



PRESS RELEASE

ICC draws attention to the requirement for information and involvement

According to Sermitsiaq/AG, March 25, 2020, the Australian mineral exploration company, *Greenland Minerals Ltd.* (GML) – the former *Greenland Minerals and Energy* (GME) is going to submit a revised version of the company's EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) including an *Assessment of Social Sustainability* on the mining project on the *Kuannersuit* Mountain (Kvanefjeldet) in late March or early April.

ICC Greenland is following the development of the mining project, especially the concerns expressed by many sheep farmers on numerous occasions.

- All the residents of Narsaq and its surroundings should be the first to be informed and involved on the mining project prior to the authorities' approval of the EIA and other studies, Hjalmar Dahl, President of ICC Greenland says.

The sheep farmers express great concern for the future of their profession. At the annual meeting of the sheep farmers association's in Qaqortoq, it has earlier become very clear that a majority of the farmers are against the mining project. The association expresses its concern about losing their contribution to the food production in Greenland: "*It is clear and already documented that the extraction of large-scale uranium-containing soils is not compatible with the production of agricultural products.*"

ICC Greenland leans against the *ILO Convention No. 169* and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), where the population is entitled to obtain *Free, Prior and Informed Consent* (FPIC) in order to give their consent or their refusal to projects of this nature and of this magnitude. Therefore, the ICC strongly urges that both the GML and the Naalakkersuisut (Government of Greenland) follow the international guidelines for the involvement of the affected population, which in addition to the sheep farmers also includes the fishermen and hunters as well as all others living in a larger area around the Kuannersuit.

- The ILO Convention No. 169 and the UNDRIP have clear demands on the right to FPIC, why the Naalakkersuisut has to ensure that the objective of the consultation processes are following these demands for all activities that may affect the population in question, Hjalmar Dahl expresses.
- This includes the requirement for the involvement and dialogue with the population and its real imprint on the whole process, the results and the final goal, Hjalmar Dahl concludes.

Nearby Narsaq, where the Kuannersuit Mountain is located, the sheep farmers fear a radioactive dust pollution of their grazing and cultivation areas most. The fishermen and the hunters are most concerned about a potential spill of tailings into the fjord, and the town's residents are most concerned about their water supply.

Hjalmar Dahl

Præsident

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