

Arctic Council

DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE GOVERNMENTS
OF THE ARCTIC COUNTRIES ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Ottawa, Canada

September 19, 1996

DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

THE REPRESENTATIVES of the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States of America (hereinafter referred to as the Arctic States) meeting in Ottawa;

AFFIRMING our commitment to the well-being of the inhabitants of the Arctic, including recognition of the special relationship and unique contributions to the Arctic of indigenous people and their communities;

AFFIRMING our commitment to sustainable development in the Arctic region, including economic and social development, improved health conditions and cultural well-being;

AFFIRMING concurrently our commitment to the protection of the Arctic environment, including the health of Arctic ecosystems, maintenance of biodiversity in the Arctic region and conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;

RECOGNIZING the contributions of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy to these commitments;

RECOGNIZING the traditional knowledge of the indigenous people of the Arctic and their communities and taking note of its importance and that of Arctic science and research to the collective understanding of the circumpolar Arctic;

DESIRING further to provide a means for promoting cooperative activities to address Arctic issues requiring circumpolar cooperation, and to ensure full consultation with and the full involvement of indigenous people and their communities and other inhabitants of the Arctic in such activities;

RECOGNIZING the valuable contribution and support of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Saami Council, and the Association of the Indigenous Minorities of the North, Siberia, and the Far East of the Russian Federation in the development of the Arctic Council;

DESIRING to provide for regular intergovernmental consideration of and consultation on Arctic issues.

HEREBY DECLARE:

1. The Arctic Council is established as a high level forum to:
 - (a) provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues¹, in particular issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.
 - (b) oversee and coordinate the programs established under the AEPS on the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP); Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF); Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME); and Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR).

¹The Arctic Council should not deal with matters related to military security.

- (c) adopt terms of reference for, and oversee and coordinate a sustainable development program.
 - (d) disseminate information, encourage education and promote interest in Arctic-related issues.
2. Members of the Arctic Council are: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States of America (the Arctic States).

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Saami Council and the Association of Indigenous Minorities of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation are Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council. Permanent participation equally is open to other Arctic organizations of indigenous peoples²⁸ with majority Arctic indigenous constituency, representing:

- (a) a single indigenous people resident in more than one Arctic State; or
- (b) more than one Arctic indigenous people resident in a single Arctic state.

The determination that such an organization has met this criterion is to be made by decision of the Council. The number of Permanent Participants should at any time be less than the number of members.

The category of Permanent Participation is created to provide for active participation and full consultation with the Arctic indigenous representatives within the Arctic Council.

3. Observer status in the Arctic Council is open to:
- (a) non-Arctic states;
 - (b) inter-governmental and inter-parliamentary organizations, global and regional; and
 - (c) non-governmental organizations

that the Council determines can contribute to its work.

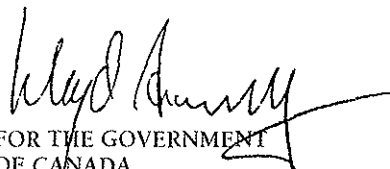
4. The Council should normally meet on a biennial basis, with meetings of senior officials taking place more frequently, to provide for liaison and co-ordination. Each Arctic State should designate a focal point on matters related to the Arctic Council.
5. Responsibility for hosting meetings of the Arctic Council, including provision of secretariat support functions, should rotate sequentially among the Arctic States.
6. The Arctic Council, as its first order of business, should adopt rules of procedure for its meetings and those of its working groups.
7. Decisions of the Arctic Council are to be by consensus of the Members.

²⁸The use of the term "peoples" in this Declaration shall not be construed as having any implications as regard the rights which may attach to the term under international law.

8. The Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat established under AEPS is to continue under the framework of the Arctic Council.
9. The Arctic Council should regularly review the priorities and financing of its programs and associated structures.

THEREFORE, we the undersigned representatives of our respective Governments, recognizing the Arctic Council's political significance and intending to promote its results, have signed this Declaration.

SIGNED by the representatives of the Arctic States in Ottawa, this 19th day of September 1996.


FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF CANADA


FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF DENMARK

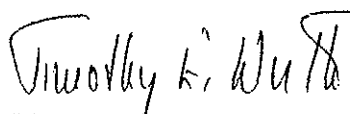

FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF FINLAND


FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF ICELAND


FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF NORWAY


FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION


FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF SWEDEN


FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE ARCTIC COUNTRIES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Ministers and Senior Representatives of the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States of America met in Ottawa, Canada, on September 19, 1996, and signed the Declaration on the Establishment of the Arctic Council.

This inaugural meeting was attended by the leaders and senior representatives of three international Arctic indigenous organizations - the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Saami Council, and the Association of Indigenous Minorities of the North, Siberia, and the Far East of the Russian Federation, as Permanent Participants in the Council.

Also present at the signing ceremony were the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region; the Nordic Council of Ministers; the Nordic Council Finnish Secretariat; the non-Arctic States of Great Britain, Germany, Japan, Poland and the Netherlands; the International Union for Circumpolar Health; the International Arctic Science Committee; the United Nations Environment Programme; the International Union for the Conservation of Nature; the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea; and the World Wildlife Fund.

Ministers viewed the establishment of this new intergovernmental forum as an important milestone in their commitment to enhance cooperation in the circumpolar North. The Council will provide a mechanism for addressing the common concerns and challenges faced by their governments and the people of the Arctic. To this end, Ministers referred particularly to the protection of the Arctic environment and sustainable development as a means of improving the economic, social and cultural well-being in the North.

Ministers noted that the indigenous people of the Arctic have played an important role in the negotiations to create the Arctic Council. The Declaration provides for their full consultation and involvement in the Arctic Council. To this end, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Saami Council, and the Association of the Indigenous Minorities of the North, Siberia, and the Far East of the Russian Federation, are named as Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council. Provision is also made for additional organizations representing Arctic indigenous people to become Permanent Participants.

Ministers acknowledged the significant work accomplished under the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS), whose existing programs will be integrated within the Council. They agreed to complete the integration process by the time of the final AEPS Ministerial meeting being held in Norway in 1997.

The Ministers recognized the contribution of international science to the knowledge and understanding of the Arctic region and noted the role that scientific cooperation, through the International Arctic Science Committee and other organizations, is playing in developing a truly circumpolar cooperation.

Ministers welcomed the attendance of the Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region and looked forward to its future participation in the meetings of the Council. They also recognized the need for providing the opportunity to non-Arctic countries, governmental and non-governmental organizations with Arctic interests to participate actively, as Observers, in the work of the Council, and to draw on their experience.

Ministers set the initial priority tasks for the start-up of the Council as follows:

- developing, for adoption by the Council, rules of procedure;
- developing, for adoption by the Council, terms of reference for a sustainable development program as a basis for collaborative projects; and
- ensuring an effective transition of the AEPS into the Arctic Council, to be completed at the time of the 1997 AEPS Ministerial meeting in Norway.

Ministers expressed their appreciation to Canada for hosting the inauguration of the Arctic Council, and welcomed Canada's offer to host the first meeting of the Council in 1998.

The First Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council

Iqaluit, Canada, September 17-18, 1998

The Iqaluit Declaration

THE IQALUIT DECLARATION

The Arctic Council Iqaluit Ministerial Meeting is the first Meeting under the Arctic Council established on September 19, 1996, in Ottawa, Canada. *The Declaration on the Establishment of the Arctic Council* created the Council as a high level forum to provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic; oversee and co-ordinate the programs established under the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy; adopt terms of reference for and oversee and coordinate a sustainable development program; and disseminate information, encourage education and promote interest in Arctic-related issues.

The category of Permanent Participation is created to provide for active participation and full consultation with the Arctic indigenous representatives within the Arctic Council. The Council acknowledges and appreciates the contributions of the Permanent Participants: the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Saami Council and the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, and the contributions from Observers, in the work and programs of the Arctic Council.

WE, THE MINISTERS OF THE ARCTIC COUNTRIES HEREBY:

1. **Adopt** the Arctic Council Rules of Procedure and Arctic Council Terms of Reference for a Sustainable Development Program, attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively, to the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) Report 1998;
2. **Approve** the Aleut International Association as a Permanent Participant in the Arctic Council;
3. **Welcome and approve** the status of Observer for:

The Federal Republic of Germany
The Kingdom of The Netherlands
Poland
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
The Nordic Council
The Northern Forum
The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE)
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)
The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR)
The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
The International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH);

4. **Direct** SAOs to continue to review applications relating to Permanent Participant status and Observer status to the Arctic Council, and to recommend applicants for approval at the next Arctic Council Ministerial in 2000;
5. **Welcome** the SAOs' Report to the First Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council and **adopt** the recommendations contained within the Report;
6. **Commit** to the well-being of the inhabitants of the Arctic, and **affirm** that the goal of the sustainable development program of the Arctic Council is to propose and adopt steps to be taken by the Arctic States to advance sustainable development in the Arctic, including opportunities to protect and enhance the environment, and the economies, cultures and health of indigenous communities and of other inhabitants of the Arctic, as well as to improve the environmental, economic and social conditions of Arctic communities as a whole;
7. **Establish** the Sustainable Development Program, and **welcome** the sustainable development proposals from Arctic States and Permanent Participants in the areas of Arctic children and youth, health, telemedicine, resource management, including fisheries, cultural and eco-tourism, technology transfer to improve Arctic sanitation systems, and national sustainable development strategies. We **direct** the SAOs to guide the completion of work on proposals in these areas and **encourage** that funding be sought, so that projects can be initiated as quickly as possible before the next Ministerial meeting;
8. **Welcome** Canada's offer to take the lead with respect to the project on Arctic children and youth, and to provide staff support, and **welcome** the offer of the United States to take the lead with respect to the project on telemedicine, and **further welcome** the offer of the Saami Council to take the lead with respect to the two fisheries management projects. We **request** that Canada and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme cooperate in reviewing knowledge on the impacts of environmental contamination on the health and development of children and youth, under the direction of the SAOs;
9. **Establish** a Sustainable Development Working Group, comprised of SAOs and Permanent Participants, or their designated representatives, which will meet prior to the SAOs' regular meetings, or at other times to be determined, and **request** that it facilitate completion of work on sustainable development proposals identified above, propose possible priority areas in the further development of the sustainable development program, and review specific proposals and prepare them for approval by the Ministers;
10. **Encourage** the Sustainable Development Working Group to take special note of proposals which reflect the importance of traditional and indigenous knowledge and the perspectives of indigenous communities in developing a sustainable future for the Arctic;

11. **Welcome, and are pleased to announce**, the establishment of a University of the Arctic, a university without walls, as proposed by a working group of the Circumpolar Universities Association. We **note** the kind offer of Finland to support the interim secretariat. We **encourage** the working group to continue its efforts and to consult with northern educational and indigenous authorities and colleges. We **look forward** to further reports on this issue and to seeking ways to promote the success of this initiative;
12. **Acknowledge** the successful integration of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) and the four working groups as constituted in the AEPS: Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment, and Emergency, Prevention, Preparedness and Response; into the Arctic Council and **direct** SAOs to continue their efforts in enabling a smooth transition;
13. **Receive with appreciation** the comprehensive Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) Assessment Report: Arctic Pollution Issues, which contains the substantive scientific documentation in support of the Arctic Pollution Issues - A State of the Arctic Environment Report, presented to the 4th AEPS Ministerial Meeting in Alta;
14. **Welcome** the establishment of the AMAP Human Health Thematic Data Centre by Denmark;
15. **Reaffirm** our commitment from the Alta Declaration to take the findings and recommendations from the AMAP Report, Arctic Pollution Issues : A State of the Arctic Environment Report, into consideration in our policies and programmes, to increase our efforts to limit and reduce emissions of contaminants into the environment and to promote international cooperation and make a determined effort to secure support for international actions in order to address the serious pollution risks reported by AMAP;
16. **Recognize** the need to continue to identify actions to address the pollution sources identified in the AMAP Report, and **instruct** SAOs to continue to develop an overall plan of action complementary to existing legal arrangements and the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities. This plan, the Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic (ACAP), should include actions of a wide scope on pollution prevention and remediation measures, also including the identification and implementation of specific co-operative projects;
17. **Welcome with appreciation and support** the three-part cooperative pilot project for the phase out of PCB use, and management of PCB-contaminated wastes in the Russian Federation as an example of a cooperative project under ACAP, and **endorse** Part I of the PCB project, which has financial and other support from all Arctic States. We **encourage and support** AMAP in its activities to complete Part I of this project;

