



Declaration from the Seventh Conference of the Sami Parliamentarians in Árviesjávrrie, 31 May 2023.

Parliamentarians from the Sámi parliaments in Sápmi, state the following:

We the Sámi are the indigenous people of Sápmi. Since time immemorial, our people have lived on and managed its land, waters, and seas with utmost care and respect. We are a part of the Sápmi landscape. Our lives – our culture, cultural practices and livelihoods – are adapted for the flexible balance between what nature can provide and what we can use without exhausting nature. Our way of living requires a diversity of in-depth knowledge, openmindedness and that both individuals and the community take independent responsibility.

We the Sámi parliamentarians in Sápmi representing more than 30 000 voluntarily registered Sámi individuals in Finland, Norway and Sweden.

We emphasize that in Sápmi it is we who are the people, where our indigenous culture and rights as a distinct people were established.

Guided by the previous statements of the 6 conferences of Parliamentarians conferences and acting in good faith and mutual respect to the European parliamentarism, creating a progressive development where activities such as crossing the national states borders will be encouraged.

Affirming that the Sámi people are equal to all other peoples, and that we should be granted the rights to acting and defining ourselves. Our cultural differences should be respected as such.

Reaffirming that racism permeates western society and underlies the structural and institutional discrimination in Europe and the Nordic countries.

1) The European Green Deal as it is presented by the European Commission as: **will transform the Union into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy** and also **Turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities will make the transition just and inclusive for all**". Profit-making in the arctic requires a trustworthy transition both with downshifting and increased recirculation.

As the Indigenous people in Europe, we deny all attempts of exploitation on our lands, waters and seas without our consent and safeguarding our culture, livelihoods and lifestyle.

We call for an immediate implementation of the international Human Rights instruments such as ILO 169, UNDRIP, ICCPR and ICESCR. That to benefit the indigenous cultures so rights to land and waters will be protected in accordance with international law.

2) All actors including state companies, with activities affecting nature and environment in the traditional areas of the Sámi people, should in their applications for permits have a policy in how to safeguard, respect and recognise human rights and indigenous peoples.



We call for Human Rights standards and policies to be established for all the actors in the Arctic.

3) The Supreme Court verdicts in the various Nordic States gave the Sámi community right in relation to the national state legislation.

We do remind that fulfilling with verdicts treaties, or other constructive arrangements, and the relationship based upon consultation and cooperation, are the basis for a trustworthy and lasting partnership between the Nordic States and the Sámi parliaments.

4) The Sámi people's traditional lifestyle with customs, food systems, practices and spirituality are part of the values of our culture. And they are unique practices that require safeguarding, respect and recognition at both the national and regional level. The WHO states that "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity".

We demand that the Nordic States make a legal and implemented protection for the social wellbeing of the Sámi people.

5) The traditional food are important for the Sámi identity and culture. The food culture is characterized by natural seasonal variations and is governed by the periodic availability of berries, birds, fish, herbs, moose, plants, reindeer, sea food and small game. A vital basis for the good quality of Sámi food is a pure clean nature and a viable and sustainable Sámi living environment. The distinct hunting and other harvesting activities of the Sámi people contribute to our food security in the Arctic.

It is of utmost importance to prevent new invading species from getting a foothold in our traditional areas. An invasion by new species is a direct threat to our livelihoods.

We, as an indigenous people, express our rights to uphold food sovereignty.

6) The finite natural resources of Sápmi have been severely affected by unlimited predatory extraction over the past 100 years. National parks, nature conservation areas, biosphere reserves must have a coherent area also across borders. We express our decision for a coherent area across borders in order to protect the resilience and combat the global warming. International human rights-instruments confirm that indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination as they constitute peoples according to the meaning intended in the common article 1 of the 1966 International Convention of Civil and Political Rights and the 1966 International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

We express our rights to use self-determination of the Sámi people to the establishment of a border-crossing Sámi area to protect our culture, biological diversity and the continuation.

7) Agenda 2030 is an action plan with goals for transition to a sustainable society for people, the planet and prosperity. Agenda 2030's goals and sub-goals are integrated and indivisible and encompass all four dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, the social, the cultural and the environmental. Goal number 15 of Agenda 2030 promotes: Protect restore and promote the sustainable use of land-based ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification.



ADOPTED 2023-05-31

We acknowledge that food security has multiple dimensions, also health, wellness, language, identity and subsistence, which require a holistic approach and the direct involvement of the Sámi people.

“Explains that we jointly consider ourselves obliged to manage and pass on our common heritage from our forefather and mothers for the good of the Sámi society, and that we continue to protect our inalienable indigenous rights to land, water and natural resources – based on our peoples use of these areas throughout time immemorial”.

Jáhkámáhkke deklarasuovna. Quote from the Statement of the first parliamentary conference held in Jáhkámáhkke 24th of February 2005.

Nordkalottfolket; Ulf Tore Johansen, Knut Einar Kristiansen, Gry Hege Warth, Sylvi Pedersen Watne and Håvard Kristiansen reserves themselves against the decision to adopt the Árviesjávrrie declaration regarding the section on racism in favour of their own proposal that the word permeates be removed.