

Kautokeino Declaration

On the Occasion of the 4th World Reindeer Herders' Congress

Kautokeino, Norway, March 30th - April 3rd 2009



IV WORLD REINDEER
HERDERS' CONGRESS

IV КОНГРЕСС
ОЛЕНЕВОДОВ МИРА

Kautokeino - Каутокейно 2009

The 4th World Reindeer Herders Congress in Kautokeino

Recognize with satisfaction that the international cooperation of world reindeer herders has grown and developed in a very positive way as a true people to people collaboration since the establishment of Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH) in Nadym in 1997, and the World Reindeer Herders' Congresses in Inari in 2001 and Yakutsk in 2005.

Recognize with satisfaction the positive role of the Inari and Yakutsk Declarations for the development of reindeer husbandry as a livelihood for the over 20 indigenous peoples that are involved in it.

Note the importance of bringing the regions of reindeer husbandry even more actively into the future cooperation.

Acknowledge the financial support and fruitful cooperation with the Governments of Norway, Russia and Finland and from the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and Yamalo-Nenets AO.

Acknowledge the Norwegian Government's offer to the 4th Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council in Reykjavik in 2004 to establish and financially support a permanent International Information Centre for Reindeer Husbandry in Kautokeino, Norway.

Acknowledge the establishment of an Information Centre for Taiga Reindeer Husbandry in Khatystyr, Sakha, financially supported by the Government of Sakha (Yakutia) Republic, the Aldan Region (Ulus) and Khatystyr Municipality, in cooperation with International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, Kautokeino.

Acknowledge the positive effects of the Arctic Council in support of sustainable circumpolar reindeer husbandry, and **support** the conclusions from the Salekhard Declaration, as adopted by the 5th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting, 26 October 2006.

Support the conclusions from the Fairbanks Declaration, as adopted by the 8th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, Fairbanks, the United States of America, 12-14 August 2008.

Acknowledge the positive support and important role of University of the Arctic (UArctic) in addressing the knowledge challenges of world reindeer herders.

Acknowledge that world reindeer herders with their unique knowledge have made significant contributions to the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007/2008.

Acknowledge the progress of the EALÁT programme, Climate change and reindeer husbandry, initiated by Association of World Reindeer Herders, in the framework of IPY and the Arctic Council, and further **acknowledge** the Government of Norway for hosting and financially supporting the EALÁT project in the Arctic Council.

Appeal again to the Governments of the Arctic countries to adopt Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH) as a Permanent Participant of the Arctic Council, following the Yakutsk Declaration of 2005.

Hereby:

LOSS OF GRAZING LAND

Note with concern that the situation concerning loss of grazing land has become worse since the 3rd World Reindeer Herders' Congress in Yakutsk, 2005.

Confirm the special rights of indigenous reindeer herding peoples to their traditional living areas, and that these rights also include the rights to land use, management, protection and natural resources.

Demand that the international conventions concerning the land rights and the self-determining rights of the reindeer herding indigenous peoples be ratified and that the international declarations concerning these matters be followed, including the ILO convention nr 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Appeal to the Government and the Parliament of the Russian Federation to adopt the Federal Law on Reindeer Husbandry, which will allow to solve many difficult social-economic problems in connection with the nomadic way of life of reindeer herders and their families.

Appeal to the Russian Federal Government to make reindeer pastures free of charge and the primary property of reindeer husbandry in all its forms, both private and municipal, when deciding on the allocation of land from 2010, and to change the Federal laws in order to establish an unconditional termless usage of traditional lands by reindeer husbandry.

Support the Rovaniemi Declaration, as adopted by the 19th Saami Conference, Rovaniemi, Finland, 27th – 31st October 2008, and recognize the need to strengthen the rights of Sámi reindeer herders in Finland.

Support the indigenous people of Evenkia, living the traditional way of life, in their protests against the building of a large hydroelectric power station in northern Evenkia,

as the areas that are supposed to be flooded include reindeer pastures, burial sites and sacred places.

Support the recommendations of the Arctic Council EALÁT-Information project, as reported to the Sustainable Development Working Group the 24th of October 2008.

Support the establishment of an international committee to investigate reindeer herders' loss of grazing land, and develop a tool to involve UN in this work to support sustainable reindeer husbandry.

Support the recommendations of the report '*Reindeer Husbandry and Barents 2030*' published in 2009 by International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, written in cooperation with UNEP and Norut, as discussed at the Reindeer Herders' Professional Day 2009.

Welcome the '*Ilechts*' Declaration on coexistence of oil & gas activities and indigenous communities on Nenets and other territories in the Russian North.

WOMENS' STATUS

Acknowledge the progress of the BIRGEN project by the Network of Women within Reindeer Herding in Norway, and further **support** development of Network of Women within Reindeer Herding in all states and regions with reindeer herding.

Recognize the key role of women within reindeer herding to preserve, transfer and develop reindeer herders' traditional knowledge, and **recognize** that women have a very important role in the training and recruitment of young reindeer herders and to the positive development and maintenance of family-based reindeer husbandry.