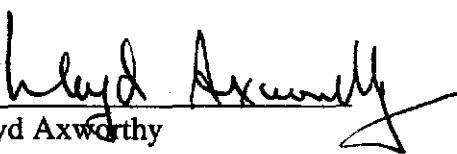
18. **Agree** to work vigorously for the early ratification and implementation of the Protocols on the elimination or reduction of discharges, emissions and losses of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and of Heavy Metals under the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution. We **encourage** other states to do the same, with the aim to bring the Protocols into force as early as possible. We **fully support** regional cooperation to facilitate the delivery of the measures that are needed to meet the obligations of the Protocols on POPs and Heavy Metals;
19. **Strongly welcome** the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee under the auspices of United Nations Environment Programme to work towards the conclusion of a global agreement on POPs by the year 2000, and **encourage** the Arctic States to act together to assist the early conclusion of such a global agreement;
20. **Welcome** and **endorse** the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Strategic Plan for the Conservation of Arctic Biological Diversity as an overall framework for CAFF activities; **encourage** its timely implementation through more detailed Work Plans, to be approved by SAOs; and **welcome** CAFF's continued role in coordinating the implementation of the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network and the conservation strategies for murres and eiders;
21. **Welcome** CAFF's intention to prepare an overview on the status and trends in changes to ecosystems, habitats and species in the Arctic and to identify elements of a program to monitor circumpolar biological diversity and to assess, in collaboration with AMAP, the effects of climate change and UV-B radiation on Arctic ecosystems;
22. **Endorse** the Emergency, Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) Work Plan set forth in EPPR's Strategic Plan of Action; **ask** the working group to initiate new projects and activities as indicated in the chapters: Activity Areas and Possible Future Activities of the Work Plan; and **endorse** the development of a Circumpolar Map of Resources at Risk from Oil Spills in the Arctic;
23. **Welcome** the Field Guide for Oil Spill Response in Arctic Waters, as a source of information on how to deal with oil spills in the Arctic; and **take note** of both the report of Phase I Analysis of Communication and Notification Systems in Place for Arctic Risks and the Revised Environmental Risk Analysis of Arctic Activities;

24. **Welcome with appreciation** the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA); **agree** to work vigorously for the early implementation of the actions described in the first phase of the RPA and in a manner consistent with the associated international agreements and arrangements; **further agree** to develop additional actions to protect the Arctic marine environment; **recognize** the important role of the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) in the implementation and further development of the RPA; and **accept** the kind offer of the Government of Iceland to host the PAME Secretariat on a voluntary funding basis;
25. **Support** the efforts of the Russian Federation to develop and implement a Russian Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (Russian NPA-Arctic); including seeking appropriate support to help Russia finalize the Russian NPA-Arctic and host a Partnership Conference to be organized with the assistance of the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea which would seek funds to remediate regional priority pollution sources and activities identified in the RPA and Russian NPA-Arctic;
26. **Promote** the application of the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines and recommend their review in the year 2000; the assessment of current and potential shipping activities to assist in determining what, if any, additional Arctic shipping measures are required, including work on an International Code of Safety for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code) under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO); and an assessment of the adequacy of existing international agreements and arrangements related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment;
27. **Acknowledge with appreciation** the voluntary contributions in support of the Working Group secretariats and request that Arctic States consider taking part in voluntary, adequate and reliable funding of all Working Group secretariats, as appropriate;
28. **Undertake** to strengthen our efforts to achieve reliable funding systems for all Arctic Council activities, including seeking support from other international and regional fora and governmental and non-governmental sources;
29. **Request** Arctic States to consider the financial questions involved in securing the participation of the Permanent Participants in the work of the Arctic Council and in the operations of the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat. We **acknowledge with appreciation** the generous financial support by Denmark, Greenland and Canada to the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat;

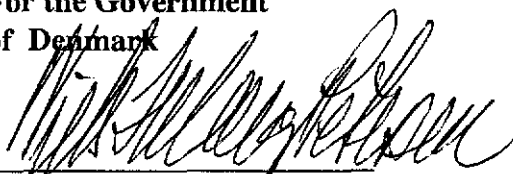
30. **Emphasize** the need for the Arctic Council and its programmes to cooperate closely with existing organizations such as the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Nordic Council of Ministers, and other appropriate fora, including scientific bodies;
31. **Take note** of the statements and recommendations of the Third Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, held April 22-24, 1998 in Salekhard, Russia, and of the Summary Report of the Circumpolar Conference and Workshop on Sustainable Development in the Arctic: Lessons Learned and the Way Ahead, held May 12-14, 1998 in Whitehorse, Canada, as well as the Experts Workshop on Sustainable Development in Northern Timberline Forests, May 10-11, 1998 in Whitehorse, Canada; and **encourage** SAOs to consider the recommendations in the development of project proposals and future activities of the sustainable development program;
32. **Acknowledge with appreciation** Canada's role in chairing the Arctic Council since its inauguration and in hosting the first Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council;
33. **Accept with appreciation** the offer of the United States of America to chair the Arctic Council and to host the second Ministerial Meeting of the Council in 2000.

Signed by the representatives of the Arctic States in Iqaluit, this 18th day of September 1998.

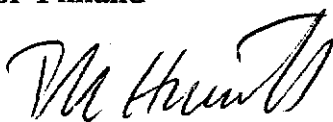
**For the Government
of Canada**


Lloyd Axworthy
Minister of Foreign Affairs

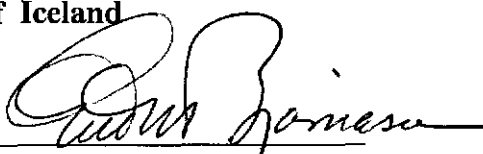
**For the Government
of Denmark**


Niels Helveg Petersen
Minister for Foreign Affairs

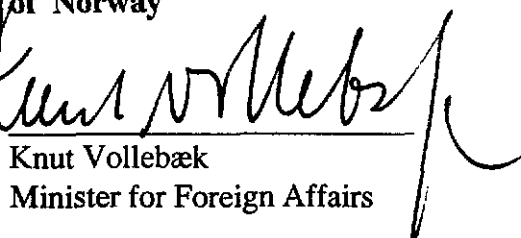
**For the Government
of Finland**


Pekka Haavisto
Minister of Environment and
Minister at the Foreign Ministry
(development co-operation)

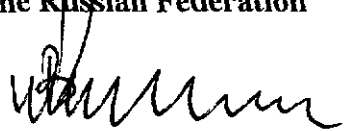
**For the Government
of Iceland**


Gudmundur Bjarnason
Minister of the Environment

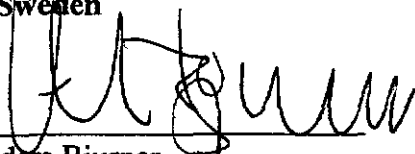
**For the Government
of Norway**


Knut Vollebæk
Minister for Foreign Affairs


**For the Government of
The Russian Federation**


Vladimir Goman
Chairman of the State Committee for the
Development of the North

**For the Government
of Sweden**


Anders Bjurner
Deputy State Secretary

**For the Government of
The United States of America**


Wendy Sherman
Ambassador

BARROW DECLARATION

**on the occasion of the
Second Ministerial Meeting
of**

THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Ministers representing the eight Arctic States, meeting in Barrow, Alaska, United States of America for the second ministerial level meeting of the Arctic Council,

Noting the commitment of the Governments of the Arctic States to environmental protection and sustainable development in the Arctic region,

Acknowledging that international cooperation is fundamental to resolving important circumpolar issues,

Emphasizing the essential role played by Arctic communities and Arctic indigenous inhabitants in all aspects of the future of the Arctic,

Acknowledging the unique role played in the Council and all of its subsidiary bodies by the Permanent Participants,

Noting with pleasure that the Arctic Council, established at Ottawa in 1996, has successfully taken on the responsibilities of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) and has also moved beyond that Strategy to consider the question of sustainable development including the implementation of new projects and programs within the Council's mandate, and that its chairmanship is about to pass to a third Arctic State,

Hereby:

- 1. Endorse and adopt** the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Framework Document, which will form a basis for continuing cooperation on sustainable development in the Arctic, and **declare** that the Arctic Council will play a major role in promoting sustainable development throughout the Arctic;
- 2. Reaffirm the commitment** of the Arctic States to protect the Arctic environment and as a consequence **endorse and adopt** the Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic (ACAP), and

determine that ACAP, developed under the leadership of Norway, will be a basis for developing and implementing actions under the Council's auspices with respect to pollution prevention and remediation;

establish an *ad hoc* ACAP Steering Committee on an interim basis, for a period of two years under the chairmanship of Norway, awaiting a review of the structure of the Arctic Council organization;

decide further that this Committee, which will be a subsidiary body of the Council, will provide a mechanism to supervise the implementation of ACAP, and will report to the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs), and be composed of representatives of Arctic States and Permanent Participants, with the active involvement of the chairs of the Council's working groups and the Council's Observers; and

decide further that ACAP project proposals specified in the SAO Report to Ministers on the priority issues of persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals and radioactivity should commence under the supervision of the Committee and the SAOs;

3. **Endorse and adopt** the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), a joint project of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group, in cooperation with the International Arctic Science Committee, and

acknowledge the establishment of the ACIA Steering Committee to coordinate the ACIA, and **express our appreciation** to the United States for financing a substantial portion of the ACIA Secretariat;

request the ACIA to evaluate and synthesize knowledge on climate variability and change and increased ultraviolet radiation, and support policy-making processes and the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

further request that the assessment address environmental, human health, social, cultural and economic impacts and consequences, including policy recommendations; and

approve the goals and objectives contained in the ACIA Implementation Plan and **request** that the AMAP and CAFF Working Groups, in consultation with the Sustainable Development Working Group, promote the availability of the necessary social and economic expertise to complete the assessment;

4. **Decide** that the Arctic States will coordinate closely in international fora on environmental and sustainable development matters of importance to the Arctic.

5. **Welcome** the SAO Report to the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council and **adopt** the recommendations contained in that Report;

6. **Note with satisfaction** the results achieved by the Sustainable Development Working Group established at the last Ministerial Meeting, including the Arctic Children and Youth initiative, the Arctic Telemedicine and cultural and eco-tourism projects, and the coastal fisheries project under the Council's Sustainable Development Program, and

endorse the recommendations contained in the SAO Report to Ministers with respect to the work of the Sustainable Development Working Group;

welcome and **approve** new proposals to conduct a Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, to develop an International Circumpolar Surveillance system for infectious diseases, to initiate projects on sustainable reindeer husbandry and sustainable development in northern timberline forests;

request that the Sustainable Development Working Group facilitate completion of work on these proposals, propose priority areas in the further development of the Sustainable Development Program, and review additional proposals for activities identified in the SAO Report to Ministers and prepare them for approval by Ministers in 2002; and

request that the Sustainable Development Working Group pay particular attention to proposals from the Permanent Participants directed at improving human health in indigenous communities;

7. **Welcome** the opportunity presented by the Rio+10 process to review the work of the Arctic Council with a view to bringing Arctic issues to the attention of the global community through the preparatory processes associated with the ten year review of Agenda 21;

8. **Note with appreciation** the work done by the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) Working Group and the wide distribution and recognition being given to the AMAP Assessment Report, **thank** AMAP for its report to Ministers and for its interim reports, **endorse** AMAP's future activities as outlined in the SAO Report to Ministers, and

request that AMAP prepare updated assessments on individual topics of high importance over the next several years;

welcome the AMAP report on Phase I of the "Multilateral Co-operative Project for Phase-Out of PCB Use, and Management of PCB-Contaminated Waste in the Russian Federation," **endorse** the plan for Phase II, and **request** AMAP to coordinate implementation of the Phase II plan; and

acknowledge approval for funding by the Global Environment Facility of the RAIPON/AMAP project "Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS), Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North";

9. **Receive with appreciation** reports from the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group on biodiversity monitoring, legal instruments for marine protection, circumpolar marine conservation, protected area needs in the Russian Arctic, rare endemic vascular plants, seabird harvest, and seabird bycatch, **endorse** CAFF's future activities as outlined in the SAO Report to Ministers, and

welcome the Global Environment Facility's support to Russia, CAFF and the United Nations Environment Program in developing a project using an integrated ecosystem approach to enhance biodiversity conservation in the Russian Arctic;

receive with appreciation the booklet "Arctic Flora and Fauna: Biodiversity, Status and Conservation" and **look forward** to the publication of the Overview Report on Arctic Conservation Issues; and

acknowledge the establishment of circumpolar monitoring networks for key elements of Arctic biodiversity, **encourage** the efforts of CAFF and AMAP towards integrating their monitoring initiatives, and **encourage** the evaluation of the conservation value of the sacred sites of indigenous inhabitants as a component of the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network;

