

# The 20<sup>th</sup> Saami Conference, Murmansk, May 2-4, 2013

## Declaration



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The 20th Saami Conference, representing the Saami Council's member organizations in Finland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, 2-4 May 2013

Reiterates that the Saami constitute one people and that national borders shall not infringe on our national unity.

– Sápmi – since time immemorial and long before national borders were drawn;

in our inland and coastal territories, and in our sea territories, we have developed a rich living culture, a distinctive social structure, traditions and a collective identity.

Underlines that this culture defines the Saami as a people and gives us an obligation to respect the Saami's right to self-determination, to take effective measures to prevent any form of assimilation and reverse the effects of past injustices.

Reiterates that as a people, the Saami have the right to self-determination.

Therefore, the Saami Conference resolves:

a. With regard to industrial activities in Sápmi

1. Based on the right to self-

~~governance, the Saami local communities have the right to consent or not consent before~~  
Saami traditional land and sea territory.

~~Based on the right to property, Saami local communities have the right to consent or not consent before~~  
~~users enter their respective traditional territories.~~

3. Increasing focus on the private sector's responsibility to respect human rights does not mean that state  
~~responsibility diminishes. Government responsibility does not mean that the state is not responsible.~~  
Saami population have the ultimate legal responsibility to respect, protect and fulfill Saami human rights.

4. The Saami Conference was the first to establish a framework in place in order to ensure that  
~~ensures respect for Saami human rights in relation to the industry. Non-Saami states must act in order~~

~~to ensure that the industry respects human rights in the Saami territories and territories which contain Saami human rights.~~  
acceptable,

5. The Saami Conference calls on the state to ensure that the industry respects human rights in the  
~~populations have:~~

- a.
- b. ~~out a regulatory framework that includes satisfactory criminal, civil, administrative and~~  
erty rights to lands, waters and  
natural resources, in a manner that ensures compliance with Saami local communities' right to consent or  
not to industrial activities in their traditional territories, and
- c. ~~to ensure that the industry respects human rights in the Saami territories and territories which contain Saami human rights.~~

6. ~~The Saami Conference calls on the state to ensure that the industry respects human rights in the~~  
~~areas for not respecting Saami human rights. Irrespective of state law and policy, business must not engage in~~  
~~activities that result in human rights violations. This means that the industry must respect human rights in the~~  
corporate responsibility.

7. Corporations operating in the Saami territories must do due diligence to ensure that they are not complicit in  
~~violations of human rights in the Saami territories. This means that the industry must respect human rights in the~~  
due diligence must specifically ensure that the corporation is not contributing to the state's failure to meet their  
obligation in their behavior in the Saami territories. Actions and practices are not in conformance with  
~~international law and standards.~~

8. Facing business in the Saami territories to not enter. The Saami Conference calls on corporations to comply with

- a. require that corporations obtain Saami communities' consent before entering their territories
- b. and
- c. prohibit corporations from conducting industrial activities in their or to their respective territories.

9. The mineral strategies the states' with Saami population have presented are incomplete. They only cater for rapid extraction of the mineral industry in the Sámi territories, not to Saami needs, culture, interests and livelihoods.

10. The inadequate mineral strategies will result in uncontrolled expansion of mining activities into the Sámi territories. This will lead to a deterioration of the Sámi culture and Sámi livelihoods and to a loss of Sámi identity. At the same time, the Sámi population is being reduced by the mining activities. None of the states with Sámi population depend on new mines opening in the Sámi territories today. Neither do the minerals serve Sámi areas now. The Sámi Conference reiterates its demand that the states with Sámi population halt mineral extraction until a time when an adequate regulatory framework is in place and the consequences on Sámi society, culture and livelihoods are known.

11. The states should continue Saami's struggle for the Sámi definition of Sámi and Sámi territory. The adoption of one Saami definition by Saami political institutions in keeping with the Saami people to have the right and to so to determine the structure and scope of their institutions in accordance with their procedures.

12. The states should ensure that the Sámi people have a sufficient number of representatives in their electoral registers.

13. The Sámi people are facing a number of challenges, which are not inherent in the Sámi livelihoods and its food security, constitute serious possible pressures to their

14. rapid changes happening faster than ever before and are becoming more and more frequent. The Sámi people are also impacted by adaptation and mitigation strategies put in force concerning land use change and climate change policies making processes

15. The Sámi people have traditional knowledge on how to cope with variations. Governments should not restrict this knowledge and should instead support and adapt to climate changes. States must monitor and adjust their frameworks to avoid such institutional constraints.

