

We, the Inuit of Inuit Nunaat, declare as follows:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Inuit live in the Arctic.** Inuit live in the vast, circumpolar region of land, sea and ice known as the Arctic. We depend on the marine and terrestrial plants and animals supported by the coastal zones of the Arctic Ocean, the tundra and the sea ice. The Arctic is our home.
- 1.2 Inuit have been living in the Arctic from time immemorial.** From time immemorial, Inuit have been living in the Arctic. Our home in the circumpolar world, *Inuit Nunaat*, stretches from Greenland to Canada, Alaska and the coastal regions of Chukotka, Russia. Our use and occupation of Arctic lands and waters pre-dates recorded history. Our unique knowledge, experience of the Arctic, and language are the foundation of our way of life and culture.
- 1.3 Inuit are a people.** Though Inuit live across a far-reaching circumpolar region, we are united as a single people. Our sense of unity is fostered and celebrated by the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), which represents the Inuit of Denmark/Greenland, Canada, USA and Russia. As a people, we enjoy the rights of all peoples. These include the rights recognized in and by various international instruments and institutions, such as the *Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*; the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*; the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*; the *Declaration on the Rights and Duties of States*; the *Human Rights Council*; the *Arctic Council*; and the *Organization of American States*.
- 1.4 Inuit are an indigenous people.** Inuit are an indigenous people with the rights and responsibilities of all indigenous peoples. These include the rights recognized in and by international legal and political instruments and bodies, such as the recommendations



A Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Sovereignty in the Arctic

context of the Arctic. This has been acknowledged in the eight-nation Arctic Council, which provides a direct, participatory role for Inuit through the permanent participant status accorded the Inuit Circumpolar Council (Art. 2).

- 1.6 Inuit are citizens of Arctic states.** As citizens of Arctic states (Denmark, Canada, USA and Russia), we have the rights and responsibilities accorded all citizens under the constitutions, laws, policies and public sector programs of these states. These rights and responsibilities do not diminish the rights and responsibilities of Inuit as a people under international law.

- 1.7 Inuit are indigenous citizens of Arctic states.** As an indigenous people within ng (en-CA)/MCID 99 DC 11800854198.7491 in (a)-50