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ARCTIC GOVERNANCE AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: A HUMAN SECURITY PERSPECTIVE

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The presentation will bring important questions related to the governance of human security in response to the challenges facing the indigenous peoples of the Arctic region. While the Arctic has fairly good regional governance framework in general, indigenous peoples are not covered by any overarching legal framework. The law of the sea, for instance, is regarded as offering adequate legal framework to govern the Arctic, fails to address the issues pertaining to indigenous peoples despite the conflicting interests they may have in regard to marine and coastal resource usage. Despite the important contribution provided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and that all the Arctic states, except Russia, have endorsed the Instrument, yet the nature of it is non-legally binding character bringing very little meaning in the realization of indigenous peoples' rights. ILO Convention 169 is only applicable to Norway and Denmark amongst the region, however, with overlapping contested claims between state and indigenous people in Norway, while in the main land Denmark there is no indigenous peoples. ICCPR is applicable in all across the Arctic, but the rights of the indigenous peoples may only be addressed in a limited context to the extent right to culture of the minorities is concerned, where indigenous peoples form minority. As a result indigenous peoples' concerns can largely be addressed as problem of human security. A number of documents mainly produced as non-legal documents as a result of regional institutions' initiatives address the human security challenges. The findings of these documents contribute to the development of Arctic states' national strategies on indigenous issues. The presentation will bring insights on human security challenges and their governance in the context of Arctic indigenous peoples.