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6th Arctic Leaders' Summit to take place 13-15 November 2019 in Rovaniemi, Finland

10 November 2019

Rovaniemi, Finland – For the first time, dozens of Indigenous leaders from across the Arctic will gather for the Arctic Leaders' Summit in Rovaniemi, Finland. In total more than 70 leaders are expected to attend from the Arctic Council Permanent Participant organizations, Sámi Parliaments in the Nordic countries, Indigenous governing bodies from North America, Greenland and Russia, and youth leadership organizations.

The Arctic Leaders' Summit (ALS) is a longstanding, high-level political gathering of Indigenous leaders from across the circumpolar North. The event is a unique forum in which Indigenous Peoples set their own priorities for discussion, bridge differences and create common understanding particularly on matters related to the Arctic environment and sustainable development.

The six international Indigenous organizations who are Permanent Participants to the Arctic Council – the Aleut International Association (AIA), the Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC), the Gwich'in Council International (GCI), the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) and the Saami Council – have organized five previous Arctic Leaders' Summits.

ALS1 was an initiative by Saami Council organised by ICC in Copenhagen, Denmark in June 1991. The Saami Council hosted ALS2 in Tromsø in 1995 and ALS6 in Rovaniemi in 2019. RAIPON has been the hosts of two ALS: ALS3 in 1999 and ALS5 in 2010 in Moscow. AAC hosted ALS4 in K'at'odeche, Northwest Territories, Canada in 2006.

The Saami Council will host the 6th Arctic Leaders' Summit (ALS6) on 13-15 November in Rovaniemi, Finland. The program will follow four thematic areas:

- 1) A look back on Arctic Leaders' Summit history
- 2) Arctic Indigenous languages and environmental change
- 3) Living conditions and sustainable development in a changing Arctic
- 4) Arctic Indigenous Peoples and Arctic Council Observer dialogue

ALS6 will also be the first Arctic Leaders' Summit accompanied by a complementary Youth Summit. The Youth Summit aims to facilitate discussion on the ALS6 agenda, encourage further development of a circumpolar youth network, and develop the youths' skills in international meeting participation and declaration-writing.

All previous ALS have resulted in a declaration signed by Arctic Indigenous Leaders. For more information and to read prior declarations, visit www.arcticpeoples.com/arcticleaderssummit.

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