

## International Arctic Responses to the Further Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Key Sources

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### Arctic Council and Permanent Participants

On 14 February 2022, the **Arctic Athabaskan Council** issued a press release urging state leaders to not forget their commitments to Indigenous Peoples in light of ongoing conflict.

On 21 February 2022, Vladimir Putin recognized the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic, two self-proclaimed states controlled by pro-Russian separatists in the Donbas region of Ukraine. The next day, Russia's Federation Council authorized use of military force and Russian soldiers entered both territories. On 24 February, Russia invaded the sovereign state of Ukraine. These international developments have "spilled over" into regional Arctic relations.

On 28 February, the **Russian Section of the Saami Council** walked a careful line in explaining how "the Saami people in Russia find themselves in an extremely unstable, one might say, dangerous situation.... Now, more than ever the Sami people in Russia need international support to continue cooperation between the Sami of the four countries."

On 1 March, the **Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)** took a radically different position in a letter to President Putin, announcing "our support [for] your aspiration and the decision taken to protect the rights and interests of the inhabitants of the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics and the security of all multinational Russia."

On 3 March 2022 at 10am EDT, Canada, Finland, Iceland, Kingdom of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and the United States released a joint statement announcing "a pause" of Arctic Council activities, "pending consideration of the necessary modalities that can allow us to continue the Council's important work in view of the current circumstances."

On 3 March, **Gwich'in Council International** welcomed the pause on Arctic Council activities, adding that "we stand with our partners around the world in calling for peace in Ukraine, peace can only be achieved by Russia recalling its armed forces immediately."

On 7 March, the **Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)** also declared support for the temporary pause on Arctic Council activities. ICC's statement highlights that the Inuit organization emerged at the height of Arctic Cold War bipolarity in 1977, and that Inuit "worked hard to ensure our sisters and brothers from Chukotka were able to

join us in 1992.” ICC’s statement reiterates that “Inuit are committed to the Arctic remaining a zone of peace,” as the organization has “repeatedly echoed” in “all its guiding documents, most recently in the Utqiagvik Declaration” (2018).

## Other Arctic Regional Bodies

On [3 March, the Nordic Council of Ministers](#) (including Finland, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, the Kingdom of Denmark, and the self-governing Åland Islands, Faroe Islands, and Greenland) ended all joint activities with Russia – the first time such action has been taken in 25 years of regional cooperation.

On the same day, the Kingdom of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Sweden, and the European Union suspended Russian membership from the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

On 8 March 2022, the European Union, Iceland and Norway [“suspended until further notice” all activities of the Northern Dimension policy](#) which involve Russia and Belarus owing to their actions which have “grossly breached rules-based multilateralism and the principles which both underpin the Northern Dimension policy.”

On 9 March, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the European Union “condemned in the strongest possible terms Russia’s unprecedented military aggression against Ukraine” and, “in light of Russia’s blatant violation of international law, breach of rules-based multilateralism and the principles and objectives of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council,” suspended activities involving Russia in Barents Euro-Arctic cooperation.

## Russian Responses

On 4 March, Nikolay Korchunov, Russia’s Senior Arctic Official and ambassador-at-large of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called the actions of the seven Arctic Council member states to “pause” Council activities as “regrettable” and warned that a temporary freeze on Council activity would “inevitably lead to the accumulation of the risks and challenges to soft security in the region.” Korchunov stressed the Council’s strong history of depoliticized dialogue in high latitudes, telling Reuters that “the Arctic should remain as a territory of peace ... and thus, this unique format should not be subject to the spill-over effect of any extraregional events.”

“For us there is no alternative to uninterrupted sustainable development of our Arctic territories,” Korchunov said. While the remainder of the Arctic Council pursued a “pause in cooperation,” he noted that Arctic representatives in Russia would refocus “the ... Chairmanship toward addressing our domestic needs in the region.” All events organized under the Russian chairmanship of the Arctic Council would go ahead as planned, except for official meetings with the other Senior Arctic Officials, with Korchunov insisting that “it is of utmost importance to safeguard the project activities of the Arctic Council in order to be able to pick up where we paused and step up cooperation.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.arctictoday.com/russian-officials-call-arctic-council-boycott-regrettable/>

## Greenland

Canada's eastern neighbour, Greenland, has also commented on developments. On 24 February, [Greenland's Prime Minister Múte Bourup Egede](#) endorsed coordinated sanctions announced at the EU summit in Brussels, declaring that Greenland "strongly condemn[s] Russia's action against the Ukrainian people" and intends "to show our solidarity with the Ukrainian people by joining the international sanctions against Russia."

