



INUIT

**Inuit Circumpolar Council  
Executive Council Resolution 16-01**

**A Resolution of Support for Eskimo Walrus Commission's Opposition of Including Walrus, Mammoth, and Mastodon Ivory in African Elephant Ivory Ban Laws in the United States**

WHEREAS, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) was founded in 1977 to represent the interests of the Inuit of Greenland, Canada, Russia, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the ICC works to protect and promote Inuit culture and society; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Nuuk Declaration instructs ICC to “Support Inuit hunters in their struggle to adapt to the new Arctic, and Ask ICC to fight unethical and unfair trade restrictions placed on our own products”; and

WHEREAS, 2010 Nuuk Declaration further states to “Instruct ICC to promote the redefinition of hunting activities and use of renewable resources by Inuit as a profession within all international human rights fora”; and

WHEREAS, the use of legally acquired walrus, mammoth, mastodon or other marine mammal ivory by Inuit carvers to create tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork is a longstanding cultural tradition that continues to be a vital component of Inuit culture today; and

WHEREAS, the sale of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork by Inuit is an important source of income in the cash-limited economies of Arctic communities; and

WHEREAS, in efforts to stem the poaching of African elephants, various U.S. states have passed laws banning the sale, use, or possession of all ivory, and additional states are considering such laws; and

WHEREAS, these ivory ban laws fail to acknowledge the difference between African elephant ivory and legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory used by Inuit artists; and

WHEREAS, these state laws will negatively impact Inuit artists who depend on the sale of their handicrafts as a source of important income in a cash-limited economy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ICC insists that walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory be exempted from current and future ivory bans at regional, national and international levels.

**Inuit Circumpolar Council – Office of the Chair**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ICC Executive Council expresses support to the Eskimo Walrus Commission's Resolution 2016-01 *A Resolution Opposing the Inclusion of Walrus, Mammoth, and Mastodon Ivory in African Elephant Ivory Ban Laws in the United States.*

UNANIMOUSLY PASSED AND ADOPTED by the ICC Executive Council in a regular meeting on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Okalik Egeesiak'.

Okalik Egeesiak, Chair  
Inuit Circumpolar Council