



Arctic Council

Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat

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Memorandum of Understanding between the Arctic

Council Permanent Participants and the Arctic Council

Member States

As noted in a statement from the Chair of the Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (IPS) at the Senior Arctic Officials' Meeting in Narvik in November 2007, the Arctic Council Permanent Participants desire to formalize their role in the management of IPS.

The original mandate of IPS is described in the Danish Minister of Environment's Statement at the 2nd Ministerial Conference on the Arctic Environment in Nuuk 1993:

''The aim of the Secretariat would be to allow indigenous peoples' organizations to participate in the AEPS process, e.g.

- by facilitating meetings among the indigenous peoples' organizations
- to assist them in how to best make contributions to the AEPS process
- by facilitating timely distribution of AEPS documentation to the indigenous inhabitants of the Arctic
- by facilitating on-going work on indigenous knowledge
- by facilitating the dialogue among the indigenous peoples' organizations''

The Permanent Participants, in a Board Meeting in Narvik, updated the expectations of what IPS would do, and this change was enshrined in Amendments to the IPS Terms of Reference and Procedural Guidelines as follows:

''...the IPS will:

1. Help the Permanent Participants to take part in the work of the Arctic council, by providing secretariat support functions to the Permanent Participants. This support shall include helping Permanent Participants to prepare and submit proposals relevant to the work of the Arctic Council, and helping to bring the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples to

the Council's Working Groups and Meetings of Senior Arctic Officials and Ministers;

2. enhance the capacity of the Permanent Participants to pursue the objectives of the Arctic Council, and help the Permanent Participants to develop their internal capacity to participate in the Arctic Council;
3. facilitate dialogue and communications between the Permanent Participants, the Arctic Council, and related bodies;
4. provide opportunities for co-operative and co-ordinated activities among the Permanent Participants and IPS;
5. Provide Permanent Participants with relevant information about activities occurring in or affecting their work in the Arctic Council, and contribute to raising public awareness of Arctic Council issues from an indigenous perspective through a regularly updated web site and other communications activities."

Other revisions to the Terms of Reference and Procedural Guidelines outline how IPS is to be governed:

"The Board should assume all control and responsibility of the activities of IPS. The Board will manage and direct the affairs of the IPS in accordance with the Terms of Reference and the IPS Procedural Guidelines.

There shall be seven Indigenous Board Members, consisting of one authorized representative from each of the six Permanent Participants, and the Chair.

Three Arctic States, these states being:

- 1) the current Chair of the Arctic Council
- 2) the host Country State of IPS
- 3) the last Arctic Council Chair

are welcome to participate in IPS Board Meetings with ex officio status.

Permanent Participant representatives should have the authority to speak on behalf of their Organizations. Permanent Participants shall designate one Board Member, and one alternate who may take part in Board Meetings in the absence of the primary Board Member. The designation of the Board Member and alternate by each Permanent Participant shall be supported by a resolution of the governing structure of each Permanent Participant. These resolutions should be made available to other members of the Board."

Consonant with these revisions, we now desire to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding with the Eight Arctic States, as funders of the IPS as follows:

1. The State Participants in the Arctic Council reaffirm their continued support of the Secretariat and its role as outlined in the revisions to the IPS Terms of Reference and Procedural Guidelines quoted above.
2. The State Participants in the Arctic Council confirm that the affairs and direction of the budget of the Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat are to be the sole responsibility of the IPS Board as outlined in the revised IPS Terms of Reference and Procedural Guidelines.
3. The State Participants in the Arctic Council commit to further exploration of ways and means by which the Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council may be able to participate to the fullest extent in the activities of the council, its Working Groups, and projects.

Signed this _____ day of _____

On behalf of Canada

On behalf of Denmark

On behalf of Finland

On behalf of Iceland

On behalf of Norway

On behalf of the Russian Federation

On behalf of Sweden

On behalf of the United States of America

On behalf of the Aleut International Association

On behalf of the Arctic Athabaskan Council

On behalf of Gwich'in Council International

On behalf of Inuit Circumpolar Council

On behalf of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of
the North

On behalf of the Saami Council