On 3 March, [Greenland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) also signaled their participation in the decision to pause participation in Arctic Council meetings, along their full "commitment to the Council and our cooperation with the peoples of the Arctic."

## Note on concerns expressed at the Canadian territorial level

*Nunatsiaq News* has reported that the three territorial premiers signed a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, asking for a discussion on Canada's Arctic security and sovereignty in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Nunavut Premier P.J. Akeegok explained that there is no specific agenda, but the premiers are seeking a direct conversation with the Government of Canada to discuss mechanisms for defending the Arctic coastline. "I know our senior officials have been working around the clock really on this particular point, and we'll just continue to have the conversation until the meeting is scheduled," Akeegok said. A particular concern voiced in the letter relates to Russia's growing economic and military presence in its northern regions. "As Russia's global investments and interests grow, we fear that Russia's aggression will inevitably present itself into Arctic affairs," the letter stated.<sup>2</sup>

On 3 March, Inuvik Twin Lakes MLA Lesa Semmler said in the NWT Legislature "I recognise that the [Government of the Northwest Territories] does not manage Canada's Arctic border security or the national defence, but the GNWT does have a responsibility to liaise with the federal government and convey information to the public." Premier Caroline Cochrane assured the Legislative Assembly that Ottawa says "there's no clear threat" from Russia, while emphasizing that territorial governments are "watching closely" and "working closely with the federal government to make sure that we protect our Arctic."<sup>3</sup>

Cochrane said territorial premiers have concerns related to Arctic security, and recently wrote a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asking for a meeting and requesting that "Arctic sovereignty be included in our next Council of Federation meeting, which happens this summer" because "it needs to be a priority for all jurisdictions across Canada." Cochrane reminded the House that the federal government is in charge of national defence, but highlighted that the NWT and the other territorial governments participate in the Arctic Security Working Group. Cochrane also urged people to refrain from villainizing Russian citizens for the actions of Russian

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<sup>2</sup> <https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/premier-akeegok-addresses-arctic-security-amid-russian-aggression/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.rcinet.ca/eye-on-the-arctic/2022/03/04/russias-assault-on-ukraine-mla-in-canadas-northwest-territories-asks-for-assurances-about-arctic-security/>

# STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES



President Vladimir Putin, emphasizing that “the civilians of Russia are not the threat” and that “many Russian people are also not liking what’s going on in the Ukraine, so don’t blame all people.”<sup>4</sup>

On 7 March, Nunavut Premier P.J. Akeeagok began his first statement of the legislature’s winter sitting by addressing Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and its potential implications to the Arctic, noting that “Nunavut stands with the people of Ukraine and Ukrainians around the world.” He announced that the Government of Nunavut will commit \$25,000 of humanitarian aid to the Red Cross to assist Ukraine. Akeeagok also emphasized that Russia threatens “the stability of Arctic communities and the continuity of Arctic co-operation.”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.rcinet.ca/eye-on-the-arctic/2022/03/04/russias-assault-on-ukraine-mla-in-canadas-northwest-territories-asks-for-assurances-about-arctic-security/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/premier-akeeagok-addresses-arctic-security-amid-russian-aggression/>

## Annexes

## Arctic Athabaskan Council

Media Release, 14 February 2022

**February 14, 2022** - As the conflict continues in the Crimean Peninsula, Ukraine, the Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC) is urging global leaders in Canada, United States, Russia, and Ukraine not to forget commitments they have made to Indigenous Peoples.

Specifically, AAC wants to remind state leaders that Canada, United States and Ukraine are all party to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), originally adopted in 2007. AAC points to Article 30 which states: “Military activities shall not take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless justified by a relevant public interest or otherwise freely agreed with or requested by the indigenous peoples concerned,” Further it proclaims: “States shall undertake effective consultations with the indigenous peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, prior to using their lands or territories for military activities.”

Crimean Tatars comprise the largest population of Indigenous Peoples in Ukraine. They were officially recognized by the Government of Ukraine and the European Parliament as Indigenous Peoples in February 2016.

