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# The Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Arctic Governance

*Climate change and the Arctic. Security  
implications.*

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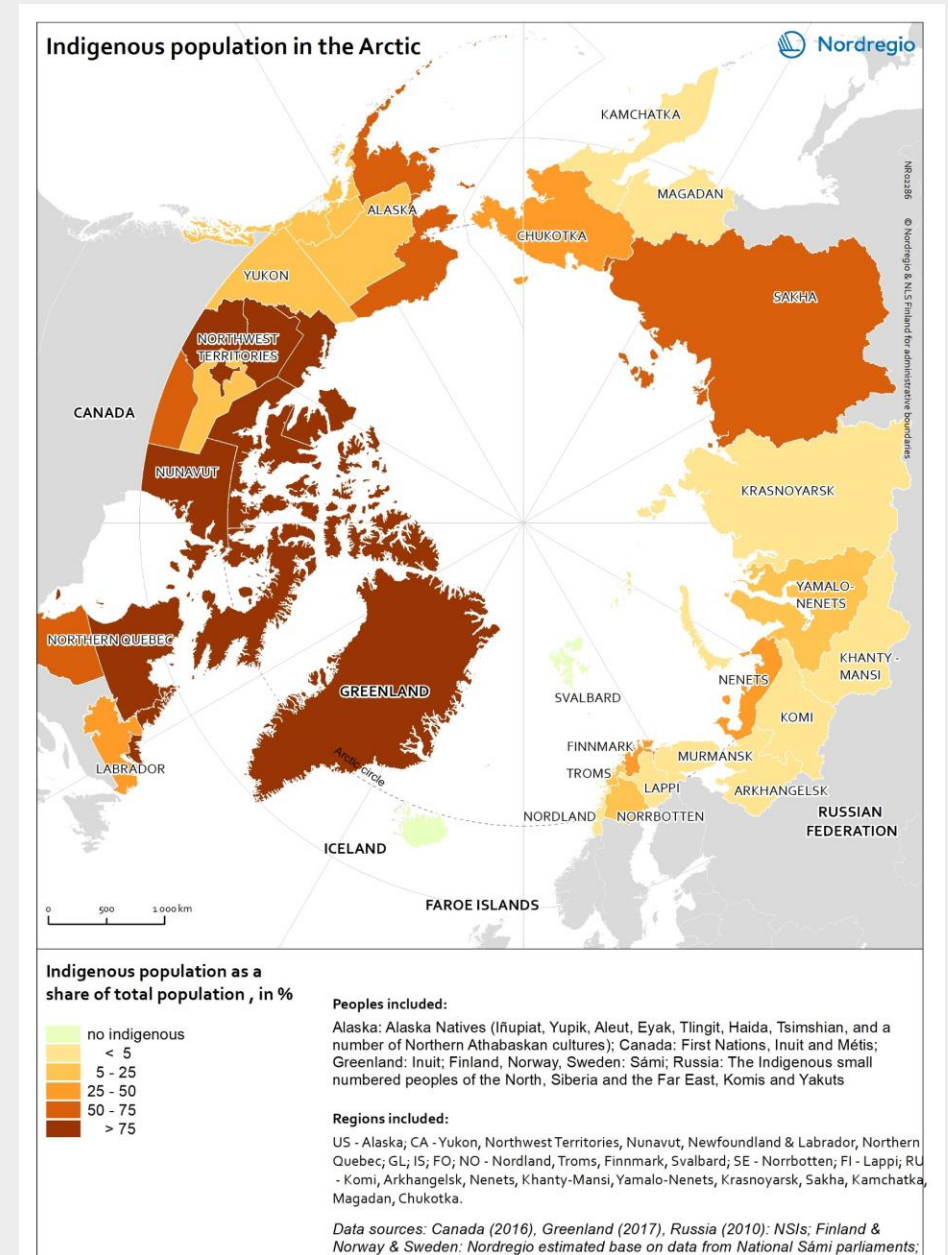
# Indigenous Peoples in International Law

- The concept of Indigenous Peoples in international law
- No formal international legally binding definition but ...

“Indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing on those territories, or parts of them. They form at present non-dominant sectors of society and are determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territories, and their ethnic identity, as the basis of their continued existence as peoples, in accordance with their own cultural patterns, social institutions and legal system.” – José Martínez Cobo, Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

# Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic

- Colonial legacy and state expansion in the Arctic
- ~4 million people in the Arctic – not all Indigenous: why does it matter? (local/Indigenous)



# Indigenous Peoples at the Arctic Council

## PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS



AIA  
Aleut  
International  
Association



AAC  
Arctic  
Athabaskan  
Council



GCI  
Gwich'in Council  
International



ICC  
Inuit Circumpolar  
Council



RAIPON  
Russian  
Association of  
Indigenous  
Peoples of the  
North



Saami Council

- Six “Permanent Participants”
- Participation and involvement in Working Groups projects and deliverables
- Knowledge production and “policy-making” (science-policy-law)
- Model governance? (partnership between States and Indigenous Peoples, ecosystem approaches, collaboration between scientific and traditional knowledge, ...)