10. **Note with appreciation** the work done by the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) Working Group on finalizing its "Analysis of Agreements and Arrangements," **endorse** EPPR's future activities as outlined in the SAO Report to Ministers, and

further endorse the main conclusion of the Analysis of Agreements and Arrangements conducted by EPPR, that international conventions and instruments currently in force, adopted or still under preparation appear to cover the present needs for Arctic cooperation in the field of prevention of, preparedness for and response to environmental emergencies on land or sea;

look forward to finalization of the Circumpolar Map of Resources at Risk from Oil Spills in the Arctic by the next Ministerial Meeting in 2002, as an important tool to facilitate prioritizing prompt responses when biological resources are jeopardized by an oil spill; and

encourage the Working Group to continue with ongoing activities initiated under EPPR's Strategic Plan of Action;

11. **Note with appreciation** the work done by the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group on implementation of the Regional Programme of

Action (RPA), offshore oil and gas, shipping and review of international conventions and agreements, **endorse** PAME's future activities as outlined in SAO Report to Ministers, and

recognize that the RPA should be used as a management framework for improved working group collaboration related to the protection of the Arctic marine and coastal environment and that RPA activities include impacts on the coastal zone, which should be more fully addressed;

recognize the need for the RPA and ACAP to develop complementary activities;

welcome the planned Partnership Conference concerning implementation of the Russian National Program of Action (NPA Arctic) and the RPA; and

take note of the work being done in the International Maritime Organization (IMO) with respect to the IMO Guidelines for Ships Operating in Arctic Ice-Covered Waters, **welcome** further cooperation on those Guidelines, and **welcome** the snap shot analysis of maritime activities in the Arctic prepared by Norway for PAME as a useful contribution for determining what, if any, additional Arctic shipping measures are required;

12. **Note with appreciation** the coordination meetings among chairs of the Council's subsidiary bodies and secretariats and **encourage** their continuation;

13. **Note with concern** that releases of mercury have harmful effects on human health and may damage ecosystems of environmental and economic importance, including in the Arctic, and **call upon** the United Nations Environment Program to initiate a global assessment of mercury that could form the basis for appropriate international action in which the Arctic States would participate actively;

14. **Note with concern** how global emissions of persistent organic pollutants have harmful effects on the Arctic environment, and **encourage** those countries, and in particular Arctic States, which have not yet ratified the UN ECE Protocols on heavy metals and on persistent organic pollutants to take all appropriate steps to become parties to the two protocols;

15. **Declare** that completion and early ratification of a global convention on persistent organic pollutants is an objective of great importance to all Arctic States, and **decide** to strengthen efforts to finalize a comprehensive and verifiable convention at the last session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee scheduled for South Africa in December 2000;


16. **Call on** the Arctic States to accede to, ratify and implement relevant existing agreements designed to protect and restore the Arctic environment, and to identify gaps where new agreements may be needed;

17. **Encourage** actions to reduce the risks of releases of radioactivity to the Arctic, and **further encourage** non-Arctic States to continue with their plans for substantially reducing releases of radioactivity from reprocessing facilities;
18. **Welcome** the introduction of a capacity building focus to the work and activities of the Council, and **further welcome** Canada's offer to host a workshop on capacity building during the period 2000 to 2002 to explore practical ways to implement this focus;
19. **Take note** that as the Arctic Council has evolved and taken over the structures established under AEPS, some overlap of functions has occurred among the new and existing institutional structures of the Council, and **request** that the SAOs, with assistance from the chairs of the Arctic Council subsidiary bodies, consider and recommend as appropriate ways to improve how work is structured in the Arctic Council and present a report at the next Ministerial Meeting;
20. **Declare** their strong support for achieving reliable funding for all Arctic Council activities and **encourage** the Governments of the Arctic States and the Permanent Participants to work with institutions and foundations supporting environmental protection and sustainable development in the Arctic, such as the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Foundation;
21. **Welcome** the results of the workshops arranged by Norway on living marine resources, reindeer husbandry, utilization of energy and mineral resources, which could form the basis for future activities in the framework of the Sustainable Development Program;
22. **Approve** the Arctic Athabaskan Council and the Gwich'in Council International as Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council and **welcome** those organizations to the Arctic Council;
23. **Note** the financial and other requirements for participation of Permanent Participants in the work of the Council, **recognize** the contribution of the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (IPS) in that regard, and furthermore **acknowledge** the financial contributions of Canada, Denmark and Norway to the IPS;
24. **Welcome** and **approve** the status of Observer for the period until the next Ministerial Meeting for France, the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea, the Association of World Reindeer Herders, the Circumpolar Conservation Union, the International Arctic Social Science Association, the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies, the International Union for Circumpolar Health, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, and the World Wide Fund for Nature, who will be Observers along with those countries and organizations listed in Annex 2 to the Rules of Procedure, and **note with appreciation** the valuable contributions made by Observers to the work of the Council;

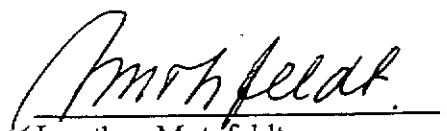
25. **Note with appreciation** the interest of the European Union in activities of the Arctic Council and look forward to cooperating with the European Commission on matters related to the Arctic and the European Union's Northern Dimension;
26. **Emphasize** the continuing need for the Arctic Council to cooperate closely with relevant bodies such as the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Nordic Council of Ministers, and other appropriate fora such as the Northern Forum;
27. **Note with interest** the recommendations made by participants at the Fourth Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, held August 27-29, 2000 in Rovaniemi, Finland, and **encourage** SAOs to consider these recommendations in the development of project proposals and future activities;
28. **Note with satisfaction** the continuing development of the University of the Arctic, **acknowledge** Finland's continuing administrative support to the University, and **encourage** the Arctic States and other relevant partners to support the development of the University's core programmatic capacity;
29. **Acknowledge with appreciation** the efforts of the United States of America in acting as the second chair of the Arctic Council over the past two years and **extend their thanks** to the United States, including the State of Alaska and the North Slope Borough, for hosting this Ministerial Meeting;
30. **Welcome and accept with appreciation** the offer of Finland to chair the Arctic Council for the next two years and to host the third Ministerial Meeting of the Council in 2002.

Signed by the representatives of the Arctic States in Barrow, this thirteenth day of October, 2000.

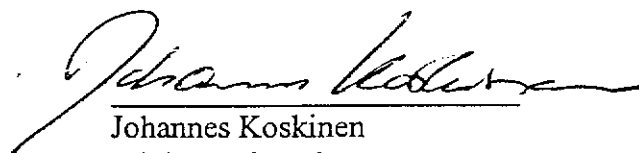
**For the Government
of Canada**


Mary Simon
Ambassador

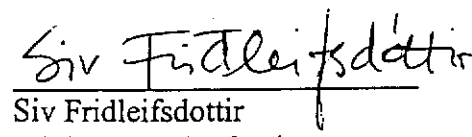
**For the Government
of Denmark**


Jonathan Motzfeldt
Premier, Greenland Home Rule

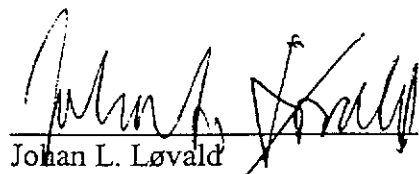
**For the Government
of Finland**


Johannes Koskinen
Minister of Justice

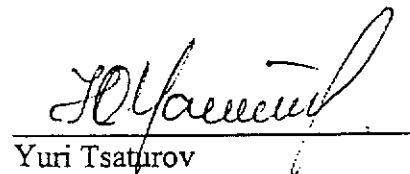
**For the Government
of Iceland**


Siv Fríðleifsdóttir
Minister for the Environment


**For the Government
of Norway**


Johan L. Løvald
Assistant Secretary General


**For the Government of
The Russian Federation**


Yuri Tsaturov
First Deputy Head
Federal Service for
Hydrometeorology and
Environmental Monitoring

**For the Government
of Sweden**


Eva Kettis
Ambassador

**For the Government of
The United States of America**


Frank E. Loy
Under Secretary of State for
Global Affairs

TD. 18.10.2002:3
sign J+R

INARI DECLARATION

on the occasion of the Third Ministerial Meeting
of

THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

2002/02064-5

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Ministers representing the eight Arctic States, convening in Inari, Finland, for the third ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council;

Reaffirming the commitment of the Governments of the Arctic States and indigenous peoples* to work together to promote sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic region with increased focus on climate change, sustainable use of resources and human development in the Arctic;

Acknowledging the character of the Arctic Council as a unique partnership among Governments and organizations representing indigenous peoples and communities in the Arctic;

Referring to the special features of the Arctic environment as an indicator of global environmental impacts, such as climate change and long-range trans-boundary pollution, and the importance this information may have on the work in international fora;

Noting with appreciation the strengthened role of the Arctic Council as an international voice for the circumpolar region, reflecting the ongoing dialogue involving national Governments, indigenous peoples, regional authorities, scientific experts, and civil society;

Noting with satisfaction the work of the Arctic Council Working Groups, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR), Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME), Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) as well as the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and the Action Plan against Pollution in the Arctic (ACAP);

Welcoming increased participation of the indigenous peoples in the work of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies;

Hereby:

HUMAN CONDITIONS IN THE ARCTIC

1. Declare our commitment to improve the human condition in the Arctic, and to this end

* The United States notes that the use of the term "peoples" in this Declaration and related documents shall not be construed as having any implications as regard the rights which may attach to the term under international law.

commit to reinforce circumpolar cooperation to promote sustainable development in the Arctic as a basis for enhanced prosperity and welfare;
approve as a priority project under Iceland's lead, the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) to be developed into a comprehensive knowledge base for the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Programme and request that traditional knowledge be fully used in this report;
acknowledge the significant contribution to this report by other AC projects, such as the Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLICA);

commit to develop an action plan on sustainable development to realize the Framework Document adopted by the ministers in Barrow, the priorities in the Inari Declaration, latest scientific knowledge and the decisions by the Johannesburg WSSD 2002, with the aim to adopt this action plan at the next Arctic Council Ministerial meeting;
encourage the development by the Arctic States of concrete projects of mutual interest in the field of economic cooperation;
note the Council's successful efforts to expand ecological and cultural tourism through circumpolar cooperation for the benefit of local communities.

2. Take note of the recommendations of the participants in the Taking Wing—Conference on Gender Equality and Women in the Arctic;

recognize the crucial role of women in developing viable Arctic communities;

emphasize the urgent need to take action against all forms of violence against women in the Arctic and encourage efforts to break the silence surrounding this problem; and

encourage the integration of gender equality and women and youth perspectives in all efforts to enhance human living conditions in the Arctic.

3. Encourage continued cooperation on health issues, including assessing the relationships between pollution and health, sharing information on the incidence of infectious diseases, evaluating telemedicine as a method of overcoming long distances, and new initiatives to address the effects of domestic violence on women's health, the exchange of information on promoting healthier lifestyles, and the role of education and training in improving the health and well being of children and youth.

4. Emphasize the significance of infrastructure, including aviation, marine and surface transport and modern telecommunications, in the efforts to enhance sustainable development in the Arctic, bearing in mind the significant impact climate change may have on infrastructure in the Arctic; and
agree to explore ways and means to expand Arctic aviation links and to strengthen marine transportation and telecommunication services in the Arctic region.

FURTHER ACTIONS AGAINST POLLUTANTS

5. Welcome with appreciation AMAP's "Arctic Pollution 2002" Report, and take the recommendations into consideration in our policies and programmes to reduce pollution affecting the Arctic, and agree to take appropriate steps to ensure that Arctic concerns are adequately addressed in regional and global developments;

note with appreciation the actions taken since the publication of the previous AMAP report including the adoption of the Aarhus Protocols on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and on Heavy Metals and

the Stockholm Convention on POPs, which singles out the Arctic, and further note that all Arctic states and observer countries have signed this convention and emphasize the urgency of their early entry into force, recalling that their progressive character allows for the inclusion of new substances on the basis of scientific findings;

acknowledge with satisfaction the significance of the Arctic Council's monitoring work and its importance in assessing the effectiveness of international agreements on pollution control;

welcome UNEP's global assessment of mercury and international efforts to outline and consider policy options, express concern about increasing mercury levels in some parts of the Arctic documented in the AMAP Assessment Report, and agree to intensify our efforts to achieve global cooperation to address the manmade sources of mercury pollution, and in this respect welcome the initiation of the Arctic Council project on mercury;

reconfirm our readiness and will to continue, further develop and implement the Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic, and note with appreciation the initiation and successful implementation of several priority projects as concrete actions towards reducing pollution in the Arctic, including projects on cleaner production and control/elimination of PCBs, obsolete pesticides, and dioxins/furans, all of which are priority pollutants under the Stockholm Convention;

encourage further implementation, development and updating of the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Landbased Activities and development and implementation by Arctic countries of corresponding National Plans of Action as appropriate, **welcome** the adoption by Russia of the National Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Anthropogenic Pollution in the Arctic Region of the Russian Federation (NPA-Arctic), which constitutes an important component of the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action;

reconfirm our collective efforts to facilitate member states' adherence of international and regional pollution regulations, and to this end

welcome multilateral and bilateral financial support of Russian NPA-Arctic and the projects derived from it as well as projects aimed to eliminate pollution in the Russian Federation;

recognize that existing and emerging activities in the Arctic warrant a more coordinated and integrated strategic approach to address the challenges of the Arctic coastal and marine environment and agree to develop a strategic plan for protection of the Arctic marine environment under leadership by PAME.