Recognize the need for women to be able to take part of practical reindeer herding work, drawing special attention to the strengthening of the formal ownership status, equal participation and legal rights of women.

Recognize the importance of traditional languages used within reindeer herding in transfer of knowledge, that all generations should have possibilities to learn, use and maintain these languages, and also the important role of women in this respect.

Recognize the importance that women in reindeer herding have a possibility to obtain and use materials from nature to be able to produce necessary products.

FAMILY-BASED / LOCAL ECONOMY

Acknowledge that independent nomadic reindeer herding families are the basis for further sustainable development of the economy and the survival of the reindeer herding peoples of the world, regardless of the form of ownership of reindeer, and **recognize** the need for international, national and regional support in this area.

Acknowledge that there is a need to secure that all types of reindeer herding is in reality treated equally, including support of reindeer husbandry, following the Inari Declaration on the occasion of the 2nd World Reindeer Herders Congress in 2001.

Agree with the Khatystyr Declaration on the occasion of the EALÁT community-based workshop in Khatystyr 23-24 February 2009, that private reindeer herding is a key foundation for development and maintenance of sustainable reindeer husbandry.

Support improvement of the economic basis of the reindeer herders by securing their access and ownership to the most profitable activities in the value chain, development of programmes to stimulate economic development in reindeer husbandry that is beneficial to the reindeer herders themselves, focusing on reindeer herders knowledge of food culture, fair trade systems for reindeer husbandry, reindeer herders' design and traditional technology, as well as new technology for slaughtering, processing, distribution and marketing of reindeer meat and other reindeer products.

Support that WRH can act as an international trade union for reindeer herders.

Support the establishment of programs for financing reindeer husbandry, including loans of livestock animals and micro credit arrangements for private reindeer husbandry development.

Support that reindeer herders have an equal right to get the highest attainable standard of both physical and mental health services and health insurance, and **note** that national states with reindeer herding have a responsibility to provide such services.

Recognize the need for deep understanding of how negative impacts on reindeer herding affect the health of reindeer herders and their families, and **ask** initiatives from states to help the affected with the problems.

Support the establishment of a reindeer-watch programme in the framework of the Arctic Council, to secure equal rights and treatment of reindeer herders, independent of national states.

Recognize the serious problems connected to predator populations and management.

Recognize the serious problems connected to poaching of domestic reindeer especially on the Kola peninsula.

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS AND COMPETENCE BUILDING

Acknowledge that the system of education of reindeer herders cannot exist outside of a nomadic way of life.

Acknowledge the importance of developing educational institutions and adaptive models of education that are suited to the specific needs of reindeer herders and their families in particular, such as Nomadic Schools and distance learning systems.

Recognize that the nomadic way of life for some groups of reindeer herders is the necessary condition for their existence and social-economic development, and that the

nomadic schools for reindeer herders remain practically the only relevant form of education for the children of nomadic reindeer herders.

Support that nomadic schools should be established using modern technological means of distant learning, recruiting and preparation of competent teachers, and also combining traditional knowledge and modern science.

Acknowledge the contributions made from the Government of Sakha (Yakutia) Republic in developing and operating Nomadic Schools for children and youth of reindeer husbandry, including also the international collaboration between Sakha and Norway in this respect in the framework of UNESCO.

Acknowledge that network-building and cooperation across institutions and national borders in the frameworks of UNESCO and UArctic Thematic Network are important for the future of reindeer husbandry.

Acknowledge the contributions of the European Union, the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Arctic national states in support of developing reindeer herding education and student exchange between the educational institutes of the Arctic region, including the international collaboration between Finland, Norway, Sweden and Russia.

Support the cooperation between the Arctic reindeer herding and northern cultures' educational institutes and organizations started in Inari June 30th 2007, having established an organization '*Boazoealáhusa Boahteáiggi Ovddideapmi - Reindeer Herding's Future Development*' for the development of education in reindeer herding.

Recognize the strategic choice of the 4th International Polar Year (IPY) to also include the human and indigenous dimensions in knowledge development,

Recognize the significance of the 4th IPY for addressing the knowledge challenges of world reindeer herders on the issues of climate change, loss of pastures and resilience, with a focus on recruitment and education of reindeer herding youth, and as a unique opportunity to raise awareness on reindeer herding challenges for mainstream society.

Emphasize the need for continuing knowledge development, recruitment, networks and activities in a legacy after IPY.

Recommend that world reindeer herders should participate and be actively involved in all activities of IPY legacy where reindeer herders, their livelihoods and their pastures are affected, and **urge** national states to secure funding of such efforts.

Support that reindeer herders should have the rights to develop their own research and teaching institutions as an adaptive measure to climate change.

Support the establishment of UArctic EALÁT Institute - University of the Arctic Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry - as a legacy of IPY EALÁT where all partners in EALÁT-Network Study are invited to participate on equal terms, and **emphasize** that Association of World Reindeer Herders should have the leading role in this initiative, to secure user participation.

Support the establishment of a Sámi University based on the decision made by the Council of Sámi Parliaments, in reference to their decided workplan for 2008-2010.

