

**Intervention on Agenda Item 5**  
Intersessional activities and follow-up to thematic studies and advice  
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The ICC welcomes the current EMRIP Study on Indigenous peoples' rights in the context of borders, migration and displacement and acknowledge the good work done to date. We have long advocated for coordination, coherence and collaboration due to the numerous challenges that we face because our territory and membership span international borders, emphasizing the need for changes in law and policy that effectively guarantee the multiple, interrelated rights and interests of Inuit throughout the circumpolar region – Chukotka, Alaska, Canada and Greenland.

Our footprints are throughout the Arctic. We continue to travel on both land and the ice paths that have allowed us to survive as a specie within the Arctic. The right to determine and freely travel where hunting may be most advantageous or to visit relations has been severely affected throughout Inuit Nunaat. Since first contact, Inuit have faced numerous impacts to our overall cultural security and integrity due to the imposition of artificial borders and the nation-state notion of border security.

Today, we are keen not only to maintain and develop contacts amongst blood relations, but also to remove barriers in order to develop in all realms of social, cultural, economic, political, and spiritual dimensions. Consistent with the *UN Declaration*, as a distinct people with a common culture and history, UN member states have a responsibility to take effective measures to implement this multidimensional right.

We have a holistic view of our environment, its ecosystems and the species that we depend upon, such as the herds of caribou, whales, polar bears, and even fox, all of which have

extraordinary migratory patterns. This holistic view is stifled by international borders and our ability to hunt and manage these species are compromised by international borders.

The study has addressed familial and direct blood relations, indigenous ceremony, such as burials, have been hindered due to international borders. However, we suggest that the study amplify the continuing practices of Indigenous economies. The dynamic of borders and our hunting, fishing and harvesting practices must be addressed.

In addition, the rights to use, possession and trade of marine mammal byproducts are an important element of Inuit economic activities and include use of seal skin, walrus ivory and other byproducts. Another dimension includes the need for cross-border collective management and co-management of resources that present challenges for because our communities and territory transcend international borders. The matter is directly related to food security and governance or management of our lands, territories and resources in a fashion that guarantees our food security – essentially food sovereignty.

As previously mentioned, the Pikialasorsuaq project of the Inuit Circumpolar Council seized upon the essential element of cross-border Inuit relations in their conclusions and recommendations. This North Water polynya is regarded as the ‘most biologically productive region north of the Arctic Circle’, and Inuit have set their sights on the control and management of the region because of its central role in the way of life of Inuit that inhabit the region. Specifically, the Commission affirmed that Inuit management is necessary to regulate and safeguard the health of the region; the need for a distinct status for this area; and establishment of a ‘free travel zone’ across the Pikialasorsuaq.

In conclusion, due to the limited time, we will deliver our additional comments to the members of EMRIP directly for consideration. Again, thank you for your work.