6. Take note with great concern of the new information provided by AMAP on the problems with releases of radionuclides in the Arctic environment originating from reprocessing plants, and urge European non-Arctic States to continue with their plans for substantially reducing releases of radioactivity from reprocessing facilities;

intend to continue civilian cooperation with Russia to enhance the safety of nuclear power installations and nuclear waste sites.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

7. Welcome with appreciation the CAFF report *Arctic Flora and Fauna, Status and Conservation*; and

acknowledge the recommendations arising from this report as a strategy for future biodiversity conservation work of the Arctic Council;

emphasize the significance of circumpolar cooperation aimed at promoting the conservation of biodiversity and unfragmented habitats and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources;

recognize that effective conservation of many circumpolar species and other natural resources requires close cooperation with non-arctic states;

recognize that enhanced monitoring of biodiversity at the circumpolar level, fully utilizing traditional knowledge, is required to detect the impacts of global changes on biodiversity and to enable Arctic communities to effectively respond and adapt to these changes;

take note of recommendations generated by projects on timberline forests, sustainable reindeer husbandry and sacred sites and encourage further dialogue among stakeholders on this basis;

recognize the potential for the development of oil, gas, metals and minerals in many Arctic regions to impact on the local standard of living and **emphasize** the importance of responsible management of these resources, including emergency prevention, to promote environmental protection and the sustainable development of the Arctic indigenous and local communities;

consider the ecological and other impacts of natural resource development, and undertake, as appropriate, strategic assessments;

acknowledge the need to pay particular attention to the impact of development and the use of natural resources on the traditional sources of livelihood of indigenous peoples and their communities.

CLIMATE CHANGE

8. Note with concern the ongoing significant warming of most of the Arctic, and recognize that the impacts of global climate change with increased possibilities of extreme weather events will have large consequences in the Arctic, and that the Arctic can act as an early warning of global climate changes, and to this end

welcome with appreciation the good progress of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and the significant progress in evaluating and synthesizing knowledge on climate variability and change and increased ultraviolet radiation, and underline its importance as a future input to the global process on climate;

note the methodology of incorporating indigenous knowledge and perspectives into the Assessment;
welcome the international recognition of this ground-breaking project at the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

emphasize the importance of continued dialogue on the consequences of climate change and on policy measures among national governments, indigenous and other local communities, regional

administrations, the business community and scientific experts with the aim for a transparent and open process, and of enhancing early capacity building to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change; **agree to present the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment**, including the social, ecological and economic consequences in the Arctic, to the World Conference on Climate in 2003 in Russia and to other appropriate international events; **recognize** the increasing importance of prevention of and response to emergencies originating in climate variability and change; **intend** to reinforce the dialogue between the Arctic states on climate policy that help deal with vulnerability and adaptability in the Arctic and contribute to a common understanding on how to deal with global climate change.

ARCTIC COUNCIL AS A PARTNER IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

9. Declare that the Arctic States, in view of the intensified need for global and regional action, will continue to collaborate closely in international fora on environmental protection and sustainable development issues of importance to the Arctic, and when appropriate, request the Arctic Council to deliver jointly agreed Arctic messages; and **acknowledge** the role of the Permanent Participants in developing Arctic Council policies of regional and global significance.

10. Favor closer cooperation between the Arctic Council and the European Commission; and **take note of** the European Union's intentions to prepare a Northern Dimension Action Plan for the years 2004-2006, with appropriate attention to the northernmost parts of the Northern Dimension region, thus further defining the Arctic Window concept; **welcome** the increased contributions to Arctic cooperation by non-arctic observer countries as well as scientific institutions, international organizations and NGOs; **note with appreciation** the financing and expertise provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP-Chemicals, the Nordic Environment Financing Corporation (NEFCO) and look forward to working with International Financing Institutions, such as the World Bank Group, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Nordic Investment Bank (NIB).

11. Note with satisfaction the inclusion of Arctic concerns in the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, especially those dealing with the eradication of poverty among indigenous communities, the impact of climate change, the actions to reduce POPs and other pollutants, oceanic issues, as well as sustainable use of natural resources; **welcome** the reaffirmation by the WSSD of the vital role of the indigenous peoples in sustainable development; and **reassert** the role of the Arctic Council as a regional partnership for environmental protection and sustainable development with the firm aim of contributing to the implementation of the Johannesburg outcomes.

CAPACITY BUILDING

12. Recognize capacity building among people in the Arctic as an important part of circumpolar cooperation;

urge all subsidiary bodies of the Arctic Council to take capacity building into account in all their activities;

recognize the usefulness of information and communications technology in circumpolar capacity building efforts; and

welcome the good progress of the University of the Arctic (UArctic) and encourage appropriate authorities in the Arctic states to increase their efforts to secure financing of the core activities of the UArctic;

welcome ECORA as an integrated ecosystem approach to the management of natural resources wherein individuals and communities improve their capacity to make responsible decisions about their natural environment.

CALL FOR EFFICIENCY, PRIORITIZATION AND INTERACTION

13. Endorse the recommendations in the Senior Arctic Officials' report on the review of the working structures of the Arctic Council;

emphasize the importance of interaction with the regional administrations;

take note of the recommendations issued by the 5th Conference of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region and welcome their continuous cooperation and support;

welcome the enhanced cooperation with regional bodies, such as the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC), the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Northern Forum and call for continued coordination to enhance synergies and avoid duplication of work;

approve the status as observers of the Arctic Council for the period of time until the 4th Ministerial Meeting:

a) observer countries

France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom,

b) international organizations:

Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), Northern Forum, North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE) and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

c) non-governmental organizations:

Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS), Association of World Reindeer Herders, Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU), International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH), International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), University of the Arctic and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).

14. Welcome with appreciation the report of the Senior Arctic Officials, note with appreciation the progress made by the Council's subsidiary bodies and adopt the SAO recommendations as included in the report, including the working mandates for the Working Groups and other subsidiary bodies;

welcome with appreciation the continuing offers of Norway to host AMAP and ACAP secretariats, of Iceland to host CAFF and PAME secretariats, of the USA to host ACIA secretariat, of Denmark to host IPS, and the new offer of Canada to host a secretariat for the SDWG and provide a temporary secretariat for EPPR, and encourage all partners to assist the hosts in financing the secretariats.

15. Recognize the need to reinforce efforts to finance circumpolar cooperation.

16. Acknowledge the 10th anniversary of the Arctic Environmental Cooperation, which was initiated in 1991 in Rovaniemi, Finland as the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS), and incorporated into the Arctic Council.

17. Congratulate Finland for her chairmanship of the Arctic Council during the period 2000 – 2002.

18. Welcome and accept with appreciation the offer of Iceland to chair the Arctic Council during the period 2002 – 2004 and host the 4th Ministerial Meeting in 2004.

Signed by the representatives of the Arctic Council on the 10th October in Inari, Finland

For the Government of Canada



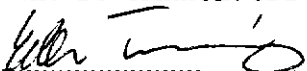
William Graham
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Denmark



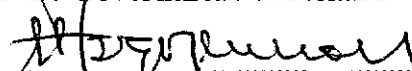
Ole Samsing
Senior Arctic Official

For the Government of Finland



Erkki Tuomioja
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Iceland



Halldór Ásgrímsson
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Norway



Kim Traavik
State Secretary

For the Government of the Russian Federation



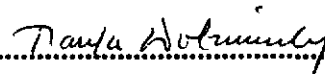
Roald F. Piskoppel
Deputy Minister of Economic
Development and Trade

For the Government of Sweden



Anna Lindh
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the United States of America



Paula Dobriansky
Under Secretary of State
for Global Affairs

REYKJAVÍK DECLARATION

On the occasion of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council

Ministers representing the eight Arctic States, convening in Reykjavík, Iceland, for the Fourth Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council,

Noting the commitment of the Arctic States to promoting sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic region,

Recognizing the role and increased participation of indigenous peoples¹ in the work of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies,

Noting with satisfaction the work of the Arctic Council working groups,

Acknowledging the work carried out in the Arctic by observers to the Arctic Council, including observer countries, international organizations and NGOs,

Recognizing the Arctic region's rich natural environment and wealth of human resources,

Welcoming the increased visibility of the Arctic Council in the international arena,

Hereby:

CIRCUMPOLAR AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Emphasize the importance of circumpolar and international cooperation as being fundamental to addressing circumpolar challenges and **encourage** the Arctic Council to further strengthen its relations with international organizations, parliamentarians and regional authorities,

Reaffirm the vital role of Arctic residents, including indigenous peoples and local communities, in sustainable development in the Arctic, taking note of the possible impacts of development on the traditional sources of their livelihood,

Recognize the need for raising the profile of the Arctic internationally,

¹ The United States notes that the use of the term "peoples" in this Declaration to Ministers and related documents shall not be construed as having any implications as regard the rights which may attach to the term under international law.

Stress the importance of a strengthened relationship and cooperation among parties involved in Arctic research and between them and other parties, including the Governments of Arctic States,

Welcome the continuing contribution of indigenous and traditional knowledge to research in the Arctic,

Appreciate the contribution of the Conference of Arctic Parliamentarians, **take note of** the declaration from the 6th Conference of Arctic Parliamentarians and **welcome** continued cooperation,

Recognize the International Polar Year 2007-2008 as a unique opportunity to stimulate cooperation and coordination on Arctic research and increase awareness and visibility of the Arctic region and **underline** the role of the Arctic Council as a high level intergovernmental forum in providing political support for the IPY in the Arctic and **decide** that the Arctic Council will develop proposals to the IPY Joint Committee,

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ARCTIC

Welcome with appreciation the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and the scientific work completed in evaluating and synthesizing knowledge on climate variability and change and increased ultraviolet radiation in the Arctic,

Note with concern the impacts documented by the ACIA that are already felt throughout the region. Climate change and other stressors present a range of challenges for Arctic residents, including indigenous peoples, as well as risks to Arctic species and ecosystems,

Recognize that the Arctic climate is a critical component of the global climate system with worldwide implications,

Note the findings of the ACIA with respect to climate change and **acknowledge** that such findings, as well as the underlying scientific assessment, will help inform governments as they implement and consider future policies on global climate change,

Endorse the ACIA policy recommendations for mitigation, adaptation, research, monitoring and outreach contained in the SAO Report to Ministers,

Acknowledge the need to consider the findings of the ACIA and other relevant studies in implementing their commitments under the UNFCCC and other agreements, including through adoption of climate change mitigation strategies across relevant sectors,

Encourage Member States to take effective measures to adapt to and manage the environmental, economic and social impacts of climate change and ultraviolet radiation, *inter alia* through enhancing the access of Arctic residents to information, decision makers and institutional capacity building,

Encourage relevant national and international research bodies and sponsors to take into account the ACIA science recommendations in the planning, development and implementation of their programmes,

Decide to promote global, national and local awareness of the ACIA and any follow-up activities through appropriate outreach activities,

Acknowledge the need to further organize the work of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies based on the findings of the ACIA and **direct** the SAOs to report on the progress made at the 2006 Ministerial Meeting,

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARCTIC

Emphasize the need for improving living conditions, promoting economic opportunities in the Arctic and strengthening Arctic communities through measures such as capacity-building, education and research,

Accept with appreciation the Arctic Human Development Report and **recommend** that the Sustainable Development Working Group make full use of the report as a comprehensive knowledge base for the development of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Programme and **direct** Member States and the relevant working groups of the Arctic Council to consider appropriate follow up actions,

Acknowledge the outcome of the information communication technology (ICT) conference in Akureyri and **endorse** the aim of sharing information on best practices and promoting ICT initiatives in all relevant fields,

Welcome the declaration from the Meeting of Ministers of Education and Science of the Arctic Council Member States on 9 June 2004, and **support** the establishment of a dialogue at the appropriate levels of government to further define the scope of cooperation in education and research,

Welcome the efforts of the University of the Arctic to raise awareness and improve understanding of the natural and cultural circumstances of the Arctic,

Adopt the Sustainable Development Action Plan as a tool for the practical realization of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Program and assessing the progress made by the Arctic Council in advancing sustainable development in the circumpolar region,

Welcome the progress on, as well as the successful completion of, several activities supporting human health, specifically the work on telemedicine, the International Circumpolar Surveillance system for infectious diseases, the Health Programme of Children and Youth and **encourage** continuing work to improve human health in the Arctic,