Eight Arctic states, including the United States, Canada, and Russia and six permanent participants (Indigenous Peoples) make up the Arctic Council which serves as the leading forum for the Arctic. AAC represents Athabaskan Peoples of the United States and Canada.

Arctic Council serves as a high-level forum that promotes cooperation, coordination, and interaction among the Arctic states and permanent participants. It is at the Arctic Council table that international cooperation agreements have been reached that address important areas including climate change, marine pollution, and Arctic scientific study. It also serves as an important global forum working towards agreements committed to sustainable solutions as regions look to future developments in the Arctic.

### **Chief Gary Harrison International Chair, Arctic Athabaskan Council**

“We have warming taking place in the Arctic at three times the speed of other global jurisdictions. This reality and the future threat to Arctic water systems, marine life, wildlife, and our fragile ecosystems will affect us here in the Arctic, and globally, for generations to come.

The work now at the Arctic Council table is already at a critical stage. Our relationship with the Russian Federation, as with all our regional partners, is one of diplomatic cooperation that took years to build. We fear this could be greatly disrupted if the resistance to finding a solution over the conflict in Ukraine continues.”

### **Chief Bill Erasmus, Canadian Chair, Arctic Athabaskan Council**

“We want to remind all governments that the Arctic Council is the world’s only forum where we, as Indigenous People have inclusion at a global level. As concerns over the Russian-Ukraine crisis are increasing, we feel the need to speak out. UNDRIP clearly protects Indigenous Peoples Rights and Territories, and this declaration must be adhered to through this process. The loss of human life, the economic and environmental costs should



# STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES



a war commence, is troubling. We do not support or endorse any war and urge all parties to seek a diplomatic solution.”

Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council include the Arctic Athabaskan Council, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Saami Council, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Gwich'in Council International, and Aleut International Association.

There are several upcoming meetings set to take place that involve Indigenous Arctic organizations including Arctic Territory of Dialogue 2022 set to take place in Ste [sic] Petersburg in April 2022. The meeting is to be hosted by the Russian Federation.

## Russian Section of the Saami Council

28 February 2022

<https://www.saamicouncil.net/news-archive/statement-by-the-russian-side-of-the-saami-council-regarding-the-current-situation-in-russiaa>

*“The sanctions and the measures introduced do not separate the citizens of the Russian Federation by area of work or nationality, so the Saami people in Russia find themselves in an extremely unstable, one might say, dangerous situation.”*

STATEMENT BY THE RUSSIAN SECTION OF THE SAAMI COUNCIL

**The Section on the Russian side of the Saami Council cannot ignore the current situation in the country or remain silent about it. In no case will we touch upon the question of who is right and who is wrong, but each of us understands that there is no justification for military action. In any case, all this touches us, so the Section on the Russian side considers it necessary to comment on this topic.**

Now, the citizens of the Russian Federation, including the Saami people in Russia, are in a situation where no one knows what awaits us in the future. We cannot plan anything and we find ourselves in a very unstable situation.

Sanctions already introduced by different countries, and possible future sanctions, will primarily hit, not businessmen and owners of mega-corporations and banks, but ordinary residents of the country. Already, prices on the electronics market have increased by 30% in one day, and we expect the prices to increase even more, not only for electronics, but also, for food and essential goods. The sanctions and the measures introduced do not separate the citizens of the Russian Federation by area of work or nationality, so the Saami people in Russia find themselves in an extremely unstable, one might say, dangerous, situation. None of us can predict how the aggravated situation will end, but already now we must be prepared for additional difficulties affecting international work.



For example, the sanctions have affected the work of Russian banks, which means that transactions to Russia will be difficult. This involves both projects and salaries and makes cooperation more difficult. Sberbank has conducted transactions in Norwegian kroner through a US bank, transactions in euros through a German bank, and both of these countries imposed sanctions on working with Sberbank and many other banks.

Now we are talking about the partial blocking of Facebook by Roskomndazor [The federal service for supervision of communications, information technology, and mass media] (partial blocking implies a strong slowdown in traffic on this site).

Russia was suspended from membership in the Council of Europe, the Committee of Foreign Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Council for Human Rights, many sporting events were canceled, and they were suspended from participating in Eurovision. These data are changing very quickly, perhaps at the moment this information is no longer relevant, but the fact remains that international cooperation for Russian citizens, in any direction, is now as difficult as possible.

