



Brief to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development

Canada's Sovereignty in the Arctic

Submitted by the Hon. Charlie Watt, O.Q., President of Makivik Corporation

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Introduction

During my 34 years as a Canadian Inuk Senator, I championed the rights of Inuit. I devoted a great deal of attention to ensuring Canada did not forget that Inuit are the basis of Canada's sovereignty in the north and also working towards a greater respect for Inuit as self-determining people in the Arctic.

I recently left the Senate to work for my people, Inuit of Nunavik (northern Quebec), when I was elected President of the Makivik Corporation. Makivik represents Inuit of Nunavik, Quebec, and in this role, has been a leader in the political, cultural, and economic development of Nunavik. It is mandated to protect the rights and interests of and manage the financial compensation provided to Nunavik Inuit by the 1975 *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* (JBNQA), the first comprehensive Treaty and Inuit land claim agreement in Canada, and the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* (NILCA), which came into effect in 2008.

Over the past 50 years, Inuit and Canada have developed a partnership based in Treaties and recognition of Indigenous peoples' rights that should be applied at the international level. This partnership has allowed Canada to assert its sovereignty in the Arctic internationally, based on the effective occupation of northern Canada by Inuit. In partnership, Inuit and Canada can address issues affecting the Arctic and Canada's Arctic sovereignty. A recent success in this regard is the participation by Inuit on the Canadian delegation for the negotiation of the Central Arctic Fisheries Agreement, resulting in a 16-year moratorium on commercial fishing in the Central Arctic. Inuit are looking to Canada to support the international recognition of Inuit rights in the Arctic Ocean, including in the negotiations of a new international agreement for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (the BBNJ Agreement) and in importing the obligations in UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) to respect Indigenous peoples' rights into the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).¹ The rapid change in the north is opening up Arctic resources for exploration and exploitation by interests from around the world. A partnership approach is sought here too. Inuit are looking to Canada to ensure Inuit fully benefit from the use of natural resources - including oil and gas - in the lands and waters of the Inuit homeland, extending into the deep Arctic Ocean.

¹ *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (1982), 1833 UN Treaty Series 3, 387 (1994).

www.makivik.org

O Head Office • Siège social
C.P. 179
Kuujuaq QC J0M 1C0
Tél. (819) 964-2925
Fax (819) 964-2613

O Montréal
1111, boul. D' Frederik-Philips 3^e étage
St-Laurent QC H4M 2X6
Tél. (514) 745-8880
Fax (514) 745-3700

O Québec
555, Grand-Allée E.
Québec QC G1R 2J5
Tél. (418) 522-2224
Fax (418) 522-2636



Arctic lands, water, ice and air make up the Homeland of Inuit

Inuit have been present in the Arctic for thousands of years as a sovereign people, long before the existence of Canada or any of the current Arctic States. Since time immemorial, we have lived on the lands and ice-covered waters of the Arctic and used the resources of the lands and waters to grow as a people. We are deeply connected to not just the lands, but also the Arctic Ocean and all the Arctic wildlife. Uniquely, Inuit are a people who *occupy* a marine area – something that is possible because of the thick ice that, until recently covered large areas of the Arctic waters year-round. Inuit live on the ice, and hunt and travel across it.

The pan-Inuit Arctic homeland, Inuit Nunangat, covers Greenland, northern Canada and Alaska, as well as Chukotka, Russia. It also covers large portions of the Arctic Ocean. In the 2018 Utqiagvik Declaration made this summer, Inuit reaffirmed that rights to lands, resources and territories and the right of self-determination affirmed by the UNDRIP applies to their entire homeland, including the lands, waters, ice, air space and resources. Through the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), Inuit have also set out our rights to our homeland in the *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration*² and a *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat*.³

Canada's Arctic Sovereignty over Lands Depends on Inuit

Canadian Arctic sovereignty is grounded in Canada's relationship with Inuit. Under international law, effective occupation of land is essential to a state's sovereignty. In northern Canada, effective occupation was by Inuit; it was part of the Inuit homeland long before the arrival of European explorers and imperial powers. As Canada recognized in the 2010 Statement of Canada's Arctic Policy, Canada's sovereignty in the north is "based on historic title, founded in part on the presence of Inuit and other indigenous peoples since time immemorial."⁴ This applies to water and ice, as much as land. For instance, in 1985, the Honourable Joe Clark (then Minister of External Affairs) linked sovereignty over the marine region to Inuit presence on the ice of the Arctic Ocean: "Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic is indivisible. It embraces land, sea and ice... From time immemorial Canada's Inuit people have used and occupied the ice as they have used and occupied the land."⁵

The Treaty partnership between Canada and Inuit started in the 1970s, with the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* in 1975. The Treaties now extend east and west, to include the *Western Arctic Claim–Inuvialuit Agreement* (1984), the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (1993), the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* (2005), and the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* (2007).

