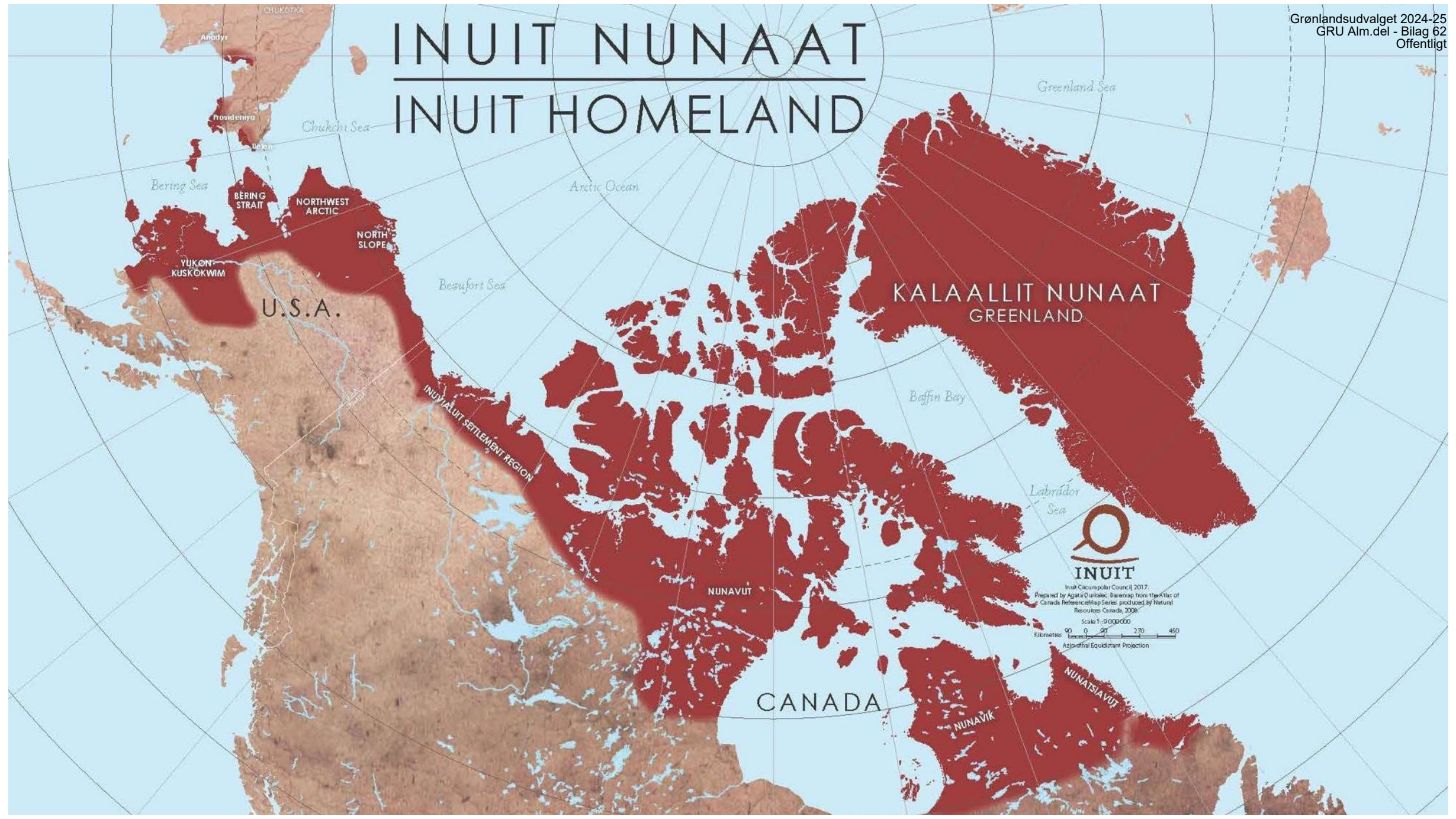



# INUIT NUNAAAT INUIT HOMELAND



  
**INUIT**  
Inuit Circumpolar Council (I), 2017.  
Prepared by Agata Durlak; Base map from the Atlas of  
Canada Reference Map Series, produced by Natural  
Resources Canada, 2006.  
Scale 1:5000000  
Kilometres 0 100 200 400  
Azimuthal Equidistant Projection



# Arctic Indigenous Peoples



Arctic Indigenous languages map, Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat, Arctic Council Secretariat