Some of the countries closed entry for citizens of the Russian Federation, including those who had work and study visas. We do not rule out the possibility of sanctions that will annul existing visas for Russian citizens.

In many documents, the Saami Council states that *the Sami are one people who live regardless of state borders*. Now, this is high on the agenda, to make sure that the Sami people from the Russian side can continue to participate in international meetings and conferences, including visiting other countries.

Now, more than ever, the Sami people in Russia need international support to continue cooperation between the Sami of the four countries.

We hope that this difficult situation will soon be resolved in the least painful way.

## Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)

1 March 2022

Dear Vladimir Vladimirovich!

"01" March 2022, No. 64 to the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Peaceful skies, the land of our ancestors and the safety of our children - nothing could be more important for every citizen of our planet. For everyone. Without exception. Regardless of nationality and mother tongue. The North, Siberia and the Far East of Russia remember with gratitude those who devoted their lives to the formation of our regions. Among them were natives of Ukraine, including Donetsk and Luhansk. For eight long years, with pain in their hearts, the natives of places far from these "hot spots" held out hope for the restoration of human rights in Ukraine and the equality of all citizens without exception. Peacebuilding is never easy. The All-Russian Public Organisation "Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation" supports your aspiration and the decision taken to protect the rights and interests of the inhabitants of the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics and the security of all multinational Russia. We, the representatives of 40 indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East, hope for a speedy mutual understanding to ensure peace and harmony.

важаемый Владимир Владимирович!

Мирное небо, земля предков и безопасность детей – ничего не может быть важнее для каждого жителя нашей планеты. Для всех. Без исключений. Независимо от национальности и родного языка. Север, Сибирь и Дальний Восток России с благодарностью вспоминает тех, кто посвятил свои судьбы становлению наших регионов. Среди них были и уроженцы Украины, в том числе - Донецка и Луганска. С болью в сердце долгие восемь лет коренные жители мест, отдаленных от этих «горячих точек», хранили надежду на восстановление прав человека в Украине и равенства всех без исключения граждан. Миротворчество не бывает легким. Общероссийская общественная организация «Ассоциация коренных малочисленных народов Севера, Сибири и Дальнего Востока Российской Федерации» поддерживает Ваше стремление и принятое решение по защите прав и интересов жителей Донецкой, Луганской народных республик и безопасности всей многонациональной России. Мы, представители 40 коренных малочисленных народов Севера, Сибири и Дальнего Востока, выражаем надежду на скорейшее взаимопонимание по обеспечению мира и согласия.

1. Grigory Petrovich Ledkov, President of the All-Russian Public Organization Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation;
2. Alexander Vyacheslavovich Novyukhov, First Vice-President of the All-Russian Public Organization Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation
3. Altai Regional Public Organization "Association of Kumandins of Altai", Chairman Vitaly Vasilievich Teberekov, Altai Territory;

4. Association of communities of small indigenous people of Siberia Tuvinians-Tojins "Tos-Chadir" (Beryastyany Chum) President Svetlana Alekseevna Demkina, Republic of Tuva;
5. Vladimir Gennadyevich Klimov, Vice-President of the All-Russian Public Organization Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation for Interregional Cooperation;
6. Victoria Anatolyevna Darmaeva, President of the Trans-Baikal Regional Public Organization Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Trans-Baikal Territory;
7. Irkutsk Regional Public Organization "Union of Assistance to Small Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Irkutsk Oblast", President Nina Veysalova, Irkutsk Oblast;
8. Kamchatka Regional Public Organization "Association of Small Indigenous Peoples of the North Koryakia District", Chair Zoya Sergeevna Arkhangelskaya, Kamchatka Krai;
9. Karelian Regional Public Organization "Veps Culture Society", Chair Larisa Vasilyevna Chirkova, Republic of Karelia;
10. Kemerovo Regional Public Organization "Association of Teleut People "Ene-Bayat", President Todyshev Andrey Mikhailovich, Kemerovo oblast;
11. Kemerovo Regional Public Organization "Association of Shorian People "Shoria", President Shulbaev Nikita Makarovich, Kemerovo oblast;
12. Magadan Regional Public Association of Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Groups of the North, Chairperson Shcherbakova Lilia Semenovna;
13. Local public organization "Ansarko", president Vozhikova Svetlana Vladimirovna, Kamchatka region;
14. Local public organization "Association of Indigenous Peoples of Taimyr, Krasnoyarsk Krai", Chairman Grigory Dyukarev, Krasnoyarsk Krai;
15. Public organization "Association of Small Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Republic of Buryatia", President Nadezhda Egorovna Shemetova, Republic of Buryatia;
16. Public organisation "Saving Yugra", Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area, President Lyudmila Alferova, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area;
17. Public organisation Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), First Vice-President Lyubov Viktorovna Khristoforova, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia);
18. Regional Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Krasnoyarsk Krai, president Arthur I. Gaiulsky, Krasnoyarsk Krai;
19. Regional public organization "Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North of Kamchatka Krai", President Metelitsa Andrey Mikhailovich, Kamchatka Krai;
20. Regional Public Organization "Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North of Kamchatka Krai", President Metelitsa Andrey Mikhailovich, Kamchatka Krai;