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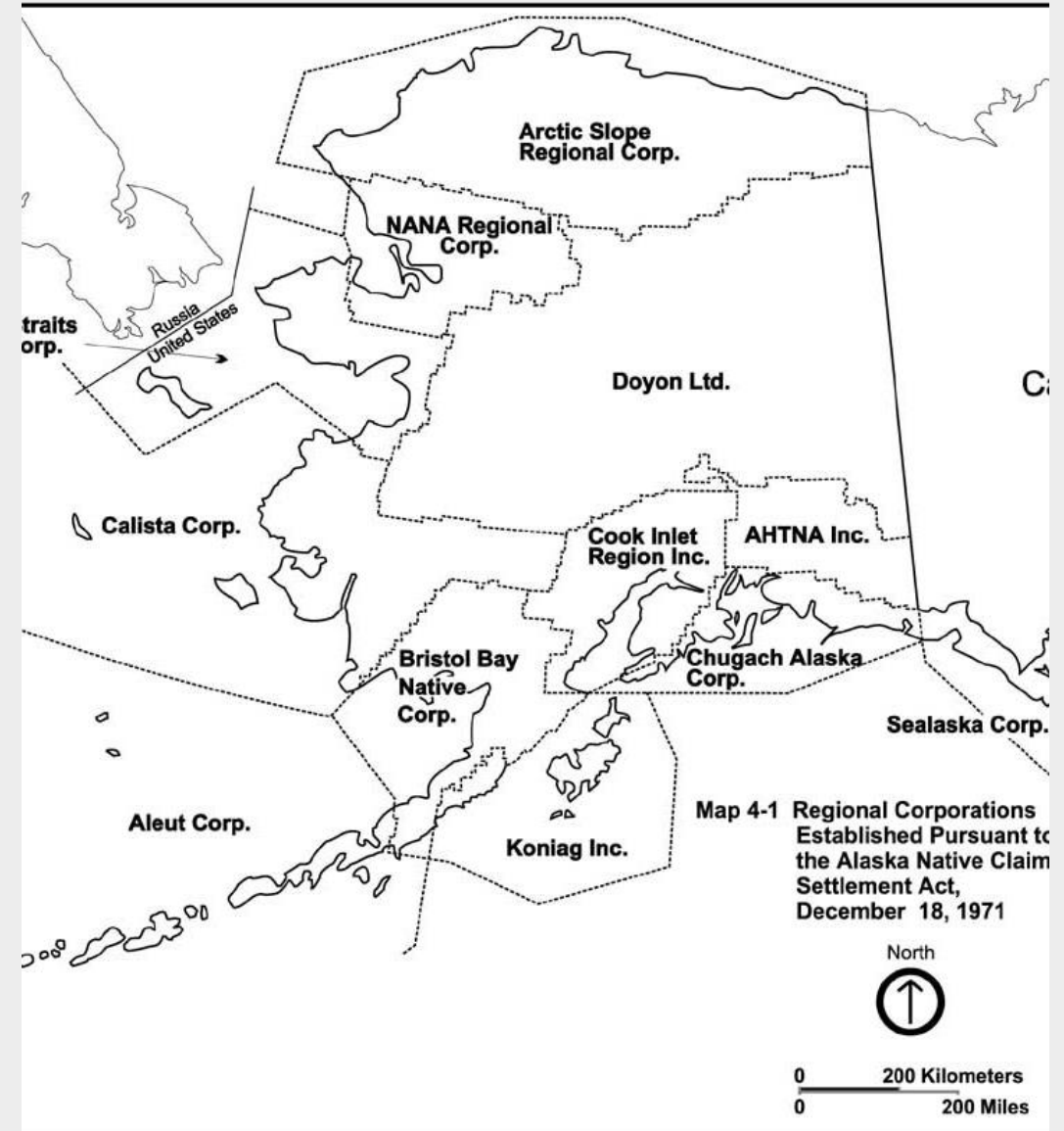
# The Rights of Indigenous Peoples

“In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language.” – International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Art. 27

- Indigenous Peoples and UN Human Rights framework (e.g. ICCPR Art. 27, ICESCR, CERD, ...)
- 1989 International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention N°169 on
- 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Domestic laws across the Arctic

# Indigenous Self-Determination and Sovereignty

- Right to (internal) self-determination
- Indigenous Self-Government in the Arctic (Nunavut, Greenland, Sápmi, ...)
- Land Claims Agreements (Canada)
- Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (Alaska)



Regional corporations established by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).