ACTIONS AGAINST POLLUTANTS

Recognize the special features of the Arctic environment as an indicator of global environmental impacts, such as climate change and long-range transboundary pollution,

Acknowledge the importance of the Stockholm Convention and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution Protocols on Persistent Organic Pollutants and Heavy Metals for improving the environmental situation of the Arctic with respect to long-range transported contaminants and **welcome** the entry into force of these agreements,

Request the Arctic Council working groups, according to their respective mandates, to support the implementation of these agreements, including the review of Arctic contaminants not yet covered and secure the broad dissemination of results,

Welcome the work of ACAP to support implementation of the Stockholm Convention to eliminate priority pollutants in the Arctic, and in this connection **note** with appreciation the special efforts of the Russian Federation in implementing the ACAP projects, and the successful completion of the ACAP Cleaner Production Project in Norilsk,

Request AMAP, in cooperation with the other relevant Arctic Council working groups, to continue work to deliver the assessments of oil and gas in the Arctic and acidification of the Arctic in 2006 and propose effective measures in this regard,

Approve the AMAP Strategic Plan 2004+,

Welcome the continuing efforts of ACAP and AMAP to address the emerging chemical contaminants impacting the Arctic and **endorse** the ACAP project Reduction or Elimination of Brominated Flame Retardants in the Arctic,

Welcome the completion by AMAP, RAIPON and Russia of the GEF supported Persistent Toxic Substances project,

PROTECTING THE ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Endorse the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) and encourage its implementation through the working groups and other mechanisms and in cooperation with regional and global bodies,

Endorse with appreciation the Arctic Waters Oil Transfer Guidelines and **encourage** Member States and others to disseminate them widely,

Request PAME to conduct a comprehensive Arctic marine shipping assessment as outlined in the AMSP under the guidance of Canada, Finland and the United States as lead countries and in collaboration with the EPPR working group and other working groups of the Arctic Council and Permanent Participants as relevant,

Note that an ecosystem-based management approach underlies the AMSP and **call**

upon Member States, Arctic Council working groups and relevant regional and international bodies to further the application of this approach to the Arctic marine environment,

Encourage PAME, through Norway as lead-country, to assess and evaluate existing measures for port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues and develop harmonized guidelines for consideration by States,

Support the continued implementation of the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA) and **note** the ongoing efforts of the Russian Federation and other Arctic States to implement their respective National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment,

EMERGENCY PREVENTION PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Endorse expansion of the mandate of the EPPR working group to include natural disasters and **encourage** cooperation with working groups and others to define the extent of the role of EPPR in the prevention, preparedness and response to natural disasters,

Note with appreciation the Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) Manual, **acknowledge** the filling of the remaining gap identified in the oil and gas portion of the 1998 environmental risk assessment, and **encourage** EPPR to continue sharing information and developing tools to assist in the prevention, preparedness and response to emergencies in the oil and gas field,

Support the ongoing development of the Risk Assessment Methodology by AMAP and EPPR, the work under the Community Radiation Information Project, and other projects to prevent and prepare for emergencies in the radiological and other hazardous chemical fields,

Encourage EPPR, and AMAP to continue their cooperation in developing a coordinated Geographic Information System in support of Arctic Council activities,

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Recognize the evidence that many global environmental changes are having significant effects on the Arctic's living resources, the Arctic environment and Arctic residents,

Recognize that conservation of biodiversity is necessary for achieving sustainable development in the Arctic,

Emphasize the need for circumpolar cooperation and collaboration in the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of the Arctic's living resources,

Encourage continued and enhanced efforts of CAFF in promoting the implementation of the Circumpolar Protected Area Network and relevant initiatives of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan,

Endorse the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme as a cornerstone programme of CAFF,

Note the progress being made in implementing the integrated ecosystem management project, ECORA, to strengthen biodiversity protection in the Russian Arctic,

Encourage continued cooperation with non-Arctic states in the conservation of circumpolar migratory species, and the protection of habitats along their migratory routes,

Support the continued cooperation with indigenous peoples of the Arctic, the use of their traditional knowledge of flora and fauna, and efforts toward community-based monitoring of the Arctic's living resources,

Endorse the development of a circumpolar boreal vegetation map, to help document vegetation shifts and changes,

FINANCING ARCTIC COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Emphasize the need for reinforcing efforts to finance circumpolar cooperation,

Take note of the report from the Arctic Council project support fund expert group,

Support the project support instrument concept as a mechanism to enhance the process of identifying, mobilizing and transferring financing for specific priority Arctic Council projects,

Request the SAOs to establish a pilot phase of the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument to focus on actions against pollution in the Arctic and to develop a set of guidelines in close cooperation with NEFCO and ACAP for the management of a pilot phase of the Instrument,

Decide that the Instrument be a voluntary, non-exclusive mechanism for financing specific priority projects that have already been approved by the Arctic Council,

Decide that the Instrument may make use of a broad range of funding arrangements to include grants and revolving instruments,

Invite interested Arctic Council Member States, observers and others to pledge contributions to the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument,

Request the working groups, lead countries and/or organizations to communicate with Permanent Participants at the early stages of new projects regarding their interest and

possible involvement in the project's design, financing, management and implementation,

Continue to explore, in their respective states, ways and means to better ensure Permanent Participants' active participation and full consultation in the Arctic Council and to continue the dialogue on the issue within the Arctic Council,

OTHER

Welcome with appreciation the report of the Senior Arctic Officials, **note** with appreciation the progress made by the Council's subsidiary bodies and **adopt** the SAO recommendations as included in the report, including the working mandates of the working groups and other subsidiary bodies,

Emphasize the importance of continued outreach efforts by the Arctic Council with the aim of communicating issues of importance to the Arctic to the global community and other regional actors,

Note the European Union's Second Northern Dimension Action Plan and **note** that the Arctic is defined as a cross-cutting theme and one that should be mainstreamed within each priority area of the plan,

Welcome increased cooperation with regional bodies, such as the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Barents-Euro Arctic Council (BEAC), the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the Northern Forum and **acknowledge** their contribution to circumpolar co-operation,

Note the ratification by the Russian Federation of the Kyoto Protocol,

Welcome with appreciation the continuing offers of Norway to host the AMAP secretariat, of Iceland to host the CAFF and PAME secretariats, of the USA to host the ACAP secretariat, of Canada to host the SDWG secretariat and of Denmark to host the IPS and **encourage** all partners to assist the hosts in financing the secretariats,

Approve as observers to the Arctic Council:

Observer states; France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom,

International organizations; the Conference of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

Non-governmental organizations; the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS), the Arctic Circumpolar Route (ACR), the Association of World Reindeer Herders, the Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU), the International Arctic Science

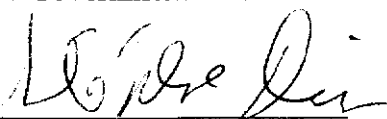
Committee (IASC), the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), the International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH), the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), the Northern Forum, the University of the Arctic (UArctic), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Thank Iceland for the activities it has undertaken through its Chairmanship of the Arctic Council during the period 2002-2004,

Accept the offer by the Russian Federation to chair the Arctic Council during the period 2004-2006 and host the fifth Ministerial meeting in 2006.

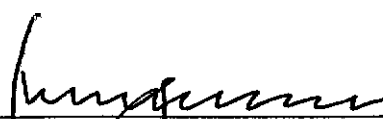
Signed by the representatives of the Arctic Council on 24 November 2004 in Reykjavík, Iceland.

For the Government of Canada



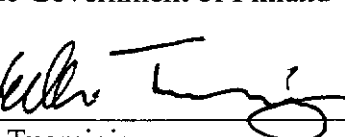
Stéphane Dion
Minister of the Environment

For the Government of Denmark



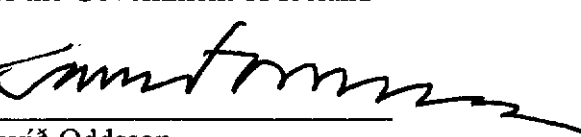
Josef Motzfeldt
Greenland's Deputy Premier

For the Government of Finland



Erkki Tuomioja
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Iceland




Davíð Oddsson
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Norway



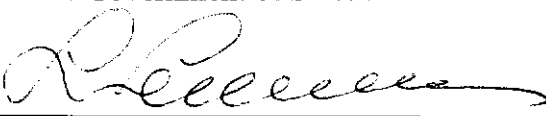
Jan Petersen
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Russian Federation



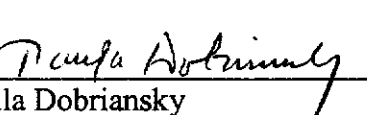
Sergei Lavrov
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Sweden



Laila Freivalds
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the United States of America



Paula Dobriansky
Under Secretary of State for
Global Affairs

SALEKHARD DECLARATION

On the occasion of the tenth Anniversary of the Arctic Council

the Fifth AC Ministerial Meeting

the 26th of October, 2006, Salekhard, Russia

Ministers representing the eight Arctic States, convening in Salekhard, Russia, for the Fifth Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council,

Celebrating the 10-year Anniversary of this high level intergovernmental forum since the Declaration on the Establishment of the Arctic Council adopted in Ottawa in 1996,

Noting that for the past decade the Arctic Council has proved to be an important forum for increased mutual understanding and cooperation in the circumpolar area and has provided a major contribution into the well-being of the inhabitants of the Arctic,

Noting the continued commitment of the Arctic States to promoting sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic region,

Recognizing the role and increased participation of Arctic indigenous peoples¹ organizations in the work of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies,

Acknowledging the work carried out in the Arctic by observers to the Arctic Council, including observer countries, international organizations and NGOs, and **welcoming** their continuing active participation,

Recognizing the Arctic region's rich natural environment and wealth of human resources, and that the Arctic environment is particularly vulnerable to human activities,

Taking into account the environmental concerns and challenges associated with climate change,

Recognizing the significance of the Arctic environment for the global community,

Recognizing the cultural diversity in the Arctic represented by more than 40 distinct peoples, cultures and languages,

And Welcoming the increased visibility of the Arctic issues and their global importance in the international arena,

Welcoming the continuing contribution of indigenous and traditional knowledge to research and culture in the Arctic,

¹ The United States notes that the use of the term "peoples" in this Declaration and related documents shall not be construed as having any implications as regard the rights which may attach to the term under international law.

Emphasizing the importance of circumpolar and international cooperation as being fundamental to addressing circumpolar challenges,

Hereby:

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ARCTIC

Note that all eight Arctic states are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),

Reiterate full support for the important work of those bodies,

Reconfirm their commitments to the Reykjavik Declaration and to the ACIA policy document, adopted at the AC meeting in 2004, and that the Member States will continue their active efforts to implement the recommendations on mitigation, adaptation, research, monitoring and outreach,

Recognize that the Arctic climate is a critical component of the global climate system with worldwide implications

Request the SAOs and the Arctic Council working groups to continue supporting, analyzing and synthesizing Arctic climate research, including the gathering and compilation of indigenous and local knowledge of the effects of climate change, so that the exchange of expertise at the global level through the IPCC can better reflect unique Arctic conditions and that global decision-making can take Arctic needs into account,

Endorse the ongoing efforts of the SAOs and the Arctic Council working groups to implement activities, as appropriate, to follow-up the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and the ACIA Policy Document, adopted by the Fourth Ministerial Meeting,

Request the SAOs to direct the SDWG, drawing on the expertise of other Working Groups, experts and stakeholders, to identify and share adaptation expertise and best practices and possible actions, unique to the needs and conditions of the Arctic, so that indigenous and other residents can better adapt to climate change, and to report on the status of this activity at the 2008 Ministerial meeting, and to make publicly available any results or lessons learned from this undertaking,

Request the SAOs and the AC working groups to continue to develop and implement cooperative projects, as appropriate, with a view to enhance the capacity of indigenous and other Arctic residents to adapt to environmental, economic and social changes and enable them to benefit from the results of scientific research,

Request the SAOs to direct the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) to cooperate with other AC working groups and relevant scientific bodies in continuously reviewing needs and gaps in climate monitoring in the Arctic so that coordinated action might be taken to ensure the full realization of a comprehensive Arctic observing network,

Request that the follow-up on the ACIA and the ACIA Policy document be based on the latest scientific findings and will be kept under review by the SAOs, who will report to the next Ministerial Meeting,

Decide to continue to keep under review the need for an updated assessment of climate change in the Arctic, drawing inter alia on the IPCC fourth assessment report and the results of the International Polar Year 2007-2008,

INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR

Welcome the International Polar Year (IPY), 2007 –2008, as a unique opportunity to stimulate cooperation and coordination of Arctic research and increase awareness of the importance of the Arctic region,

Note the input of the AC Members States nationally and of the AC working groups into the IPY planning process,

Note with appreciation closer cooperation of the Arctic Council with the IPY Joint Committee,

Express the strong support of the Arctic Council for the IPY, **request** the Working Groups to continue coordination and/or collaboration with relevant IPY projects so that data and information from the IPY can be included in the continuing work of the Arctic Council, and **acknowledge** the need for strong national financial support for the IPY,

Welcome the expansion of IPY projects to include the human dimension.

