

# **Opening the Arctic Seas Arctic Peoples – the Saami**

By Gunn-Britt Retter  
Head of Arctic and Environmental Unit  
Saami Council

# One People in Four Countries



- The Saami live in four national states
- Common language, culture and traditions
- Common Saami flag, national day and national anthem

# Varangersaami



Ceavccegeađgi – Mortensnes:

- Settlements through 10,000 years
- one step on the ground is a step of 1000 years in history



# Arctic Visions and Interests

- Land of discovery
- Storehouse of Resources
- Environmental linchpin
- The scientific Arctic

Arctic Council Arctic Human Development Report, 2004



# Arctic Peoples' Homeland

Do you take any risks of  
ruining you home?



# Climate Change – Arctic race

- More access
- More exploitation of resources
- More shipping
- More burning of oil and gas
- Excellerate Cliamte Change





**The United Nations**

**INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

## **Article 27**

“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 practice their own religion, or to use their own language.”

# **Free, prior and informed consent**

- direct and binding negotiations with  
Indigenous Peoples





**Do you take any risks of  
ruining you home?**