21. Regional public organization "Khabarovsk Territory Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North", President Lyubov Odzhal, Khabarovsk Territory;
22. Regional public organization Association of Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka, President Otko Anna Ivanovna, Chukchi Autonomous Area;
23. Lyubov Peshperova, President, Altai Republic;
24. Regional public organization Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug "Yamal for Descendants", President Eduard Khabechevich Yaungad, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug;
25. Regional public movement "Association of the Nenets People "Yasavey", President Khatanzeisky Yuri Arkadievich, Nenets Autonomous Okrug;
26. Regional public movement "Union of Small Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Arkhangelsk Oblast", Chairman Alexei Ledkov, Arkhangelsk Oblast;
27. Regional public movement "Sakhalin Union of Indigenous Peoples", Chairwoman Svetlana Nikolaevna Sangi, Sakhalin Oblast;
28. Regional branch of the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation in St. Petersburg, Chair Chernyshova Svetlana Leonidovna, St. Petersburg;
29. Union of Indigenous Peoples of Primorsky Krai, Chair Valentin Vladimirovich Andreytsev;
30. Sergey Anatolievich Sisonenko, Vice-President of the All-Russian Public Organization "Association of Small Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation" on legal issues;
31. Tomsk Regional Public Organization "Association of Small Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Tomsk Region "Kolta-kup" (Ob people) President Tamara Khaimovna Usatova, Tomsk Region;
32. Tyumen Regional Public Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the North "Kedr", Chair Irina Yurievna Malykh, Tyumen Oblast;
33. Khakass Republican Public Organization - Regional Society of Small-Numbered Peoples of the North - Society "Shoria", Chairwoman Chebodaeva Svetlana Ivanovna, Republic of Khakassia;

## Joint statement on Arctic Council cooperation following Russia's invasion of Ukraine

3 March 2022

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/03/joint-statement-on-arctic-council-cooperation-following-russias-invasion-of-ukraine.html>

<https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-on-arctic-council-cooperation-following-russias-invasion-of-ukraine/>

Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the United States issue the following joint statement.

"Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the United States condemn Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and note the grave impediments to international cooperation, including in the Arctic, that Russia's actions have caused.

"We remain convinced of the enduring value of the Arctic Council for circumpolar cooperation and reiterate our support for this institution and its work. We hold a responsibility to the people of the Arctic, including the Indigenous peoples, who contribute to and benefit from the important work undertaken in the Council.

"The core principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, based on international law, have long underpinned the work of the Arctic Council, a forum which Russia currently chairs. In light of Russia's flagrant violation of these principles, our representatives will not travel to Russia for meetings of the Arctic Council. Additionally, our states are temporarily pausing participation in all meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, pending consideration of the necessary modalities that can allow us to continue the Council's important work in view of the current circumstances."

## Gwich'in Council International

3 March 2022

<https://gwichincouncil.com/sites/default/files/2022%20March%203%20GCI%20Statement.pdf>

Re: Joint Statement on Arctic Council Cooperation following Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Gwich'in Council International welcomes the collective pause of activities of the Arctic Council as we explore new modalities for pursuing peace and cooperation in the north. We have grave concern for the people of Ukraine, particularly the indigenous peoples, due to the invasion by Russia. We stand with our partners around the world in calling for peace in Ukraine, a peace which can only be achieved by Russia recalling its armed forces immediately.

