**The international introductory course "Arctic Council and the role of Permanent participants" in Moscow.**

**Official communication to the media**

On November 16, representatives of the indigenous peoples of the North of Russia will come to Moscow to participate in the international introductory course "Arctic Council and the role of Permanent participants". Officials of the Arctic Council will take part in the work.

The seminar participants will get acquainted with the work of the Arctic Council. And then, together with foreign guests, they will participate in hearings on the support of indigenous peoples in The building of the Russian Parliament.

**Mr Grigory Ledkov, head of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, said: " In 2021, Russia, for the second time, for a two-year term, will become the Chairman of the Arctic Council. Thanks to the active actions of today's Chairman - Finland and its leader – Mr. Sauli Niinisto, the Arctic Council has become the most productive of all platforms of political dialogue in the Arctic. I Hope that Russia will use every opportunity as Chairman to turn the Arctic into a region of peace and prosperity. To do this, we decided to hold an introductory course in Moscow. We want to show the leaders of the indigenous peoples of Russia the real advantages of the Arctic Council."**

Antonina Gorbunova, head of the international relations Department of the Russian Association: "we expect that the communities of the indigenous peoples of the Russian Arctic will take an active part in the preparation and implementation of the events planned for the period of Russia's chairmanship of the Arctic Council. We also want the leaders of the Russian indigenous peoples to understand the importance of their mission in the Russian Arctic."

The international introductory course "Arctic Council and the role of Permanent participants" is organized by the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) in partnership with the Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples Secretariat, as well as with the international centre for reindeer husbandry in Norway.

1st day. Parliamentary hearings "on legislative protection of the original habitat and traditional way of life of indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation". The hearings are held by the state Duma of the Russian Federation, the Course participants are invited as experts.

The 2nd day of the Course is an International seminar "Indigenous peoples of the Arctic Council" with the participation of senior officials of the Arctic Council and representatives of the Arctic Council member countries.

The partner and co-organizer of the Seminar is the Ministry of foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, which will be represented at the event by the Ambassador, Senior official of the Arctic Council from the Russian Federation Vladimir Barbin.

The 3rd day is dedicated to training and informing the participants. Representatives of indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation will be able to get acquainted with the structure of the Arctic Council, its history and activities.

**Course participants**: regional leaders of indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation, representatives of the Council of Elders, The business Council of the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, youth activists of regional movements.

**A number of representatives of the Arctic Council structures, its participants and observers also confirmed their participation:**

1. Svein Disch Mathiesen, International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry,
2. Anders Oskal, International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry,
3. Nina Buvang Vaaja, Director, Arctic Council Secretariat,
4. SAO Chair Aleksi Härkönen,
5. Alison LeClaire, Senior Arctic Official of Canada,
6. Aili Keskitalo, the President of the Sámi Parliament in Norway,
7. Anna Degteva, IPS Executive Secretary, Indigenous Peoples Secretariat,
8. Eirik Larsen, adviser of the President of the Sámi Parliament in Norway,
9. Inna Tarysheva, Special Advisor, Arctic Council Secretariat
10. Sally Ann Swetzof, Alaska, USA, Aleut International Association,
11. Chief Bill Erasmus, the International Chair of Arctic Athabaskan Council,
12. Natasha Latreille, Office and Project Coordinator, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Canada,
13. Ellen Inga Turi, Saami Council,
14. Leif Arnold Halonen, Saami Council,
15. Michaela Stith, Intern, Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples’ Secretariat, USA,
16. Maja Kolmos, The Embassy Of The Kingdom Of Denmark,
17. Beverley Young, Government of Canada.