

Anár declaration

On the occasion of the Second World
Reindeer Herders' Congress

Reindeer herders representing Reindeer Herding Peoples in Asia, Europe and North America, gathered in Anár, Finland, for the Second World Reindeer Herders' Congress, June 18th – 22nd 2001

Noting the commitments of the members of the Association of World Reindeer Herders to protect and develop indigenous peoples' communities by enabling the indigenous peoples and local communities themselves to safeguard their identities, cultures, traditional economical activities, societies and defend their interests;

Recognising the rights of peoples to natural resources pertaining to their lands, which they traditionally occupy, including the right of these peoples to participate in the use, management and conservation of these resources;

Acknowledging that international co-operation is fundamental in resolving important circumpolar issues regarding the development of reindeer husbandry and reindeer peoples cultures, and securing the resources and the environment of territories where reindeer peoples live;

Noting with pleasure that the Arctic Council, established in 1996 among the eight Arctic States, has taken as an important goal to enhance the sustainable development of the Arctic and further note with appreciation the ministerial declaration in 1993 in Barents Co-operation, the so-called *Kirkenes Declaration* which focuses also on the development of indigenous societies; Sámi, Nenets and Vepsian peoples;

Noting with satisfaction that reindeer herding peoples are acknowledged as full partners in the process of promoting sustainable development in the Arctic by granting the Association of World Reindeer Herders status as an observer in the Arctic Council, and;

Welcoming the support from the governments of Finland, Norway, Russia and Sami Reindeer Herders Association of Norway to WRH's activities;

Hereby:

1. Support the conclusions in the Barrow Declaration adopted by the Second Ministerial Meeting in Barrow, October 13th 2000; to further support fully the Action Plan for Indigenous Peoples within the Barents region, which is partly adopted by the ministers of the co-operating countries;

Welcome the projects on sustainable reindeer herding, sustainable development in Northern timberline forests and survey on living conditions in the Arctic and to request the governments to fully finance these projects and publish results in English and Russian;

Recognise the need for more research, in its broad sense, in partnership with the people concerned towards the challenges facing reindeer herding and due attention must be given to research on the socio-economic situation of reindeer herding peoples. The situation regarding women and children, traditional knowledge and language should also be adequately addressed;

Request that the members of the Arctic Council give priority to prevent and remediate radioactive pollution, and further request the co-operating countries fully to adopt the Action Plan for Indigenous Peoples within the Barents region;

Encourage the member states of the Arctic Council to secure the financing of the next AMAP reports on the state of the environment and assist the working groups in collecting information from all Arctic sub-region, and further encourage the co-operating countries to secure the rights and strengthen the co-operation of indigenous peoples within the Barents region;

Recommend that the Arctic Council finance the project "*Complex resource evaluation of the territories of traditional resource management*", based on resource mapping and GIS-technologies;

2. Welcome the European Union initiative during the Finnish chairmanship of the EU to develop a policy for the Arctic and Sub-Arctic region, presented as the Northern Dimension Policy;

Take note that the question of sustainable development and indigenous peoples is addressed in this policy and in the Feira Action plan;

Acknowledge with appreciation the Presidency conclusions in the Göteborg European Council meeting June 15th- 16th, 2001 concerning the

policy guidance and follow-up of the Northern Dimension Policy and the Danish initiative to organise a high-level meeting to map out future actions from 2003 during the upcoming Danish Presidency;

- 3. Call on** the states in which reindeer herding peoples and other local people live to accede to, ratify and implement relevant existing agreements and conventions designed to protect and restore environment, language, culture, gender and land and grazing rights; i.e. the ILO Convention no 169 Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries;
- Request* governmental and regional authorities of the countries in which reindeer herding is an important source of livelihood to indigenous and other local people, to pay due attention to urgent needs of both the families as well as the reindeer herders themselves, as their social security, medical services and working conditions and to pay due attention to the urgent needs to safeguard the basic interests of this traditional industry, including improved meat processing and market access and; further request governmental and regional authorities to finance and ensure that the action plan developed by indigenous peoples themselves within the Barents Co-operation be the basic instrument in developing indigenous societies
- Encourage* the Government of Russia in full partnership with reindeer herding peoples and local communities to adopt or strengthen appropriate policies and/or legal instruments at the national level concerning reindeer herding, land settlement regimes and resource management;
- Acknowledge* the aspiration of the Russian government to solve the question on the legal guaranteeing of reserving of lands for indigenous peoples in close co-operation with these peoples;
- Welcome* the efforts in Norway and Sweden to modernise and adapt their reindeer husbandry policies and legislation aiming at capturing the sustainable development principles outlined in Agenda 21 and other relevant international standards;
- Draw attention* to need of co-operation with the reindeer herders in Mongolia aiming to further development of sustainable reindeer herding;
- Note with concern* that wildlife management regimes or lack of such in a number of rein-

deer herding territories undermine sustainable reindeer herding and;

Emphasise that reindeer herding peoples and local people have a key role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practise;

Draw attention of the governments of the circumpolar states to the threat of traditional resource management of reindeer peoples and other indigenous peoples due to intensive development of hydro-carbon and other mineral resources, especially within the shelf of northern seas;

- 4. Reaffirm** that the knowledge and values acquired and preserved by women in reindeer herding societies must be acknowledged by the national governmental authorities as well as by the reindeer herding peoples themselves and their organisational bodies. Both men and women in reindeer herding societies must make efforts to preserve sustainability in their livelihood, and;

Declare to work firmly to expand legal rights for women and to increase and insure women's equal participation in the decision making processes, building on commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing;

- 5. Call** on the Arctic Nations to see that reindeer herding peoples are given possibilities to develop and influence their own pursuits, as stated in the Rio declaration Principle 22, so that reindeer peoples, through their organisations, receive sufficient support to influence the process concerning reindeer herding at the national and international levels.