As always, Gwich'in Council International remains committed to engage in productive dialogues that advance the collective aim and responsibility of stewarding a peaceful Arctic region built on cooperation and our shared value of mutual respect.



## Inuit Circumpolar Council

7 March 2022

<https://www.inuitcircumpolar.com/news/statement-from-the-inuit-circumpolar-council-concerning-the-arctic-council/>

### STATEMENT FROM THE INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL CONCERNING THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

March 7, 2022 – The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) has received the joint statement of the Senior Arctic Officials of Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the United States calling for a temporary pausing of participation at all meetings of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies.

ICC has also received a message from the Russian Chair of the Arctic Council agreeing to the request of the other countries. Russia holds the chair until May 2023.

A founding member of the Arctic Council, ICC is one of six Indigenous Peoples organizations with Permanent Participant status. Inuit in Chukotka, Russia, are members of ICC and two other Permanent Participants have Russian membership as well – the Aleut International Association and the Saami Council. The Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) is also a Permanent Participant.

ICC emerged from the Cold War as a unifying voice for Inuit across our collective homeland of Inuit Nunaat. We worked hard to ensure that our sisters and brothers from Chukotka were able to join us in 1992.

We are concerned about the future of the Arctic Council which is based on peaceful cooperation and mutual respect.

Inuit are committed to the Arctic remaining a zone of peace, a phrase coined by former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev in a 1987 speech in Murmansk. ICC has repeatedly echoed this message in all of its guiding documents, most recently in the *Utqiaġvik Declaration* of 2018 in which it was mandated to lay the groundwork to declare the Arctic as a peaceful Zone.

ICC is monitoring the situation closely and agrees with the SAOs that this temporary pause will allow time to consider “the necessary modalities that can allow us to continue the Council’s important work in view of the current circumstances.”

## Nordic Council of Ministers

3 March 2022

<https://www.norden.org/en/news/nordic-council-ministers-suspends-all-co-operation-russia>

**The Nordic Council of Ministers is suspending its co-operation with Russia and Belarus. This decision has been made in response to Russia’s military attack on Ukraine.**

The Ministers for Nordic Co-operation condemn the unprovoked, unlawful, and illegitimate Russian invasion of Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. Russia’s acts of war constitute an attack on the European security order. The Nordic countries are united in their solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

The Nordic Council of Ministers has therefore decided to immediately suspend all co-operation with Russia and Belarus. The Ministers for Nordic Co-operation are united in this decision. This means that all programmes, projects, and activities in Russia and Belarus are suspended until further notice.

“Russia’s military attack on Ukraine renders it impossible to continue co-operation in the current circumstances. The Nordic Council of Ministers’ co-operation activities in Russia have been underway since 1995. These activities have resulted in hundreds of projects in areas such as health, the environment and climate, and journalism and media, as well as meetings between Nordic and Russian parliamentarians. The aim of this co-operation has always been to build trust, mutual understanding, and development in the region,” say the Minister for Nordic Co-operation.

Despite several setbacks, the Nordic Council of Ministers has managed to maintain contact with Russia where others have been banned. The focus of the programmes has been on people-to-people co-operation, which has served as a valuable support for Russian civil society.

Together with the rest of the global community, the Nordic Council of Ministers is sending a clear message to the Russian government. The Ministers for Nordic Co-operation stress that this statement is aimed at the Russian government and not at the Russian people.

## Council of Baltic Sea States

4 March 2022

[https://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/article/russia-suspended-council-baltic-sea-states?utm\\_source=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bing.com%2F](https://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/article/russia-suspended-council-baltic-sea-states?utm_source=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bing.com%2F)

### **Russia Suspended from Council of Baltic Sea States**

Declaration by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the participation by the Russian Federation and Belarus in the work of the Council of the Baltic Sea States

The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) was established in 1992 in order to serve as overall regional forum for cooperation and coordination among the Baltic Sea States. The founding decision – the Copenhagen Declaration - emphasized cooperation on the basis of the UN Charter as well as the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and other OSCE documents. Subsequent political decisions have confirmed the aims of peace, cohesion and democracy, most recently expressed in the Vilnius II Declaration of 1 June 2021 - A Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2030. These fundamental principles and aims have now been dramatically violated by the unprovoked and illegal military attack and aggression committed by the Russian Federation against sovereign and democratic Ukraine.

