenous peoples and their right to decide on the use of natural resources,

We emphasise the connection of the Sami culture to nature and the importance of a clean environment for the future of the Sami culture,

We extend our deep concern for the indigenous peoples in Russia, foremost the Sami, where the situation in Russia has deteriorated, and appeal to the Russian state to improve the rights of indigenous peoples,

We emphasise that the Nordic Sami Convention is very important to the Sami as a people and *extend* our great concern for the continuing alarmingly slow progress of the convention negotiations,

We are happy to note the Swedish constitution recognizes the Sami as a people, and *remind* that the Norwegian and Finnish constitutions recognize the Sami as an indigenous people,

We demand that the Finnish, Swedish and Russian states ratify the ILO Convention 169 and that the Norwegian state implements it legally, also in terms of the Sami historical rights to the natural resources of the oceans,

We remind that the Swedish, Norwegian, Russian and Finnish states have ratified the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and based on the convention shall secure the diversity of nature and the culture of indigenous peoples, and *demand* that the states hasten the realisation of the convention together with the Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish Sami parliaments and the Sami organisations in Russia,

We demand that the Swedish, Norwegian, Russian and Finnish states undertake to realise the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and refer to UN special reporter James Anaya's report of 2013 to the UN general assembly , where the legal bearing of the implementation of the declaration is pointed out,

¹ 91 parliamentarians were present. The polling resulted in 66 *Yes* votes, 13 *No* votes and 3 were cast *Blank*. 9 abstained from voting. *Fremskrittpartiet*, from the Norwegian Sami Parliament, submits a written reservation. *Norkalottfolket* and *Fastboendes Lista*, parties also adherent the Norwegian Sami Parliament, submit a written reservation. The Finnish Sami Parliament submits a written reservation.

We remind that in 2010, the UN special reporter James Anaya submitted a report on the situation of the Sami in Norway, Sweden and Finland and *demand* that Russia, Norway, Sweden and Finland respect the recommendations of the report together with the Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish Sami parliaments and with the Russian indigenous peoples,

We remind of the recommendations by the UN indigenous people reporter concerning natural resources, extractive industries and indigenous peoples (A/HRC/24/41) and *demand* that the Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish and Russian states respect the recommendations and pursue them together with the Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish Sami parliaments and with the Russian indigenous peoples,

We confirm our commitment to support a sustainable development and *demand* that the Swedish, Norwegian, Russian and Finnish state carry out Rio +20 "The Future We Want", together with the Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish Sami parliaments and with the Russian Sami organisations.

We hereby declare the following;

Article 1

The Sami are an independent people, whose region Sápmi is divided between four states. Sápmi is the traditional region of the Sami and our common home, where since time immemorial the Sami have basic rights to land and water, including ocean and natural resources.

Article 2

The Sami right to self-determination grants the right to independently decide, with help from our political body, what development we want for our community and in what way we want to manage and use the natural resources in our areas, in accordance with international law and based on Sami rights.

Article 3

The Sami are an indigenous people who own the right to their traditional lands, water and natural resources. The Sami popularly-elected body, the Sami parliament, is to be able to influence decisions concerning Sami rights, culture, natural resources and use of lands. The States shall negotiate with the Sami parliaments and in a reliable manner achieve consensus at every level – local, regional, national and international. The Sami parliament shall participate in decisions on questions concerning legal, political, economic, cultural and social progress.

Article 4

We Sami shall own the right to work with our own traditional livelihoods in our own traditional areas of settlement in accordance with our cultural traditions and rights. The Sami parliaments and local Sami communities shall be consulted, in accordance with the principle of free, informed prior consent, on traditional Sami livelihoods in our traditional areas of settlement in accordance with our cultural traditions and rights.

Article 5

We Sami are affected by State's and companies' economic, political and military interests in the Arctic and its natural resources. Oil and gas exploitation, increased transportation on Arctic Ocean transport ways that open up, increase the risk for potential environmental damage. The northern regions are the home of indigenous peoples. The region's natural environment is vulnerable and all economic and political operations in the region affect the indigenous people's possibilities to exist.



Together with the negative consequences of climate change, an unsustainable exploitation of the Arctic will be devastating to the Sami culture and its future.

Article 6

The future of the Sami people, our survival, our economic possibilities, our livelihoods, traditions, historical rights and our traditional knowledge are all connected to our traditional areas and water. The natural resources shall continue to provide for our people and preserve our valuable cultural inheritance for future Sami generations.

Article 7

For planned establishment of mineral exploitation in traditional Sami land areas there shall be a free, informed prior consent from the Sami people and rights holders. The Sami people and rights holders shall in accordance with the rights of indigenous peoples receive a reasonable allotment of the turnover from these exploitations. For minerals exploitation and its associated activities, such as infrastructure, the Sami people shall be compensated.

States with Sami settlements shall demand from the industry, in particular the minerals industry, a prompt greater efficiency in the work with environmental monitoring and reducing environmental pollutants. Norwegian, Finnish, Swedish and Russian states shall strengthen their environmental legislation and penalties for environmental crime. Mining operations carried out in traditional Sami areas are liable to compensate for the damage afflicted in those traditional Sami areas in the form of a recurring compensation as well as active measures to improve the environment.

Article 8

Norway, Sweden and Russia shall renew mining and mineral legislation in accordance with public international law. It is absolutely necessary that Finland's mining act does not deteriorate with the consequence of weakening the present Sami culture.

Article 9

The Swedish, Finnish and Norwegian states shall consult their respective Sami parliaments and Russia their Sami organisations when exploitation of natural resources is planned on traditional Sami lands. The value of the Sami culture shall be evaluated and damage that affects the Sami culture be avoided, for example in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity, Akwé:Kon guidelines.

Article 10

We Sami parliament members see that the Sami can still experience being made invisible and structural discrimination by state agencies. The Sami culture, traditional Sami livelihoods and the Sami language have to give way to the majority culture's economic and political needs. The Sami can also be confronted with hate crimes in their everyday lives and increasingly in the social media.

The oppression of Sami and lack of understanding means to justify the destruction of the natural resources on Sami lands to benefit the majority culture. The Sami will have to fight for their rights and against ignorance, prejudice and racism. For the sake of our culture's survival, we Sami must be ensured the right to exist in a tolerant environment where our own traditions and cultural expressions are respected.

Article 11

We also support the UN Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination's (CERD) requests, for example about the mining plans in Rönnebäcken; that Sweden stops all present work until CERD has addressed the question.