Support the recommendation from the EALÁT workshop in Topolinoe to establish a training centre for reindeer husbandry, teachers and Even culture in Topolinoe, Sakha (Yakutia) Republic, and **recognize** the efforts of Sakha (Yakutia) Republic in this respect.

Support the recommendation from the EALÁT workshop in Yar-Sale to establish a research institute in Salekhard, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug with a focus on traditional knowledge, reindeer herding and other indigenous livelihoods.

Support the recommendation from the EALÁT workshop in Anadyr to establish a monitoring centre for reindeer husbandry in Anadyr, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug.

Support building a new generation of transdisciplinary reindeer herding thinkers, focusing on social-ecological resilience, sustainable development and economy in reindeer herders' societies, and development of courses for reindeer herders in international relations and impact assessments.

Encourage to further the project Ceavvi with young reindeer herders interviewing old reindeer herders to include the whole circumpolar north in cooperation with Association of World Reindeer Herders.

Support the initiative from Sweden to establish a network based on young reindeer herders entitled '*The Ambassadors of Reindeer Husbandry - a Trainee Programme*' in cooperation with Association of World Reindeer Herders.

Acknowledge the major conclusion from the Arctic Council workshop '*Future Challenges for Reindeer Herding Societies*' hosted by Sweden in Umeå March 2007, that there is a need for meetings where researchers and reindeer herders can meet for dialogue and sharing views on issues of concern, and **support** that Association of World Reindeer Herders is the natural host such meetings.

Acknowledge the needs for developing ethical guidelines for how scientific researchers should relate to reindeer herding communities and how to use and handle traditional indigenous knowledge, and **recognize** the efforts of International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry in Kautokeino in this respect.

Support further research on issues of wild-domestic reindeer interaction.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Share the concerns of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR) that climate change is a matter of urgency, that it already has a strong impact on the living conditions of Arctic indigenous peoples, that there might be an explosion of human activity in the Arctic as a result of climate change, and that there is a need to find ways to regulate this activity and be ahead of the development, as expressed by Chair Mrs. Hill-Marta Solberg in her speech at the 5th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Salekhard, Russia, 26 October 2006.

Support knowledge sharing on impacts and adaptation measures connected to climate change and loss of grazing land, while also recognizing the value of traditional knowledge as a foundation for adaptation.

Support development of welfare indicators related to climate change based on traditional knowledge.

Support definition of institutional mechanisms which constrain reindeer herders' original resilience and ability to adapt to climate change.

Support that world reindeer herders should be active partners in Arctic Council's programme SAON on monitoring of changes in the Arctic, as well as other Arctic Council initiatives and projects of relevance to world reindeer herders.

Support development of a mechanism for bringing the reindeer herders' voice to UN related to sustainable reindeer herding, climate change and loss of grazing land, and further **support** engagement of world reindeer herders towards COP 15 in Copenhagen in 2009.

Encourage International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry to further develop its cooperation with NASA - Land Use Change program and ESA - Polarview, recognizing the potential of remote sensing, mapping and GIS systems for maintaining and developing reindeer husbandry in face of climate change and loss of pastures.

FOREST/ TAIGA REINDEER HUSBANDRY

Recognize that it is still necessary and important to pay attention to the forest and taiga reindeer husbandry in Russia and Asia.

Urge the international society to direct special attention to and take responsibility for the future survival and current problems for forest and taiga reindeer herding.

Acknowledge the need for initiatives to assess and strengthen taiga reindeer husbandry, with a primary focus on the regions of Sakhalin, Irkutsk, Mongolia, and China, as well as the regions of Tuva, Buryatia, Chita, Amurskaya, Khabarovsk and Sakha.

Recommend that there is established an information centre for reindeer husbandry in Mongolia, linked to the Information Centre for Taiga Reindeer Husbandry in Khatystyr and the international network of reindeer herders' information centers coordinated by International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry in Kautokeino.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Support that the further development and operation of the Reindeer Portal - www.reindeerportal.org - as an information, communication and teaching tool for world reindeer herders is secured, as an IPY legacy.

Support development of training courses for reindeer herding youth in new technology related to web production, GIS, remote sensing and communication technology.

Support development of a database for information about world reindeer husbandry at International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry in Kautokeino, including pictures, data, films and interviews gathered during the International Polar Year.

Support the initiative from International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry in Kautokeino and the Secretariat of WRH to establish a circumpolar network of reindeer herders' information centers.

Request the Governments of Arctic states and regions to support and finance establishment of local reindeer herders' information and monitoring centers, also to participate in the circumpolar network of reindeer herders' information centers as initiated by International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry in Kautokeino.

Acknowledge the contributions made from International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry in Kautokeino to establish and operate an information office for the Sámi Reindeer Herders' Association of Finland, and **appeal** to the Finnish Government to secure a permanent funding mechanism for this initiative.

Encourage the development of telemedicine solutions for nomadic reindeer herders.

Support the initiative of the Russian Federation in the Arctic Council in establishing the International Digital Northern Library project '*Digital Memory of the Arctic*'.