Support the inclusion of programs initiated by Arctic residents, the effective involvement of Arctic indigenous peoples in IPY activities and **recognize** that their traditional and indigenous knowledge is an invaluable component of IPY research.

Emphasize the importance of climate change in the context of the IPY, and to achieve a legacy of enhanced capacity of Arctic peoples to adapt to environmental, economic and social changes in their regions, and enabling Arctic peoples to participate in and benefit from scientific research,

Urge Member States and other entities to strengthen monitoring and research efforts needed to comprehensively address Arctic change and to promote the establishment of a circumpolar Arctic observing network of monitoring stations with coordinated data handling and information exchange for scientific data, statistics and traditional knowledge as a lasting legacy of the IPY (and as the evolving Arctic component of the Global Earth Observing System of Systems, GEOSS),

Offer political support for major IPY stocktaking events, and **encourage** the exploration of innovative ways to develop outreach, education and the presentation of data generated through the IPY,

Welcome the Edinburgh Declaration on the International Polar Year 2007-2008, adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting of 2006 proposing closer collaboration with the Arctic Council and **request** the SAOs to explore ways and means of promoting such collaboration,

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Acknowledge that rapid changes in the Arctic may have significant social, cultural and economic impacts on living conditions for the residents of the Arctic,

Stress the importance of enhancing well-being and eradicating poverty among the indigenous peoples and other Arctic residents, and the need for their inclusion in decision-making in relation to policy planning and implementation. In this context it is important to facilitate closer cooperation at the regional and local levels,

Emphasize the need for improving living conditions, promoting economic opportunities in the Arctic and strengthening Arctic communities through measures such as capacity-building, education and research,

Reaffirm the vital role of Arctic residents, particularly indigenous residents and organizations, in sustainable development, being mindful of potential impacts of modern development on traditional livelihoods,

Encourage the SDWG to pursue projects and activities within the thematic areas described in the SDWG Work-Plan for 2006-2008 as accepted by the SAOs and **authorize** SAOs to consider, approve and supervise SDWG projects and activities in these areas, consistent with the overall work and priorities of the Arctic Council,

Welcome the heightened importance placed on human health in the Arctic by the formation of a cluster of health projects, and **endorse** action necessary to create further synergies and strategic directions in Arctic human health,

Support that the SDWG, together with other working groups, continues the work on criteria and indicators of sustainable development in the Arctic,

Note with appreciation the adoption of the mechanism to implement SDAP and **encourage** all working groups to use the SDAP framework to identify gaps and define measures to eliminate those gaps and to continuously update the data base adherent to the mechanism,

Note the recommendations of the Russian sponsored workshop in advancing sustainable development in the Arctic held in Salekhard and **encourage** their use as reference material in further work on economic and social dimensions of sustainable development,

Welcome cooperation between the AC and the UN-HABITAT aimed at sustainable development of human settlements in the Arctic,

Welcome the work ongoing in the field of Information and Communications technologies,

Welcome the increased co-operation in the field of energy, reflected in various AC projects, and **endorse** energy, including renewable energy and environmentally friendly technologies, as an important component of the AC cooperation, addressing energy issues and their impact on human life and the environment, and **request** the SDWG to report on this activity to the AC Ministerial session in 2008, and to identify activities that the Arctic Council could consider for future implementation,

Encourage research and practical actions, as well as exchange of expertise and best practices among the Member States to increase stability of the Arctic infrastructure in changing climatic conditions,

Welcome the Conference on establishing the cultural dimension of cooperation of the AC member states (17-18 January, 2006, Khanty-Mansiysk) and its Declaration, stipulating the need for enhanced cultural interaction between the indigenous peoples

and national governments as an indispensable input into the sustainable development of the Arctic region,

Encourage Member States and other parties to support the cultural diversity of the Arctic and especially uphold and revitalize the indigenous languages, **support** the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium and **welcome** further projects in this important field,

Encourage all involved parties to make sure that industrial and research activities are conducted taking into consideration the interests of the Arctic Indigenous peoples and other Arctic residents,

Endorse continued efforts of the SDWG and other Northern actors to use the AHDR and its findings as a reference and background information on human development in general and especially at the International Polar Year,

Emphasize the importance of the new information, the success stories and the gaps in knowledge, which the AHDR has highlighted. These provide useful experiences and profitable guidance for Arctic communities, acting as inspiration for forth-coming research projects and a good foundation for teaching on human development and outreach,

ARCTIC MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Recognize the efforts of the Arctic countries and note with appreciation their contributions to the preparation of the scientific assessment report on oil and gas activities in the Arctic and the overview report to be released in 2007,

Request Senior Arctic Officials to oversee coordination of the finalization and release of the scientific and overview reports from the oil and gas assessment before the Ministerial meeting to be held in 2008 and to report back to Ministers in 2008 on the conclusions and recommendations of the Assessment,

Accept with appreciation the Assessment report on Acidifying Pollutants, Arctic Haze and Acidification in the Arctic (AAHA), highlighting that further improvement and recovery can be expected for Arctic ecosystems, that significant health effects of acidic emissions are not seen in the Kola Peninsula, and that future assessments should review acidification in the wider context of air pollution and climate change,

Encourage the AC Member States to implement the Assessment's recommendations addressing acidification and Arctic haze effects, as appropriate, recognizing that the effects are regional in nature,

Recognize that the Assessment reports depend on the underlying data for their validity, **encourage** Member States to make available all relevant data to support AMAP's future assessments,

Encourage AMAP to continue its ongoing contaminants monitoring and assessment activities, including long-term temporal trend monitoring, and monitoring of spatial trends, human health, and biological effects of contaminants in the Arctic, with a special emphasis on the collection of information on new contaminants, assessment of the combined affects on climate (and UV) and contaminants, emerging issues, and

providing improved information on sources of contaminants (follow-up of 2002 assessment),

Urge all the Member countries to maintain and extend long term monitoring of change in all parts of the Arctic, and request AMAP to cooperate with other AC Working Groups, IASC and other partners in efforts to create a coordinated Arctic observing network, that meets identified societal needs,

ACTION ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE ARCTIC

Reaffirm the role of ACAP as an effective means of increasing efforts to reduce releases of contaminants locally and regionally and to promote international cooperation,

Approve ACAP as a working group and change its name to the “Arctic Contaminants Action Program”,

Welcome the initiative of developing ACAP partnerships with the Permanent Participants to identify and remove local sources of contamination and improve environmental conditions in indigenous communities,

Welcome participation of UNEP Chemicals and UNDP in implementation of ACAP Projects in the Russian Federation,

Encourage the continued cooperation between ACAP and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council’s Working Group on Environment to address contaminant “hot spots” in the Arctic,

Note with appreciation the successful work of the ACAP under the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership in achieving measurable reductions of over 800 kg per year of mercury releases at a Russian chlor-alkali production facility,

Agree to intensify the efforts to achieve global cooperation, *inter alia*, through UNEP Mercury Partnership Program to address the man-made sources of mercury pollution,

Encourage cooperation between ACAP and the Russian Federation to develop an Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy which will accelerate progress of ACAP Projects in the Arctic,

Welcome the work of ACAP to reduce releases of PCBs, obsolete pesticides, dioxins and furans, mercury and brominated flame retardants to further support implementation of the Stockholm Convention, the POPs and Heavy Metals Protocols of the UN/ECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, and other hazardous chemicals initiatives,

CONSERVATION OF ARCTIC FLORA AND FAUNA

Recognizing that the conservation of biodiversity is a necessary condition for environmental protection and sustainable development, and the current and future well-being of the Arctic region and its inhabitants, **endorse** long-term monitoring of Arctic biodiversity to provide policymakers with the information needed to accurately assess the impacts from global environmental change, and increased human activities related to regional development and economic growth,

Endorse the continued development of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) as the cornerstone program of CAFF, and **encourage** countries to

contribute actively to CBMP and expect CBMP to provide valuable data for increased knowledge and improved management of biodiversity in the Arctic,

Endorse the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment as a major contribution to international conventions and agreements in regard to biodiversity conservation; providing policymakers with comprehensive information on the status and trends of Arctic biodiversity,

Support the continued cooperation with indigenous peoples of the Arctic, welcome the contribution of their traditional knowledge of flora and fauna to the scientific research, and encourage further cooperation in the development of community-based monitoring of the Arctic's living resources,

Support CAFF's efforts to strengthen cooperation with international organizations for the conservation of the biodiversity of the Arctic, particularly migratory species,

EMERGENCY PREVENTION PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Recognize that existing treaties, conventions and agreements provide the necessary framework for the work of the EPPR, **note** the need to continue to develop co-operation and the exchange of experience and lessons learned in the field of prevention, preparedness and response in the Arctic,

Note the results of the symposium in Moscow on Prevention and Mitigation of Emergency Situations in the Arctic, which has highlighted the special challenges related to emergency response in the Arctic,

Encourage the AC Member States to focus on the following areas and initiate new projects in order to improve the capacity to respond to emergencies in the Arctic

- exchange of information, training and experience
- public information
- technical development and support, and
- co-ordination of response

Request the EPPR to gather and synthesize knowledge and expertise on the behavior of oil and other hazardous substances in Arctic waters, and to promote the development and use of technologies and working methods that improve the capability to respond to accidents that involve such substances.

Welcome with appreciation the intention of the EPPR to initiate a number of projects in order to enhance cooperation in this area and the intention of Russia to establish a National Assistance Capability based in Northwest Russia to respond to radiological emergencies in the Arctic,

PROTECTION OF THE ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Recognize the development of safe and environmentally secure marine transportation and subsea pipeline development in the Arctic Region as a priority issue closely linked to climate change, technological advance and resource use, which will have economic, social and environmental impact in the Arctic,

Take note of the progress report on the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) and **encourage** the participating Arctic States and Permanent Participants to provide

necessary information so that the full AMSA report, including traditional uses of the offshore by Arctic Indigenous peoples, can be delivered to the Sixth Ministerial Meeting in 2008,

Request PAME to review, update and expand the Regional Program of Actions, where necessary, and possibly restructure it to allow for more rapid response to developments and opportunities,

Recognize the importance of the National Programs of Actions as components of the RPA implementation phase, and note the progress in the implementation of the Russian NPA-Arctic.

OTHER

Welcome with appreciation the report of the Senior Arctic Officials, **note** with appreciation the progress made by the Council's subsidiary bodies **and thank** the countries and organizations that lead and are encouraged to further lead AC activities for their contributions,

Welcome with appreciation the continuing offers of Norway to host the AMAP secretariat and the offer to host the EPPR secretariat, of Iceland to host the CAFF and PAME secretariats, of the USA to host the ACAP secretariat, of Canada to host the SDWG secretariat and of Denmark/Greenland to host the IPS and **encourage** all partners to assist the hosts in financing the secretariats,

Adopt the recommendations in the SAO Report and instruct SAOs to review and adjust, if needed, the working mandates of the AC working groups and their work plans for 2006-2008 in accordance with the guidance provided in this Declaration,

Recognize that assessment reports depend on the underlying data for their validity, and **encourage** Member States to make available all relevant data to support future assessments,

Welcome the joint efforts of the Arctic Council and Nordic Council of Ministers to establish a dialogue at the appropriate levels of government to further define the scope of cooperation in education and research,

Welcome the efforts of the University of the Arctic to build human capacity in the North and to raise awareness and improve understanding of the natural and cultural circumstances of the Arctic,

Note that the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument (PSI) is not yet operational, **decide** to continue to monitor its status with a view to consider ending its mandate at the Sixth Ministerial Meeting if it has not become operational at that time, and **reiterate** the invitation to interested Arctic Council Member States, observers and others to pledge contributions to the PSI,

Emphasize the need for reinforcing efforts to finance circumpolar cooperation,

Continue to explore, in their respective states, ways and means, including funding, to better ensure Permanent Participants' active participation and full consultation in the Arctic Council and to continue the dialogue on the issue within the Arctic Council,

Approve the participation of the Arctic Council in the Group on Earth Observations and in the GEO System of Systems to provide further input into the coordination of monitoring and assessment activities in the Arctic,

Appreciate the contribution of the 7th Conference of Arctic Parliamentarians in Kiruna, **take note of** its Statement and **welcome** continued cooperation,

Welcome with appreciation the joint efforts by the European Union, Russia, Iceland and Norway to renew the Northern Dimension and **expect** it to be a common framework of the promotion of dialogue and concrete cooperation, strengthening stability, well-being and intensified economic cooperation in Northern Europe,

Welcome increased cooperation with regional bodies, such as the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), the Barents-Euro Arctic Council (BEAC), the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and **acknowledge** their contribution to circumpolar co-operation and,

Welcome the 6th annual meeting of AC, BEAC, CBSS, NCM with participation of the European Commission (August 18, 2006, Moscow) to enhance coordination of regional northern cooperation and avoid duplication,

Appreciate the increased financial contribution of the NCM to the Arctic Council activities and Working Groups' projects.