² Inuit Circumpolar Council, "A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic", adopted April 28, 2009, <http://inuitcircumpolar.com/files/uploads/icc-files/PR-2009-04-28-Signed-Inuit-Sovereignty-Declaration-11x17.pdf>.

³ Inuit Circumpolar Council, "A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat", n.d., <http://www.inuitcircumpolar.com/resource-development-principles-in-inuit-nunaat.html>.

⁴ Canada, *Statement on Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy*, 2010, http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/amc-gac/FR5-111-2010-eng.pdf

⁵ Joe Clark, Minister of External Affairs, "Canadian Sovereignty: Government Position," House of Common Debates, 33rd Parliament, 1st Session: Volume 5, 10 September 1985.



Each of the modern Treaties receives constitutional protection through section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. These five Treaties cover vast expanses of the Canadian Arctic, including the entire Arctic coast and areas of the north Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic Ocean.

These Treaties arose out of Canada's legal obligation to respect Indigenous peoples' rights to our territories and resources, and to negotiate with us to use them. As described in the landmark *Haida* case:

Put simply, Canada's Aboriginal peoples were here when Europeans came, and were never conquered. Many bands reconciled their claims with the sovereignty of the Crown through negotiated treaties. Others, notably in British Columbia, have yet to do so. The potential rights embedded in these claims are protected by s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The honour of the Crown requires that these rights be determined, recognized and respected. This, in turn, requires the Crown, acting honourably, to participate in processes of negotiation.⁶

In the Treaties, Inuit agreed to share their lands and some of their waters in return for Treaty-protected rights. The Treaties gave Canada the ability to assert its presence and complete its sovereignty in the Arctic, to allow for settlement and access to resources. At the international level, the Treaties provide Canada the basis to defend its sovereignty against other states – it is only Canada who has the relationship with the original people who occupied the land. No other State can make such a claim over northern Canada.

Canada's Sovereignty in the Arctic Ocean and the Issue of Recognition of Inuit Rights

The current international focus on Arctic sovereignty is not about lands, but rather jurisdiction over and access to the resources of the Arctic Ocean, as well as the ability to use these waters for shipping. This is due to the melting ice, which now makes navigation and exploitation of the Arctic Ocean a possibility. The attention on sovereignty is also heightened in the regions because the Arctic coastal States are determining their extended continental shelf limits, which will give each State's outer most maritime boundary.

Under the UNCLOS, coastal states are entitled to an extended continental shelf, that can extend beyond the 200nm Exclusive Economic Zone given the right conditions. This boundary provides the coastal state the exclusive and sovereign right to exploit the resources of the sea-bed.⁷ All five Arctic States are in the process of calculating the outer limit of their extended continental shelf.⁸ Canada submitted its claim for an extended continental shelf in the Atlantic Ocean to the reviewing UNCLOS

⁶ *Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests)*, 2004 SCC 73 at para. 25.

⁷ *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (1982), 1833 UN Treaty Series 3, 387 (1994), Article 77.

⁸ Canada, Norway, Denmark and Russia will submit their calculated boundaries to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for validation. The US has not signed on to UNCLOS but is following its rules. Arctic Ocean Conference, "Ilulissat Declaration", adopted May 28, 2008. The declaration was signed by Canada, Denmark, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.



commission in 2013, but delayed its submission on an extended continental shelf in the Arctic Ocean. There are reports that Canada's Arctic submission will be ready in early 2019.⁹

UNCLOS is problematic for Inuit and all marine-based Indigenous peoples because it does not contain any direct reference or acknowledgement of Indigenous peoples' rights to marine spaces. States following UNCLOS to establish their sovereignty over various maritime zones, such as the extended continental shelf, are only required to have sovereignty over the land of the coast and then are automatically afforded sovereignty over delimited areas of the ocean.¹⁰ As a result of UNCLOS failing to include any reference to the respect for Indigenous peoples' rights in marine spaces, Inuit have been largely overlooked or marginalized in the international processes concerning sovereignty in the Arctic Ocean.