# Inuit Circumpolar Council








- ICC is an Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPO)
- ICC has four member branches: ICC Chukotka, ICC Alaska, ICC Canada, ICC Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland)
- ICC was co-founder of the Arctic Council and is one of six Permanent Participants
- ICC holds ECOSOC Category II to the UN (NGO, accredited since 1983)
  - In the UN, ICC cooperates with the Saami Council in 'the Arctic Caucus', and with other Indigenous Peoples' and Organizations in the Global Indigenous Caucuses
  - ICC actively participated in the Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' – 25 years of work for the recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples
  - UNDRIP was adopted at the UN's general assembly in 2007
  - ICC holds observer status in IPCC
  - ICC holds a provisional consultative status in IMO



Photos: UN and Arctic Council

# Inuit Circumpolar Council 2022 ILULISSAT General Assembly Declaration

## Main priorities 2022 – 2026

-  Good Governance
-  Security and Inuit Nunaat
-  Health and Wellness
-  Language and Culture
-  Hunting and Food Security
-  Arctic Ocean and the Marine Environment
-  Infrastructure Deficit



### INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL 2022 ILULISSAT DECLARATION

As declared by the Inuit of Greenland, Canada, Alaska, and Chukotka,  
on the occasion of the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 EQQISSEQATIGINNERLU*

*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,





ARCTIC COUNCIL

# Arctic Council 13th meeting 2023

## Joint Statement

### ARCTIC COUNCIL STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

SALEKHARD,  
RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION  
11 MAY 2023



In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Arctic Council, and in recognition of the objectives and commitments expressed in the Declaration on the Establishment of the Arctic Council and subsequent Ministerial Declarations, the Arctic States joined by the Permanent Participants met and issued the following statement:

11 MAY 2023 | SALEKHARD, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

1. **Recognizing** the historic and unique role of the Arctic Council for constructive cooperation, stability and dialogue between people in the Arctic region;
2. **Acknowledging** the commitment to work to safeguard and strengthen the Arctic Council;
3. **Recognizing** the rights of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and the unique role of the Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council, their special relation to the Arctic and the importance of crossborder and people-to-people cooperation in the region;
4. **Recognizing** the valuable work accomplished by the Arctic Council since the last Ministerial meeting, with special emphasis on progress achieved in defining the ways to implement the Strategic Plan (2021-2030);
5. **Recognizing** that the work plans outlined in the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials' Report to Ministers adopted in Reykjavik in May 2021 along with the Reykjavik Ministerial Declaration and Arctic Council Strategic Plan (2021 – 2030), will form the basis for continuing Council activities for 2023-2025;
6. **Extending** the 2022-2023 work plan of the Arctic Council Secretariat, including the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat work plan, for the 2024-2025 period. **Approving** the Arctic Council Secretariat's and the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat's budgets for the 2024-2025 period;
7. **Acknowledging** the conclusion of the Russian Federation's second Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, and **accepting** Norway's offer to chair the Council in 2023-2025, and its offer to host the fourteenth meeting in 2025.

13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL | STATEMENT

## PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL



AIA  
Aleut  
International  
Association



AAC  
Arctic Athabaskan  
Council



GCI  
Gwich'in Council  
International



ICC  
Inuit Circumpolar  
Council



RAIPON  
Russian  
Association of  
Indigenous  
Peoples of the  
North



Saami Council

# Arctic Council Working Groups





# ICC a co-founder of the Arctic Council

Currently the only in-person meetings in the Arctic Council: Senior Arctic Officials Chair and Permanent Participants



Girkonjarga/Kirkenes, October 2023



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STRATEGIC PLANNING WITH INDIGENOUS  
PERMANENT PARTICIPANT ORGANIZATIONS  
DURING NORWEGIAN CHAIRSHIP MEETING

29 MAY 2024  
The Kingdom of Denmark  
Norway  
Permanent Participants

Bådåddjo/Bodø, May 2024



Romsa/Tromsø, January 2024



Romsa/Tromsø, January 2025

# ICC's Arctic Council Position Paper

*Safeguarding and Strengthening the Arctic Council*



## ICC's Executive Council's mandates from the 2022 General Assembly:

*“**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,”*

*“**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.”*

Link to position paper: <https://www.inuitcircumpolar.com/position-papers/inuit-circumpolar-council-position-paper-safeguarding-and-strengthening-the-arctic-council/>