Recognize the contributions of the Northern Forum in the work of the Arctic Council to raise awareness of regional and local issues,

Welcome the launching of the of the Arctic Portal, providing a gateway into the Arctic on the internet,

Request the SAOs to examine the organization of the Arctic Council with a view to improve its effectiveness and efficiency, and report back to the next Ministerial 2008,

Welcome Spain as a new Observer State to the Arctic Council,

Approve as Observers to the Arctic Council:

Observer states: France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom,

International organizations: the Conference of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

Non-governmental organizations: the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS), the Arctic Circumpolar Route (ACR), the Association of World Reindeer Herders, the Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), the International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH), the International Work Group for

Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), the Northern Forum, the University of the Arctic (UArctic), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF),



Thank the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat for helping to coordinate the involvement of the Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council,

Thank Russia for the activities it has undertaken through its Chairmanship of the Arctic Council during the period 2004-2006,

Accept the offer by the Kingdom of Norway to chair the Arctic Council during the period 2006-2008 and host the Sixth Ministerial meeting in 2008.

Signed by the representatives of the Arctic Council on the 26th of October 2006 in Salekhard, Russia.

For the Government of Canada

Robert Mills
Member of Parliament

For the Government of Finland

Erkki Tuomioja
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Norway

Jonas Gahr Støre
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Sweden

Carl Bildt
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Denmark

Connie Hedegaard
Minister for the environment

For the Government of Iceland

Valgerður Sverrisdóttir
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Russian Federation

Sergei Lavrov
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the United States of America

Paula Dobriansky
Under Secretary of State for
Democracy and Global Affairs

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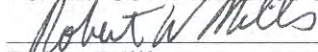
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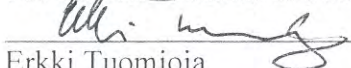
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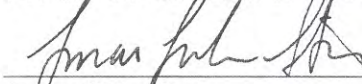
For the Government of Canada


Robert Mills
Member of Parliament

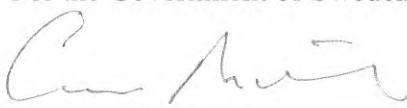
For the Government of Finland


Erkki Tuomioja
Minister for Foreign Affairs

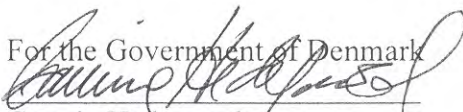
For the Government of Norway


Jonas Gahr Støre
Minister of Foreign Affairs

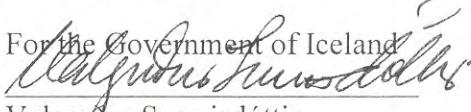
For the Government of Sweden


Carl Bildt
Minister for Foreign Affairs

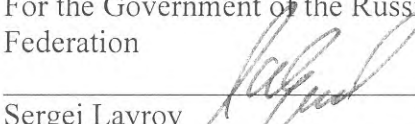
For the Government of Denmark


Connie Hedegaard
Minister for the environment

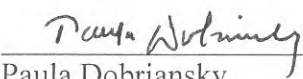
For the Government of Iceland


Valgerður Sverrisdóttir
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Russian Federation


Sergei Lavrov
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the United States of America


Paula Dobriansky
Under Secretary of State for
Democracy and Global Affairs



TROMSØ DECLARATION

On the occasion of the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of

The Arctic Council

The 29th of April, 2009, Tromsø, Norway

Ministers representing the eight Arctic States, convening in Tromsø, Norway, for the Sixth Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council, joined by the representatives of the six Permanent Participant organizations of the Arctic Council,

Welcoming the close and growing cooperation among the Arctic States in the Arctic,

Acknowledging the leadership of the Arctic Council on Arctic challenges and opportunities, and the increasing international interest in the work of the Council,

Confirming that in international relations the rule of law is a prerequisite for peaceful regional development,

Recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples and the interests of all Arctic residents, and emphasizing the engagement of indigenous peoples as being fundamental to addressing circumpolar challenges and opportunities,

Regarding human induced global climate change as one of the greatest challenges facing the Arctic,

Deeply concerned by the escalating rate of warming of the Arctic climate, which will likely also affect the rest of the world,

Reconfirming the commitment of the Arctic Council to promote environmental protection and sustainable use of Arctic land and marine resources,

Recalling that an extensive legal framework applies to the Arctic Ocean including, notably, the law of the sea, and that this framework provides a solid foundation for responsible management of this ocean,

Noting the extensive reduction of sea ice coverage and thickness resulting in increased marine access to the Arctic, and acknowledging the stress being placed upon sea-ice dependent and other species,

Recognizing that sustainable development in the Arctic requires the conservation of Arctic ecosystems and sustainable use of Arctic flora and fauna,

Recognizing the new opportunities for and challenges of economic development in the Arctic,

Noting that transboundary pollutants, including air pollutant emissions, heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants continue to be a major concern,

Hereby:

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ARCTIC

Bear in mind the findings of the 2009 Update on Selected Climate Issues of Concern report,

Note that preserving the unique Arctic environment and protecting the Arctic against potentially irreversible impacts of anthropogenic climate change depends mainly on substantially reducing global emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases,

Note the role that shorter-lived climate forcings such as black carbon, methane and tropospheric ozone precursors may play in Arctic climate change, and **recognize** that reductions of emissions have the potential to slow the rate of Arctic snow, sea ice and sheet ice melting in the near-term,

Note that several indicators show further and extensive climate change at rates faster than previously projected,

Recognize the urgent need for an effective global response that will address the challenge of climate change, and **confirm** the commitment of all Arctic States to actively contribute to reaching an adequate agreed outcome at the UNFCCC 15th Conference of the Parties (CoP15) in Copenhagen in December 2009,

Accept with appreciation the summary of the report “The Greenland Ice Sheet in a Changing Climate” highlighting process and dynamics and recent developments in the mass loss from the Greenland Ice Sheet, **decide** to report on it to the UN CoP15, and **look forward to** the delivery of the full results of the Arctic Cryosphere: Snow, Water, Ice, and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA) project in 2011,

Urge implementation of early actions where possible on methane and other short-lived climate forcings, and **encourage** collaboration with the Methane to

Markets Partnership and other relevant international bodies taking action to reduce methane and other short-lived forcers,

Decide to establish a task force on short-lived climate forcers to identify existing and new measures to reduce emissions of these forcers and recommend further immediate actions that can be taken and to report on progress at the next Ministerial meeting,

Recognize the need to reduce vulnerability and implement adaptation actions,

Urge the Arctic Council members to strengthen their work on adaptation to climate change, including by pursuing community-level actions, and continue to share information on best practices,

Acknowledge that indigenous peoples in the Arctic are taking a leading role to use best available traditional and scientific knowledge to help understand and adapt to challenges related to climate change and other challenges in their societies, and **welcome** initiatives to build the capacity of indigenous peoples,

Request regular updates on the impacts of climate change in the Arctic, and **note** that vulnerability and adaptation need to be strengthened in future reports on climate change,

INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR (IPY) AND ITS LEGACY

Welcome the Washington Ministerial Declaration¹ highlighting the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008, an internationally coordinated scientific research and observation campaign in polar regions that for the first time considered the human dimension and concerns of local and indigenous peoples and engaged Arctic residents,

Welcome commitments to deliver a lasting legacy from the IPY, and **decide** to consider the proposal to arrange an international polar decade,

Acknowledge the contribution of the IPY to improved understanding of climate change in the Polar Regions, and its particular relevance to future Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessments,

Support continued international coordination to maximize the legacy of IPY within the following areas: observations, data access and management, access to study areas and infrastructure, education, recruitment and funding, outreach, communication and assessment for societal benefits, and benefits to local and indigenous peoples,

¹ Washington Ministerial Declaration on the International Polar Year and Polar Science adopted at the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting-Arctic Council Joint Meeting, 6 April 2009

Recognize the valuable contribution of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) process as an IPY legacy to enhance coordination of multidisciplinary Arctic data acquisition, management, access and dissemination, **encourage** the continuation of this work with emphasis on improving sustained long term observation, and **welcome** the participation of indigenous organizations in future work,

Acknowledge the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP) as a major Arctic Council contribution to the IPY and its legacy,

Decide to take the lead in cooperation with IASC and other relevant partners in the continuation of the SAON process, including to consider ways to develop an institutional framework to support circum-Arctic observing, and the preparation and implementation of a workplan for the next two years to initiate work on priority issues including sustained funding and data management,

Call for consultations involving national funding and operational agencies to create a basis for internationally coordinated funding and shared infrastructure and enhance the recruitment of young scientists into polar science,

Encourage the exploration of ways to continue the innovative forms for IPY outreach and the presentation of outcomes of the IPY, including the use of scientific data and traditional knowledge in future assessments,

ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Approve the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) 2009 Report including its recommendations on enhancing Arctic marine safety, protecting Arctic people and environment and building Arctic marine infrastructure and **request** Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) to develop appropriate follow up actions,

Note that increased marine access and navigation in the Arctic Ocean calls for development and implementation of suitable national and international regulations, where appropriate, to advance the safety of Arctic marine shipping, including marine pollution prevention, reduce accident risk, and facilitate effective emergency response,

Encourage active cooperation within the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on development of relevant measures to reduce the environmental impacts of shipping in Arctic waters,

Urge that the ongoing work in the IMO to update the Guidelines for Ships Operating in Arctic Ice-Covered Waters be completed, application of its relevant parts be made mandatory, and global IMO ship safety and pollution prevention conventions be augmented with specific mandatory requirements or other provisions for ship construction, design, equipment, crewing, training, and operations, aimed at safety and protection of the Arctic environment,

Note that increasing levels of atmospheric CO₂ may accelerate ocean acidification and **decide** to monitor these changes,

Note that climate change may lead to changes in the migration, distribution and accessibility of important fish stocks,

Welcome the new Arctic Council project on “Development of safety systems in implementation of economic and infrastructural projects in the Arctic”, noting its comprehensive character and importance in minimizing the risks of increased human activity,

Approve the establishment of a task force to develop and complete negotiation by the next Ministerial meeting in 2011 of an international instrument on cooperation on search and rescue operations in the Arctic,

Approve the revised Arctic Council Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines and **urge** all States to apply these Guidelines throughout the Arctic as minimum standards in national regulations,

Approve the revised Arctic Council Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA), and **encourage** the continued implementation of the RPA,

Welcome the report of the Best Practices in Ecosystems Based Oceans Management in the Arctic Project, and **endorse** the summary of Observed Best Practices for ecosystems-based oceans management,

HUMAN HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Recognize the need for a better understanding of the major drivers of change and likely challenges and opportunities for Arctic communities in the coming decades,

Encourage strategic, focused and practical work in the area of sustainable development,

Acknowledge the increased focus on human health in the work of the Arctic Council, including the establishment of the new Arctic Human Health Experts Group under the Sustainable Development program, and welcome the continuation of activities into the Danish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council,

Note the human health impact from transboundary pollution and the need to promote, among Arctic populations, healthy diets and breast feeding through appropriate dietary advice and communication of risk,

Recognize the urgent need for action to support Arctic cultures and reduce the loss of Arctic indigenous languages and take into consideration recommendations developed at the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium,

Recognize that education, outreach, scientific research, traditional knowledge and capacity building are major tools to address challenges in Arctic communities and **recommend** that, where relevant, Arctic Council projects include these elements,

Recognize that the University of the Arctic (UArctic), a network of higher education institutions in the Arctic, is an effective partner to promote the sustainable development of the region, and **welcome** its new mechanisms to further fund activities,

ENERGY

Approve the findings and recommendations of the assessment of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic: Effects and Potential Effects,

Emphasize that while there has been significant progress in technology, management, and regulations that have greatly reduced the impact of oil and gas activities, environmental risk cannot be eliminated,

Decide to strengthen cooperation on prevention of, and response to, accidental spills of oil and hazardous substances in the Arctic,

Urge Member States to apply the precautionary approach and polluter-pays principle as reflected in Principles 15 and 16 of the Rio Declaration, respectively, and conduct risk and environmental impact assessments for the exploration, development, transport and storage of oil, and enact and/or enforce appropriate laws and controls,

Recognize that environmentally sound oil and gas activities may contribute to sustainable development of the Arctic region,

Also recognize that the potential for energy efficiency and extended use of renewable energy sources offer unique development opportunities in the Arctic region on a sustainable basis,