However, UNCLOS's silence on Indigenous peoples' rights does not allow Canada or any State to ignore the rights of Inuit to the Arctic Ocean. Inuit have a marine-based territory that continues despite the boundaries imposed by UNCLOS and which cuts across the UNCLOS maritime zones. Both international law and Canadian law provide protections for Indigenous peoples' rights to marine spaces and place obligations on Canada to ensure the respect for these rights. Internationally, UNDRIP recognizes that Indigenous peoples have rights in coastal waters and throughout their territories, which for Inuit includes large areas of the Arctic Ocean.¹¹ It affirms that Indigenous peoples have the right "to maintain and strengthen their spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources".¹² Further, Indigenous peoples' rights to their resources, which would include marine-based resources, are also protected by UNDRIP.¹³

In Canada, constitutional protection¹⁴ is provided to Indigenous peoples' rights that could apply to marine spaces, namely Treaty rights, Aboriginal rights, including rights to fish¹⁵ and hunt, and for Aboriginal title¹⁶. The same principles that apply to finding Aboriginal title to land could equally apply

⁹ Levon Sevunts, "Canada to file Arctic continental shelf submission in 2019: Global Affairs Canada," *Radio Canada International*, September 17, 2018, <http://www.rcinet.ca/en/2018/09/17/canada-to-file-arctic-continental-shelf-submission-in-2019-global-affairs-canada/>.

¹⁰ *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (1982), 1833 UN Treaty Series 3, 387 (1994), Articles 56 and 77(3).

¹¹ *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, G.A. Res. 61/295, U.N. Doc. A/RES/47/1 (2007), Article 26.

¹² *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, G.A. Res. 61/295, U.N. Doc. A/RES/47/1 (2007), Article 25 (underlining added).

¹³ *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, G.A. Res. 61/295, U.N. Doc. A/RES/47/1 (2007), Article 26(2); See also, Stephania Errico, "The Controversial Issue of Natural Resources: Balancing States' Sovereignty with Indigenous Peoples' Rights" in *Reflections on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, eds. Stephane Allen & Alexandra Zanthaki (Oxford: Hart Publishing Inc., 2011), 329-330.

¹⁴ *Constitution Act, 1982*, Being Schedule B to the *Canada Act 1982* (UK), 1982, ch. 11, section 35.

¹⁵ See for instance, *R. v. Van der Peet*, [1996] 2 SCR 507 and *R. v. Gladstone*, [1996] 2 SCR 723.

¹⁶ *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia*, [1997] 3 SCR 1010.



to establishing Aboriginal title to ocean or sea areas.¹⁷ The Treaties with Inuit include marine areas and protect Inuit rights within these waters, in particular rights over the management and access to wildlife. Additionally, if the proposed Bill C-262, *An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, is enacted, Canada will be under an obligation to respect the UNDRIP rights that specifically protect Indigenous peoples' rights to their coastal waters and the marine portions of the territories.

Recommendation 1: Inuit look to Canada to act to prevent a colonization of the Oceans and a dispossession of Indigenous peoples' marine territories and rights through UNCLOS. Makivik calls on Canada to respect the rights of Indigenous peoples when following and applying UNCLOS.

Recommendation 2: Makivik urges Canada to start the process of seeking to amend UNCLOS to recognize Indigenous peoples' rights and to comply with UNDRIP.