Recognise the importance of the preservation and development of both traditional and contemporary reindeer herding as a prerequisite for the survival of many indigenous peoples and local communities in the Arctic, Sub-Arctic and the Far East; and

Declare strong support for the effort to maintain and develop an environmentally, culturally and economically sustainable reindeer herding;

Note the need:

to ensure reindeer management to be carried out by reindeer peoples themselves through their representatives;

to recognise the reindeer herders' right to control access to and participate in herding,

including reindeer ownership, to acknowledge reindeer peoples' values and traditional knowledge as the basis for the administration of sustainable reindeer management to ensure the transmission of traditional knowledge in all levels of educational programs, with the aim of increasing the value and appreciation of this livelihood.

Young reindeer herders' congress (YRHC) statement

In Anár, June 22nd, 2001

Young reindeer herders gathered in Anar for the first Young Reindeers Herders Congress.

Each year the authorities that rule our countries take one more piece of the land that is ours. This is undermining our culture and livelihoods because the land is one of the main bases of our culture. The authorities continue their activities such as logging and mining in the land of the indigenous people, restricting our traditional use of land. The problems we have with the land rights are causing young people to see no future in their traditional livelihood, reindeer herding.

The situation today is that we, young reindeer herders, have no chance of protecting our land against infringement. As young reindeer herders it is very hard to believe in the future. We feel that the authorities have no faith in our traditional way of living. Reindeer herding must be viewed as an asset and not as a liability. Then, and only then, can reindeer herding continue in its own rights free from the threats of exploitation by the government and from large multinational companies.

We strongly recommend the authorities which control and regulate reindeer herding areas take notice of our demands cited below:

1. Ratification of ilo 169

We demand that the rights to land and water be strengthened so that young indigenous people can continue their traditional culture and way of life. The first step is the ratification of the ILO Convention No. 169 Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in the Independent Countries. However, this is not enough. Full and thorough implementation has to follow immediate ratification.

2. Predators

The governmental policy on predators today is unacceptable. The situation today has become unbearable due to the large concentration of predators in certain areas essential for reindeer herding. This situation means that young reindeer

herders cannot carry out their traditional way of life. The policy must change to accommodate the needs and demands of reindeer husbandry. Reindeer herders have to be able to protect their herds from predator attacks. Losses due to the predator attacks should be compensated in accordance with their actual value. This value should be decided by the reindeer herders themselves.

3. Education

Young reindeer herders need a system that makes it possible to combine reindeer herding with education. However, the opportunities young reindeer herders have for study are limited if they want to work with reindeer. Therefore, the solution must be that education for young reindeer herders is kept at a local level. Sufficient economical support is essential for this. We demand that the Nordic countries provide sufficient economical support so that young indigenous people can combine study and reindeer herding.

4. Independent categorisation

The designing and publishing of new maps with indications of all biological species is essential in protecting the interests of reindeer herding. This would include an important and independent categorisation of territories of reindeer pasture land.

The young reindeer herders of today and tomorrow must be able to live and grow in a thriving and secure reindeer herding community without fear of losing their right to continue the livelihood of their ancestors.

Sámi NissonForum's statement

to the World Reindeer Herders' Congress in Inari, June 20th, 2001

Sami NissonForum would like to thank the Association of World Reindeer Herders for its efforts in developing reindeer herding, which is the livelihood most central in maintaining Sami culture. Sami Nisson Forum is an organization for Sami women in Norway, Finland, Sweden and Russia. The organization held its annual meeting and two seminars during the congress in Inari. The themes of the seminars were closely related to reindeer herding, and Sami NissonForum offers their statement to the congress.

The women in reindeer herding families of many societies are in a position that makes it hard or impossible for them to take part in the work of reindeer herding in a traditional way. The demands of modern society often force women to earn money in occupations other than reindeer herding in order for their families to survive economically. Women are thus separated from the daily life of men and this is a threat to the entire reindeer herding society and culture.

Women working as equals in reindeer herding and raising their children within the cultures are holders of an essential knowledge. At the same time, women educated in other professions are also necessary in reindeer herding. The world needs societies that while managing in the modern world economically and technically, take care of and develop the traditional way of living.

Authorities in countries where there are reindeer herding peoples have the responsibility to assist development of reindeer herding societies in such a way that women have the opportunity both to work in reindeer herding itself, as well as to gain outside education and professions.