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# Land Rights and Resource Governance

- Resource extraction and industrial activities on Indigenous territories
- Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)
- “Green transition” and “green colonialism”
- Co-management of land and resources
- Climate change and Indigenous security
- Climate change impacts and adaptation challenges.

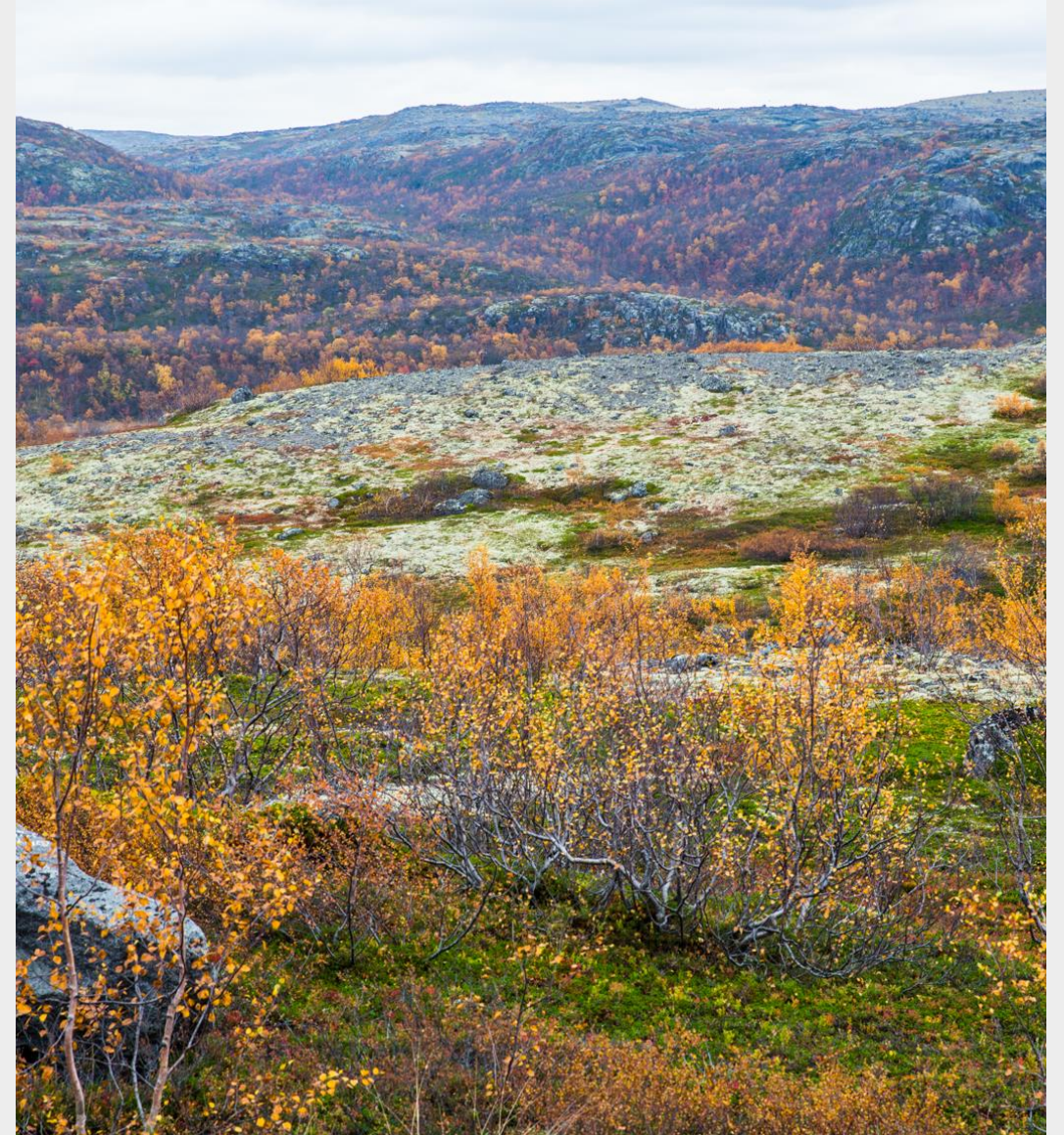
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**Thank You**

**Any Questions?**

**Email**

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**Close to Teriberka, Kola Peninsula, Russia**