In 2015, I commissioned a legal report to look at the specific obligations of Canada towards Inuit in the extended continental shelf. It concluded that the specific obligations that Canada owes to Inuit as it undergoes the process of obtaining validation for an extended continental shelf and the development within the Arctic Ocean are as follows:

1. Canada must engage and consult Inuit in relation to the UNCLOS process.
2. Canada must protect the traditional way of life of Inuit in the Arctic.
3. Canada must ensure that Inuit benefit from the natural resources located in and on their territories.
4. Canada must protect Inuit rights to sustainable development and the protection of the environment.¹⁸

To date, we have not seen Canada treat Inuit as an equal partner in the governance of the oceans, especially in its plans for the extended continental shelf. Canada's 2013 Submission to the UNCLOS Commission for the extended continental shelf in the Atlantic Ocean includes areas that fall under the *Labrador Inuit Claims Agreement*.¹⁹ The submission made no reference to the Treaty despite the fact that the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement* cover the coastal lands and protects Inuit rights to 18,800 square miles of tidal waters and 6,100 square miles of the seabed within the treaty area.²⁰

¹⁷ For a discussion on this, see C. Rebecca Brown and James Reynolds, "Aboriginal Title to Sea Spaces: A Comparative Study", *University of British Columbia Law Review* 37, no. 2 (2004): 449-494.

¹⁸ Hutchins Legal Inc., "Setting out Canada's Obligations to Inuit in respect of the Extended Continental Shelf in the Arctic Ocean", (October 20, 2015): 4-5. Available upon request.

¹⁹ Canada, "Partial Submission of Canada to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf regarding its continental shelf in the Atlantic Ocean", (2013): 8, 14, http://www.international.gc.ca/arctic-arctique/assets/pdfs/continental_shelf_summary-plateau_continental_resume-eng.pdf.

²⁰ *Land Claims Agreement between the Inuit of Labrador and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Newfoundland and Labrador and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada*, (2005): ch. 4.



Recommendation 3: Makivik calls on Canada to recognize Inuit rights to the Arctic Ocean in its upcoming Arctic Ocean submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Extended Continental Shelf.

Recommendation 4: Makivik further calls on Canada to commit to meaningfully work with Inuit as partners to govern the resources within the extended continental shelf and all areas of the Arctic Ocean – including ensuring Inuit derive benefits from the extraction and use of these resources.

Need to Re-Visit the Terms of Inuit Treaties in light of Changes to the Arctic

The rapid changes that have come to the Arctic in the last few years are dramatically altering the conditions in the north. As a consequence, Canada should discuss amending the existing Arctic Treaties with Inuit to ensure that they are equitable. Specifically, they need to provide Inuit with a significant role in Arctic governance and in a sharing of the benefits flowing from natural resource extraction in Inuit homeland waters.

A re-assessment of the Treaties applies to the cede, release and surrender clauses, or certainty clauses, contained in Inuit Treaties. An application of these clauses to deny Inuit rights in a thawing Arctic must be rejected – too much has changed since these Treaties were made. These clauses should not operate to extinguish Inuit rights to the oceans outside the Treaty territory or to limit Inuit rights within the Treaty territory to only those listed by the Treaties.

Canada has signalled its understanding that there is a need for change regarding these extinguishment clauses. On May 25, 2018, Minister Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, stated that “Canada is abandoning its positions that treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements must include the extinguishment, modification, or surrender of rights”.²¹ The government’s work towards a Framework and associated legislation for the Recognition of the Inherent and Treaty Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that Agreements (including Treaties) are “meant to establish the pathway for the implementation of rights and relationships based on the recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership” and that employing the concept of living agreements could “enable the continuation of rights within and outside of agreements” and “an orderly process for the evolution of agreements”.²²

At their core, Treaties are to create a partnership between Inuit and Canada, as well as the respective Territory or province. Crucially, the Treaties should ensure that we Inuit are empowered to govern ourselves, our land, and our waters. Treaties that do not provide for these essential, inherent rights, must be re-negotiated. This is what a Treaty partnership entails. To this end, Makivik

²¹ Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Speech delivered to the Business Council of British Columbia, April 13, 2018, <http://www.commonsbcc.ca/2018/05/25/speech-on-indigenous-rights-undrip-by-jody-wilson-raybould-minister-of-justice-attorney-general-of-canada/>.

²² Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, “Engagement document: Working together to create the foundation for the Federal Recognition and Implementation of the Inherent and Treaty Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada,” 2018, <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1531511313025/1531511414691>.



is ready to launch negotiations with Canada to re-establish an Inuit-led government for Nunavik, to exercise our self-determination and rebuild our place as sovereign people.

