



Resolutions 22nd Saami Conference

Resolution 1: Sea salmon fishing as primary livelihood and Sea Saami cultural carrier

The Saami Conference reminds that sea salmon fishing is an important cornerstone of Sea Saami culture. Sea salmon fishing is an important part of the traditional Saami food system. The Saami Conference wants the Saami Council to work to strengthen Sea Saami rights, including access to our sea salmon fishing in the sea and rivers. The Saami Conference wants the Saami Council to initiate work to highlight Sea Saami rights and Sea Saami history with the aim that the nation states must ensure that Sea Saami rights are in line with indigenous rights based on international law.



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Resolution 2: Participation rights of elderly peoples

The Saami Conference recommends the Saami Parliament and all Saami research institutions to be active in every issue and research work that applies to Saami elderly people.

The Saami Conference recommends the Saami Parliaments to establish Councils or similar institutions for the elderly people. Allocations and an administrative secretary should be set aside for this.

The 22 Saami Conference encourages all relevant institutions to shape actions on how elderly people's activities should be promoted at the Nordic level, with the purpose so all the administrative institutions should consider the participation rights of the elderly.

Resolution 3: Implementing Saami rights

The 22 Saami Conference note with appreciation that Saami rights in Finland, Sweden and Norway have won progress in the legal system. The 22nd Saami Conference welcomes with pride the work of the right holders in Fovsen¹, Girjas² and Ohcejohka and Veahčatjohka³ to protect Saami people's rights.

The 22nd Saami Conference notes with concern that the progress in these court cases is not respected by the national states. It is alarming that the implementation of the results from the court cases has ceased. The 22nd Saami Conference underlines that this development is jeopardizing the Saami people's right to rule of law.

The 22nd Saami Conference demands that the nation states immediately start the implementation of Saami rights recognized by the Court in the Fovsen njarke, Girjas and Ohcejohka and Veahčatjohka cases.

¹ I dom av 11. oktober 2021 (HR-2021-1975-) kom Høyesterett i storkammer til at Norge hadde krenket landets folkerettslige forpliktelser overfor samene. Krenkelsen besto i at NVE og Olje- og energi-departementet hadde gitt konsesjon til bygging av vindkraftverkene Roan og Storheia på beitenene til to reindriftssiidaer på Fosen i Trøndelag. Byggingen av de to kraftverkene, som til sammen er Norges største, ble funnet å være i strid med siidaenes rettigheter etter FN-konvensjonen om sivile og politiske rettigheter (SP) art. 27

² Girjasmålet behandlade frågan om upplåtelserätten till småviltsjakt och fiske inom en samebys område. Parterna i målet var Girjas sameby och svenska staten, vars talan fördes av Justitiekanslern (JK). Målet avgjordes av Högsta domstolen, som den 23 januari 2020 fann att Girjas sameby på grund av urminnes hävd har en ensamrätt att upplåta jakt och fiske på området, samt att staten saknar sådan upplåtelserätt.

³ Supreme Court of Finland's verdicts (KKO:2022:25 and KKO:2022:26) – Fishing restriction imposed on the Sámi indigenous people and its relationship to their fundamental rights (game offence)

Resolution 4: Implementation of rights for Saami persons with disabilities

The UN Convention on Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is an important convention, also for us in Sápmi. It is necessary for all of us that we have access to language, culture and meeting venues. Sápmi, for example, does not have its own organization for people with disabilities that promotes the Saami perspective when it comes to accessibility. Accessibility to meeting places is about, from a Saami perspective, accessibility to one's own culture, such as reindeer herding. It is not adapted for wheelchairs or that it is possible for deaf sign language speakers to take an interpreter with them. This means that many in our society are excluded from their culture.

The Saami Conference encourages the Saami Council to seek opportunities to influence the states so that the UN Convention on People with Disabilities is incorporated into the current national legislation.

Resolution 5: A united Sápmi

Saami Council member organizations have gathered for the 22nd Saami Conference on 11-14 August 2022. This year marks the 30-year anniversary since the Saami people on the Russian side of Sápmi could be formally included as members of the Saami Council. As we gather for this conference, the current geopolitical situation, as a consequence of the war in Ukraine, makes it impossible for our people on the Russian side of the border to participate in this conference. It is noticeable in all ways, that a part of our Saami community is missing at the conference. Once again, the consequences of state borders crossing Sápmi are all too obvious. Even though the current situation keeps us from having any formal collaboration with our people on the Russian side of Sápmi, we are determined to keep our affinity as a people. We look forward to the day, when we once again can meet face to face and continue our collaborations on all levels.

The 22nd Saami Conference reiterates the words stated the last time the conference met in Váhčir in 1971, the 7th Saami Conference;

"We are Sámi and we want to be Sámi, without therefore being neither more nor less than other peoples in the world. We are a people with our own settlement area, our own language and our own cultural and social structure. Over the course of history, we have found our livelihood in Sameeatnan, and we own a culture that we want to develop and live on."

The 22nd Saami Conference also reiterates the words of the 13th Saami Conference in Åre 1986:

"We Sámi are one people, and the state borders shall not break our peoples' affinity"



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Resolution 6 The Health of Reindeer

The 22 Saami Conference reminds that the reindeer is the cornerstone of Saami language and culture. The Saami Conference looks with concern at how the man-made climate crisis and land exploitation affect the reindeer's health and the reindeer's traditional grazing areas in a negative way. The Saami Conference encourages the Saami Council to use traditional Saami knowledge and western scientific knowledge to strengthen and protect the rights of reindeer husbandry and the reindeer's access to natural grazing and traditional grazing areas.

Resolution 7: Follow-up of the Sápmi-EU Strategy

The 22nd Saami Conference in Váhtjer welcomes the Sápmi-EU strategy launched at the Saami Conference, and notes with appreciation the contributions of the Saami experts to the work. The Saami Conference requests the Council to continue to give priority to building Sámi-EU partnership, to pursue further work in this area in cooperation with all parts of the political and civil Saami society with special focus on implementing and following up the proposals in the Sápmi-EU strategy. In particular, the Saami Conference emphasizes the need to continue the work on advancing consistency in EU funding schemes so that Saami traditional way of life and Saami traditional food systems are included and respected.