# ICC's Arctic Council Position Paper

*Safeguarding and Strengthening the Arctic Council*



The position paper consists of recommendations and an annex listing suggested activities for the current and incoming Chairships

Recommendations:

1. Arctic Council governance must be strengthened through member states' consistent support and accountability to Indigenous Peoples' Organizations that serve as Permanent Participants.
2. Continuously strengthen youth engagement in the Arctic Council.
3. Create a safe and welcoming environment for Arctic Indigenous Peoples and fully recognize Indigenous Knowledge in all Arctic Council Working Groups and Expert Groups.
4. Replace tokenism with full and effective participation and meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples throughout the Arctic Council.
5. Build a common understanding of why it is important that Indigenous Peoples are part of the Arctic Council.
6. Create space, capacity and secure funding for Inuit-led research initiatives.



# ICC's Arctic Council Position Paper

## *Safeguarding and Strengthening the Arctic Council*



The position paper consists of recommendations and an annex listing suggested activities for the current and incoming Chairships

Annex

### **a. Norway**

- Continue productive and meaningful SAO Chair and Permanent Participants Meetings to enhance communication, coordination and collaboration.
- Develop modalities that fully accommodate the engagement of Permanent Participants in the work of the Arctic Council during the current situation and;
- Ensure a strong and deliberate effort to include Arctic Indigenous youth in the Norwegian Chairship's youth initiatives, including the youth summit.

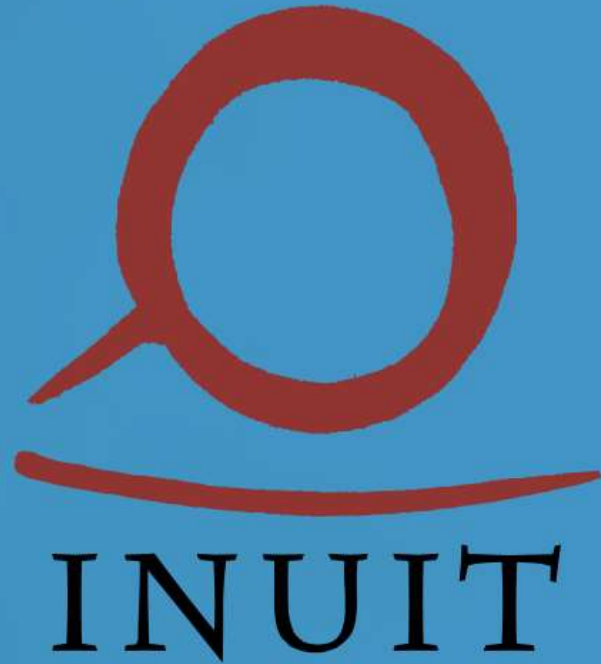
### **b. Kingdom of Denmark**

- Continue productive and meaningful SAO Chair and Permanent Participants Meetings to enhance communication, coordination and collaboration.
- Develop modalities that fully accommodate the engagement of Permanent Participants in the work of the Arctic Council during the current situation and;
- Continue strong and effective engagement of Arctic Indigenous youth throughout the work of the Arctic Council;
- Support an Inuit Youth Summit;
- Implement Permanent Participant Co-chairs on SAO level and co-leads in working groups, project and initiatives, including a future assessment of the possibility of Permanent Participants gaining voting rights at the Arctic Council;
- Take steps to change the funding mechanisms and processes in initiating Arctic Council Working Group projects and initiatives;
- [Host the UNFCCC Facilitative Working Group Arctic Regional Gathering in Kalaallit Nunaat in early 2026 and engaging the Arctic Council in this gathering in line with the 2023 Arctic Regional Gathering;](#)
- Support an Inuit Women's Summit;
- Collectively convening an Arctic Council-wide knowledge sharing workshop based on the approach to knowledge mobilization ICC is developing for the EPPR;
- [Support the High-Level Dialogue Forum on Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Health](#), which is being led by Saami Council, with other project partners including ICC; and
- Address truth and reconciliation as themes throughout the Arctic and Inuit Nunaat and ensure concerted efforts to focus on related decolonization processes.

UNFCCC Facilitative Working Group Arctic Regional Gathering  
September 2023  
Joint UN and Arctic Council meeting



Photo: Arctic Council, Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat



**Inuit Circumpolar Council**

[iccalaska.org](http://iccalaska.org) | [inuitcircumpolar.com](http://inuitcircumpolar.com) | [inuit.org](http://inuit.org) | [iccchukotka.ru](http://iccchukotka.ru)