



STATEMENT

on the occasion of the Round-table

“Reindeer Husbandry –basis for Indigenous Peoples Livelihoods in the Arctic” – Arctic Skills Initiative

We, the participants of the Round-table “Reindeer Husbandry – basis for Indigenous Peoples Livelihoods in the Arctic” – Arctic Skills Initiative in Iengra, Neryungrinsky district, Republic of Sakha Yakutia, Russia held on April 4th 2018 have discussed issues, related to development of educational opportunities for indigenous peoples in the North, preservation and strengthening their culture, languages and traditional way of life.

Given the importance of the changes in the Arctic region to environmental, social and economic well-being, both locally and globally, we accept the responsibility to act together on behalf of present and future generations. Reindeer husbandry is a circumpolar civilisation with more that 24 indigenous peoples and have developed their unique economy based on reindeer, and reindeer product, but face challenges due to loss of pastures, changes in biodiversity, loss of traditional knowledge and to lack of young professionals active in herding.

Therefore we recommend to:

- Support the Arctic Skills initiative to include the traditional skills of reindeer herders in the Arctic based on the traditional knowledge and values of reindeer husbandry to education systems and training programs.
- Recognize that indigenous reindeer herders in the circumpolar North need to improve their sustainability in local communities through product-based entrepreneurship and family-based economy using their traditional knowledge and skills.
- Support development of a new system of education to preserve and use the reindeer herders’ traditional knowledge and enhance their skills.

- Support the idea to develop standards of traditional knowledge, skills, textbooks, joint courses, competitions and teacher/students exchange programs.
- Support the creation of an Arctic Skills network for reindeer herders to be developed in close cooperation with the University of the Arctic Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry to include the focal schools and colleges of the circumpolar north to work in collaboration with World Skills capacity building.