



June 9, 2022

Re: [Joint Statement on Limited Resumption of Arctic Council Cooperation](#)

The Gwich'in Nation has been, and will continue to be, involved in the building out of Arctic governance. This is our north, our land, and our people, and we are committed to peace, security, and safety in our homelands and across the Arctic. As our Nation has long advocated for respect and recognition of our sovereignty and right to self-determination, we extend our support to the people impacted by the conflict in Ukraine and particularly to Indigenous Peoples in Ukraine and Russia.

We do not condone the actions of Russia, and remain unable to gather under their leadership while they are engaged in conflict in Ukraine. We are gravely concerned about the suspension of work under the Arctic Council, and highlight the importance of advancing cooperation against climate change and wildland fires, addressing food security and mental health, and the safety and security of people living in the Arctic. We will continue to work with our partners on projects that align with community priorities.

As Arctic states consider the future of the Arctic Council, we demand to be a part of discussions on the resumption and continuation of Arctic Council work as well as the different modalities that are being considered. The Permanent Participants make the Arctic Council the premier intergovernmental forum for Arctic affairs and without our unique and valuable insight, the Arctic Council will cease to be the voice of the Circumpolar North. Gwich'in Council International remains committed to engage in productive dialogues that advance the collective aim and responsibility of stewarding a peaceful Arctic region built on cooperation and our shared value of mutual respect.

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