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## INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE

### DECLARATION ON INUIT RIGHTS TO HUNT, SHARE, AND TRADE MARINE MAMMALS AND THEIR PRODUCTS

We the delegates to the General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference meeting in Nuuk, Greenland in July 1998,

RECOGNIZING that:

- Marine mammals are critically important to maintaining Inuit culture, identity, values, and way of life;
- Other cultures also attach emotional and other values to marine mammals;
- Both Inuit and other cultures wish to conserve and protect marine mammals and marine biodiversity;
- The future of human survival depends upon developing sustainable relationships with renewable resources; and
- Marine mammals are one of the few existing opportunities for small Inuit communities to develop small-scale sustainable economies;

AFFIRMING that Inuit have the right to:

- Continue to hunt marine mammals;
- Share and exchange marine mammal products;
- Manage their use of marine mammals in sustainable ways;
- Incorporate Inuit values, expertise, and knowledge in management practice; and
- Trade marine mammal products to develop and promote local sustainable economies;

NOTING that these rights and principles are recognized in a variety of international agreements, conventions, and declarations; and

EMPHASIZING that no government has the right to restrict or regulate our sustainable use of marine mammals;

THEREFORE CALL UPON national governments to:

- Recognize and apply these rights and principles; and
- Enact legislation that removes trade restrictions on marine mammal products.

Adopted by the 8th General Assembly of the ICC  
Nuuk, Greenland, July 31, 1998

Signed by:

Aqqaluk Lynge, President

ICC Executive Council  
Ottawa, September 20, 1998

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