Partnership with Canada at the International Level

Inuit are looking to Canada to act as a partner to ensure Inuit have a voice and a role in the international negotiations and decision-making pertaining to the governance of the Arctic. This is more important than ever. Today our homeland is being profoundly affected by a changing climate. Inuit are affected on a daily basis, as the ice and the permafrost melts. We have already experienced houses sinking as the permafrost thaws and we are facing increasing danger as we travel across the ice. We are deeply concerned that the impacts we are already seeing on Arctic wildlife will intensify, which will have a devastating effect on our way of life. The huge interest in the natural resources of our homeland from States and commercial interest from around the globe is alarming to us as it poses a profound threat to our homeland and our way of life.

Inuit want a role in managing this change at the international level and within Canada. We want to be part of the decision-making on all matters that affect our homeland and the Arctic wildlife. We also want to be able to benefit from the development of the natural resources. We should have decision-making power over when and where these resources are exploited and the opportunity to participate in ventures, to build our economies. Further, royalties from the exploitation of these resources should come back to our communities. It is not just in Canada's interest that Inuit continue to be some of the most impoverished people in this country, while vast amounts of natural resource wealth is extracted from our lands and waters at great risk to our way of life.

Recently, ICC Canada was a member of the Canadian delegation that negotiated the 2017 Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement. This agreement between the five Arctic states and Iceland, Japan, South Korea, China and the European Union will place a 16-year moratorium on fishing in the Central Arctic Ocean. Inuit participated in these negotiations and worked with Canada to ensure the Agreement protects Inuit rights. This is a positive example of what can be accomplished when Canada and Inuit work as partners to promote the voice of Inuit in international decision-making and negotiations.

Recommendation 5: Makivik urges Canada to work with Inuit at the domestic and international levels to ensure that Inuit are recognized as partners in the governance of the Arctic and northern Atlantic Ocean. This includes having Inuit:

- (a) participate in the decision-making and negotiations affecting these areas;
- (b) derive benefits from any resource development that occurs;
- (c) engage in commercial activities and earn royalties for the resources that are extracted from our waters; and
- (d) ensuring Inuit are able to take the lead in wildlife management and develop the environmental protection measures that will apply to the Arctic and north Atlantic Oceans.



The BBNJ Agreement: Potential for including Indigenous Peoples' rights in the UNCLOS System

Right now, there is a rare moment of opportunity for Canada to work with Inuit to include Indigenous peoples' rights in a new international agreement to be part of the UNCLOS system. Known as the Agreement for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (the BBNJ Agreement), the agreement is to cover marine biological diversity in the high seas and the deep ocean sea-bed. It is to apply to all the oceans in the world, including the Arctic Ocean.

Formal international negotiations towards the BBNJ Agreement started this September at the UN.²³ The Agreement is to set out the rules for marine protected areas in the high seas, as well as the rules for environmental assessment of projects in the high seas and deep ocean seabed. It would also cover access and benefit sharing to marine genetic resources and the sharing of marine technology in marine areas beyond State borders. The BBNJ Agreement is meant to fill holes in UNCLOS, which does not fully address the management of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (the high seas and the deep sea-bed). The agreement will apply to the waters outside of the Coastal States' Exclusive Economic Zones (the high seas) and to the seabed beyond the outer limits the continental shelf of each of the Coastal States. These areas of the Ocean are not subject to the jurisdiction of Coastal States.

This agreement could be used to strengthen the voices of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making on environmental protection measures for the high seas, which makes up a large portion of the world's oceans. If this new agreement were to recognize Indigenous peoples' role in ocean management, it would give them a voice in decision-making affecting the oceans and also provide an opening into the entire UNCLOS system.

Given the importance of marine biological diversity of the Arctic Ocean to Inuit, in particular for safeguarding the health of migratory populations of marine wildlife, it is essential that Inuit participate in the negotiation of this agreement and have our rights acknowledged. To this end, ICC has been directed through the 2018 Utqiagvik Declaration to advance the rights of Inuit in the BBNJ negotiations.

Recommendation 6: Canada is urged to support Inuit, working through ICC, to participate at the negotiation sessions of the Intergovernmental Conference. It is called upon to support and promote the inclusion of language in the text of the BBNJ Agreement that will respect and protect Inuit rights in the Arctic Ocean.