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the High Representative strongly condemn Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine. Nothing can justify Russia's illegal use of force. We must now draw the necessary conclusions. We see no possibility to continue our cooperation as envisaged with the Russian Federation within the framework of the CBSS. In the current circumstances Russia should not enjoy the benefits of, and participation in, any CBSS-led cooperation. We will ensure the suspension of Russia from the proceedings, work and projects of the CBSS and its working bodies until cooperation under the fundamental principles of international law has become possible again.

At the same time we suspend the participation in activities of the Republic of Belarus as a CBSS observer state. We condemn Belarus' involvement in Russia's aggression against Ukraine. By allowing Russia to use its territory for aggression against Ukraine, Belarus itself is responsible for an act of aggression.

We acknowledge the important contribution of the CBSS to regional cohesion and cooperation. The Norwegian CBSS Presidency in close coordination with the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials will ensure the proper adjustment of the operation of the organisation in these changed circumstances. Our decision takes immediate effect and shall be duly communicated to all stakeholders and strategic partners of the CBSS.

## Northern Dimension Policy: Joint Statement by the European Union, Iceland and Norway on suspending activities with Russia and Belarus

8 March 2022

[https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage\\_en/112431/Northern%20Dimension%20Policy:%20Joint%20Statement%20by%20the%20European%20Union,%20Iceland%20and%20Norway%20on%20suspending%20activities%20with%20Russia%20and%20Belarus](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en/112431/Northern%20Dimension%20Policy:%20Joint%20Statement%20by%20the%20European%20Union,%20Iceland%20and%20Norway%20on%20suspending%20activities%20with%20Russia%20and%20Belarus)

The European Union, Iceland and Norway have condemned in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprecedented military aggression against Ukraine. By its unprovoked and unjustified military actions, Russia is grossly violating international law and undermining European and global security and stability. We have also condemned the involvement of Belarus in this aggression against Ukraine.

With the Northern Dimension policy the European Union, Iceland, Norway, and Russia have promoted dialogue and concrete cooperation based on good neighbourliness, equal partnership, common responsibility and transparency. The Northern Dimension policy includes Belarus as an observer. The European Union, Iceland and Norway are convinced of the value of this cooperation and its tangible achievements.

Russia and Belarus have however through their actions grossly breached rules-based multilateralism and the principles which both underpin the Northern Dimension policy. The European Union, Iceland and Norway have therefore suspended until further notice all activities of the Northern Dimension policy which involve Russia and Belarus.

## Barents Euro-Arctic cooperation: Joint Statement of the European Union, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden on suspending activities with Russia

9 March 2022

[https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage\\_en/112462/Barents%20Euro-Arctic%20cooperation:%20Joint%20Statement%20of%20the%20European%20Union,%20Finland,%20Denmark,%20Iceland,%20Norway%20and%20Sweden%20on%20suspending%20activities%20with%20Russia](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en/112462/Barents%20Euro-Arctic%20cooperation:%20Joint%20Statement%20of%20the%20European%20Union,%20Finland,%20Denmark,%20Iceland,%20Norway%20and%20Sweden%20on%20suspending%20activities%20with%20Russia)

Brussels, 09/03/2022 - 09:48, UNIQUE ID: 220309\_4

Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the European Union have condemned in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprecedented military aggression against Ukraine.

The Barents Euro-Arctic Council is built upon the Kirkenes Declaration of 1993, which states that “cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region will contribute substantially to stability, progress, international peace and security in the area and in Europe as a whole, where partnership is now replacing the confrontation and division of the past”. In 2013, the Heads of Government met in Kirkenes, and declared that they “saw the Barents cooperation as part of the process of evolving European cooperation and integration”. The unique structure of Barents Euro-Arctic cooperation encompasses national and regional authorities as well as indigenous peoples and youth, covering a wide range of sectors.

In light of Russia’s blatant violation of international law, breach of rules-based multilateralism and the principles and objectives of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the European Union have no other choice than to suspend activities involving Russia in the Barents Euro-Arctic cooperation. We remain convinced of the enduring value of Barents Euro-Arctic cooperation, and reiterate our support for this institution and its work.