

Statement of the World Reindeer Herders' Association

Mikhail Pogodaev, PhD, Chair

Item 3 and 7 of the provisional agenda

Discussion on the special theme for the year, "Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity: articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Future Work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues

**Study on the impact of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures on reindeer herding\***

Thank you, Mr. Chair!

First of all I would like to thank for an opportunity to address our comments regarding the special report "Study on the impact of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures on reindeer herding" ~~Yesterday~~ reported by the member of Permanent Forum Mr. Lars-Anders Baer!

The terrestrial ecosystems in the northern areas are complex ecosystems. The changes in these ecosystems are now taking place rapidly due to climatic changes and the effects of the industrial development of the Arctic. It is therefore important that we use all available knowledge, both scientific as social sciences and especially the indigenous peoples' traditional ecosystem knowledge to understand the changes and plan for the future. This will require a new type of cooperation between herders, industry, researchers, management and governments. Experience has shown that many world environmental problems are not solved by use only of conventional science with linear cause-effect approaches. A priority must be to provide the authorities with better management tools.

Reindeer peoples respond to changes in the environment has traditionally relied on flexible operating practices that are now hampered because of several non-climatic factors such as permanent loss of grazing land due to economical development. So loss of pastures is a most important issue for reindeer herders today.

Because of growing human activity in the Arctic as a result of climate change, there is a need to find ways to regulate this activity and be ahead of the development. Natural resource development, transport and tourism represent some of the drivers in the development.

Now there is a situation when the only losing side often are reindeer herders. We lose both from climate change and now plus from industrial development. We lose our pastures every moment. *permanently*

There are many cases, some of them were described also in this report across the Arctic in such countries as Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia.

So we support that there is a need to develop and implement integrated management plans for reindeer pastures in the Arctic, on national levels, to secure future sustainability of indigenous herding communities and cultures in the face of climate change and land use change in the Arctic region. And this should be done on international level within the framework of United Nations.

We also support the conclusion of this study that there is an urgent need to facilitate investigation and studies within in the United Nations framework on changes of grazing land in the reindeer herding areas in the circumpolar north, to establish a holistic and integrated understanding of the ongoing rapid changes in reindeer herding communities partly driven by climate change and globalization, in order to maintain the sustainability and resilience of indigenous reindeer herding communities and cultures in the future.

We support the proposal and ready for collaboration in development of a new study and propose a title for it: "Circumpolar reindeer pastoralism: permanent loss of reindeer pastures, needs for documentation of traditional ecological knowledge on pastures".

In this regard we also acknowledge the significance of our cooperation with UNEP GRID/Arendal on the project "Impact of Land-Use Change and Climate Change on Nomadic Herders". *linking reindeer herders of the taiga with yak herders of the Himal*

In the end of my statement on behalf of World reindeer herders I would like to thank special rapporteur Mr. Lars-Anders Baer for this significant report!

Thank you Mr. Chair!