²³ For details, see the "Summary of the First Session of the Intergovernmental Conference on an International Legally Binding Instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction", Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB), Volume 25 Number 179, 20 September 2018, <http://enb.iisd.org/vol25/enb25179e.html>



Inuit Sovereignty over Airspace

The homeland of Inuit includes the airspace above it. As stated above, this was reaffirmed by Inuit in the 2018 Utqiagvik Declaration, which emphasized that Indigenous peoples' rights to territory recognized and protected by UNDRIP applies to air space, just as it does to lands and waters.

Makivik and Nunavik Inuit look to Canada to support and partner with them to enhance their role in the governance of the Nunavik air space at the international level. There are many avenues for partnership. For instance, Canada could assist Makivik or First Air (an airline owned by Makivik for the benefit of the Inuit beneficiaries of the JBNQA) participate in the work of the Cross Polar Working Group, which provides a forum to improve air traffic services for aircraft transiting polar air space. Canada could also partner with Makivik to establishing routes and route schedules to facilitate international air transportation to and from Nunavik.

Makivik also seeks to work with Canada to explore the possibility of transforming strategic local airports in Nunavik. International airports with the capacity of connecting Arctic cities would not only create employment and new income, but also greater connectivity among Arctic regions, building the economy of Nunavik and the Canadian north.

Recommendation 7: Makivik calls on Canada to support Makivik and Nunavik Inuit as they exercise self-determination over the Nunavik air space

Seeking Canada's Support for an Equitable Role for Inuit at the Arctic Council

Inuit are looking for a greater and equitable role at the Arctic Council and in all negotiations and decision-making processes pertaining to the Arctic. Inuit participate in the Arctic Council as permanent participants through the ICC.

Inuit organizations and Inuit leaders, including Mary Simon and Rosemarie Kuptana, were instrumental in spearheading the creation of the Arctic Council. The *Ottawa Declaration*, which established the Arctic Council in 1996, declares that the objective of the Arctic Council is to provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic indigenous communities".

As permanent participants of the Arctic Council, Inuit do not have the right to vote on Arctic Council matters. Only the five Arctic State members have the right to make decisions. This was not the original intention for the organization and its functions to sideline Arctic Indigenous peoples.

Recommendation 8: Makivik calls on Canada to support Inuit gaining decision-making power and having a meaningful leadership role at the Arctic Council.



Financial Support for ICC to Support its Work

It is important to point out that ICC is chronically underfunded in light of its massive mandate. Forty years ago, I was part of the group of Inuit who created the ICC, to give Inuit from across Canada, Greenland, Alaska and Chukotka, Russia, a united voice at the international level. In addition to the Arctic Council, ICC is active in multiple international and regional bodies. Inuit have long been active at the United Nations and Dr. Dalee Sambo Dorough, the current Chair of ICC, is a former Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In its UN engagement, ICC was also instrumental in creating the UNDRIP. It is tasked with addressing multiple subjects, providing the voice of Inuit on a vast array of issues and multiple bodies and fora.

Increased funding is necessary for ICC to continue its work and provide the level of expertise and knowledge necessary to address a wide variety of issues of pressing concern to Inuit at the international level. Funding is also required for the Inuit land claims organizations for Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, Nunavut and Inuvialuit to be able to follow developments at the international level that will affect Inuit and to engage with and support the work of ICC in regards to these developments.

Recommendation 9: Makivik calls on Canada to increase ICC Canada's funding to an appropriate level. Such a valuable institution, for both Inuit and Canada, deserves greater funding from Canada.

Recommendation 10: Makivik also calls on Canada to provide the Inuit land claims organizations with funding to build their capacity to participate in the international cooperation and to follow the international developments that will affect Inuit and to engage with the ICC in this regard.

Conclusion

A partnership between Inuit and Canada has been critical for Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic. As State interests and resource development intensifies in the Arctic, Inuit look to Canada to take an active role in protecting Inuit rights to marine spaces and to seek recognition of our rights within the UNCLOS regime. We ask that Canada work with Inuit as partners in the governance of the Arctic at the international level, ensuring that Inuit have a voice in international decision-making affecting all aspects of the Arctic. Finally, ensuring we have the opportunity to benefit from the development of Arctic resources is essential, particularly as we face the greatest risks associated with these developments and as our people face unique challenges in adapting to the Arctic's changing landscape.