Welcome the Report on Arctic Energy and its observations on activities that the Arctic states could consider for future implementation, in particular in relation to the Arctic as an energy consumer, and the importance of environmentally friendly economic activity in the energy sector to ongoing Arctic social and economic development,

CONTAMINANTS

Accept with appreciation the Arctic Pollution 2009 report highlighting that progress has been achieved through political actions to reduce the threats from some legacy persistent organic and radionuclide pollutants, but concerns remain regarding new chemicals occurring in the Arctic environment and their potential threat to people and wildlife,

Note with concern the presence in the Arctic of contaminants with persistent organic pollutant (POP) characteristics that are not subject to international controls and that may require consideration by international fora,

Note with appreciation publications aimed at communicating radiation information to the public,

Welcome the Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy in the Northern Regions of the Russian Federation, **note** its potential importance for the other parts of the Arctic, and **support** its implementation with the aim to ensure environmentally sound management, destruction and storage of hazardous waste,

Welcome with appreciation the creation of a new Project Steering Group to address contaminants in indigenous peoples' communities in remote areas of the Arctic,

Recognize actions in Arctic countries to reduce contamination from POPs and heavy metals and support further work,

Note with appreciation the establishment of the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument (PSI), a circumpolar funding mechanism for projects and actions related to prevention, abatement and elimination of pollutants in the Arctic,

Appreciate actions in support for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and the POPs and Heavy metals protocol of the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), and **encourage** countries to continue work to reduce emissions and sign, ratify and enhance the implementation of these Conventions and Protocols,

Welcome the recent UNEP Governing Council decision to develop a legally binding instrument on mercury to be ready in 2013 and **commit** to bring forward Arctic perspectives to these negotiations,

BIODIVERSITY

Note that climate change and its consequences, including the loss of sea ice, is a major stressor to the Arctic's biodiversity and **welcome** continued work to better understand these impacts during the Danish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council,

Recognize that the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP) are important contributions towards understanding the impacts of climate change and other stressors on nature and biodiversity and the adaptability and sustainable use of all living resources in the Arctic,

Note that the ABA 2010 Arctic Highlights Report will be an Arctic Council contribution to the United Nations International Biodiversity Year in 2010 and

to the Convention on Biological Diversity as a tool to measure progress towards the United Nations 2010 biodiversity target,

Emphasize the important role of Arctic indigenous peoples and their traditional knowledge in conservation and sustainable use of Arctic biological resources,

Recognize community based monitoring as a valuable method of observation in the Arctic and **encourage** further development of projects with participation of local residents,

Welcome the results of the March 2009 meeting under the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears and the commitment to continued co-operation under that Agreement, and **recognize** the need for adaptive management and conservation in response to climate change,

ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Decide to further strengthen the political role of the Arctic Council by having a meeting at deputy Minister level, with representatives of Permanent Participants, to discuss emerging issues between Ministerial meetings,

Welcome with appreciation the report of the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs), **note** with appreciation the progress made by the Working Groups² and **thank** the Member States, Permanent Participants, Observers and all organizations that contribute to Arctic Council projects,

Adopt the recommendations in the SAO report and **instruct** SAOs to review and adjust, if needed, the working mandates of the Arctic Council working groups and their work plans for 2009-2011 in accordance with the guidance provided in this Declaration,

Welcome with appreciation the continuing offers of Russia to host the ACAP secretariat, of Norway to host the AMAP secretariat, of Iceland to host the CAFF and PAME secretariats, of Canada to host the SDWG secretariat and the offer of the United States to host the EPPR secretariat,

Welcome with appreciation the continuing offer of Denmark/Greenland to host the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS),

Welcome Norway's hosting of the Arctic Council Secretariat in Tromsø, Norway for the period of 2007-2013, in cooperation with Denmark and

² Arctic Contaminants Action Programme (ACAP)
Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)
Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

Sweden, and **appreciate** the Secretariat's contribution to the increased efficiency of the work of Arctic Council,

Decide to develop guidelines for engagement in outreach activities and an Arctic Council communication and outreach plan based on common priorities,

Decide to further consider how the Arctic Council should best be structured to fulfil its objectives,

Decide to continue discussing the role of observers in the Arctic Council,

Reaffirm the continued support of the Member States for the IPS,

Recognize the importance of providing adequate funding to Permanent Participants to support their preparations for, and participation in, the Arctic Council and its Working Groups,

Reiterate the need for reinforcing Arctic states efforts to finance circumpolar cooperation,

Request Member States to further explore ways and mean to enhance the participation of Permanent Participants in the activities of the Arctic Council,

Welcome the increased cooperation with regional bodies such as the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), the Barents-Euro Arctic Council, and the Council of the Baltic Sea States and acknowledge their contributions to circumpolar cooperation,

Appreciate the financial contribution of the NCM to the Arctic Council activities and Working Group projects,

Welcome continued cooperation with the Arctic Parliamentarians and take note of the Statement from their 8th Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska, in August 2008,

Appreciate the report from the Co-chairs of the Melting Ice Conference held in Tromsø April 28, 2009, and **welcome** the strong message to the UN Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen in December 2009. Also **instruct** the SAO's to consider, following contributions by relevant Working Groups, the outcome of the work by a task force of the Co-chairs of a state-of-the art report on the status of and future scenarios for the melting ice, ensuring complementarity of the task force and the Working Groups activities, with a view to a joint contribution to CoP15,

Thank the Kingdom of Norway for its Chairmanship of the Arctic Council during the period 2006-2009,

Welcome the offer of the Kingdom of Denmark to chair the Arctic Council during the period 2009-2011 and to host the Seventh Ministerial meeting in 2011.

Signed by the representatives of the Arctic Council on the 29th of April 2009 in Tromsø, Norway.



For the Government of Canada
Lawrence Cannon
Minister of Foreign Affairs



For the Government of Denmark
Per Stig Møller
Minister of Foreign Affairs



For the Government of Finland
Alexander Stubb
Minister for Foreign Affairs



For the Government of Iceland
Ásta Ragnheiður Jóhannesdóttir
Minister of Social Affairs



For the Government of Norway
Jonas Gahr Støre
Minister of Foreign Affairs



For the Government of the Russian
Federation
Sergey Lavrov
Minister of Foreign Affairs



For the Government of Sweden
Carl Bildt
Minister for Foreign Affairs



For the Government of the United
States of America
James Steinberg
Deputy Secretary of State

Nuuk Declaration



Welcome to Nuuk
Photos by U. Bang and Arctic Council
Design by Jan Roald, Norwegian Polar Institute

NUUK DECLARATION

On the occasion of the Seventh Ministerial Meeting of The Arctic Council

12 May 2011, Nuuk, Greenland

Ministers representing the eight Arctic States, convening in Nuuk, Greenland, for the Seventh Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council, joined by the representatives of the six Permanent Participant organizations of the Arctic Council,

Recognizing the importance of maintaining peace, stability and constructive cooperation in the Arctic,

Reconfirming the commitment of the Arctic Council to promote environmental protection and sustainable development of the Arctic,

Welcoming the increased cooperation among the Arctic States and peoples in order to address the new challenges and opportunities,

Recognizing that the Arctic is first and foremost an inhabited region with diverse economies and societies and the importance of continued sustainable development of Arctic communities, **recognizing** the rights of indigenous peoples and interests of all Arctic residents, and **emphasizing** the continued engagement of indigenous peoples and communities as a fundamental strength of the Council,

Recognizing that rapidly changing circumstances, in particular the changing climate, have increased the challenges and opportunities facing the Arctic in both volume and complexity, and **underscoring** the importance of strengthening the Arctic Council to address this change,

Hereby:

STRENGTHENING THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Announce the Agreement on Cooperation in Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic, as the first legally binding agreement negotiated under the auspices of the Arctic Council,

Decide that the Arctic Council should continue to work towards solutions to address emerging challenges in the Arctic utilizing a wide range of approaches,



Scene from Nuuk. Photo: Arctic Council

Decide to strengthen the capacity of the Arctic Council to respond to the challenges and opportunities facing the Arctic by establishing a standing Arctic Council secretariat, hereinafter the Secretariat, in Tromsø, Norway to be operational no later than at the beginning of the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2013,

Decide to establish a task force to implement the decisions to strengthen the Arctic Council, including any necessary arrangements to establish the Secretariat, and **approve** the composition and mandate of the task force as set out in the Senior Arctic Officials' Report to Ministers 2011 (SAO Report),

Adopt the recommendations of the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) on the role and criteria for observers to the Arctic Council as set out in Annexes to the SAO Report, and **decide** to apply these criteria to evaluate pending applicants for observer status,

Adopt the Communication and Outreach Guidelines as set out in the SAO Report and **instruct** the SAOs to develop a Strategic Communications Plan for the Arctic Council,

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FUTURE WORK

Human Dimension

Note with appreciation and welcome the priority placed on human health issues during the Danish chairmanship, **take note** of the Arctic Health Ministers' Meeting held in Nuuk in February 2011, **recognize** the continued health challenges and **note** the need to improve physical and mental health and well-being and empowerment of indigenous peoples and residents of Arctic communities,

Note the need for a comprehensive overview of human development in the Arctic and **call** for an assessment of the current state of human development in the Arctic and its relationship with climate change and other factors affecting Arctic communities,

Climate Change and Environmental Protection

Recognize that substantial cuts in emissions of Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are the backbone of meaningful global climate change mitigation efforts,

Welcome with appreciation the full report on the assessment of the Arctic Cryosphere entitled "Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic" (SWIPA), **note with concern** the accelerated change in major components of the cryosphere and the profound local, regional and global effects of observed and expected changes, **emphasize** the need for forward looking Arctic cooperation with a view to increase Arctic resilience and to enhance Arctic Council leadership to minimize the human and environmental impacts of climate change, and **instruct** Senior Arctic Officials to consider how best to follow up on the SWIPA recommendations in the future work of the Arctic Council,

Welcome the Arctic Council reports on Short-Lived Climate Forcers (SLCF), that have significantly enhanced understanding of black carbon, **encourage** Arctic states to implement, as appropriate in their national circumstances, relevant recommendations for reducing emissions of black carbon, and **request** the Task Force and the AMAP expert group to continue their work by focusing on methane and tropospheric ozone, as well as further black carbon work where necessary and provide a report to the next Ministerial meeting in 2013,

Decide to establish a Short-Lived Climate Forcer Contaminants project steering group that will undertake circumpolar demonstration projects to reduce black carbon and other SLCF emissions,

Note with concern that mercury levels continue to rise and present risks to the health of the human population and the wildlife in parts of the Arctic as reported in the 2011 AMAP assessment on mercury in the Arctic, and **support** the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to conclude a global agreement on mercury that will significantly reduce global mercury use and emissions,

Appreciate actions in support of the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Heavy metals protocol of the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), and **encourage** countries to continue work to reduce emissions and sign, ratify and enhance the implementation of these Conventions and Protocols,

Reiterate the importance of the use of Arctic Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and capacity-building initiatives in the planning and implementation of measures to adapt to climate change, **recognize** that climate change and other negative factors have impacted the traditional livelihoods and food safety and security of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and other Arctic residents and communities,

Confirm the commitment of all Arctic states to work together and with other countries to implement the agreements reached in Cancun by the time of the climate talks this year in Durban, South Africa, and in this context **urge** all Parties to the UNFCCC to take urgent action to meet the long-term goal of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels,

Decide to establish an expert group on Arctic ecosystem-based management (EBM) for the Arctic environment to recommend further activities in this field for possible consideration by the SAOs before the end of the Swedish chairmanship,

Direct SAOs to review the need for an integrated assessment of multiple drivers of Arctic change as a tool for Indigenous Peoples, Arctic residents, governments and industry to prepare for the future, and, based on that review, to make recommendations for consideration

by Arctic Council Deputy Ministers at their next meeting of a possible Arctic Change Assessment, including an Arctic Resilience report,

Arctic Marine Environment

Decide to establish a Task Force, reporting to the SAOs, to develop an international instrument on Arctic marine oil pollution preparedness and response, and **call for** the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) and other relevant working groups to develop recommendations and/or best practices in the prevention of marine oil pollution; the preliminary or final results of both to be presented jointly at the next Ministerial meeting in 2013,

Welcome EPPR's report "Behavior of Oil and Other Hazardous Substances in Arctic Waters" (BoHaSa) and its contribution to knowledge of the behaviour of oil and other hazardous substances in the Arctic and **encourage** the Senior Arctic Officials to consider the conclusions and recommendations for future Arctic Council activities,

Recognize the important role of the Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic for safe transport and enhancing cooperation in assisting people in distress in the Arctic,

Urge the completion as soon as possible of work at the International Maritime Organization to develop a mandatory polar code for ships,

Welcome the progress achieved with the Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) project which considers existing global and regional measures that are relevant for the Arctic marine environment, and **look forward** to the delivery of the final report of the AOR project in 2013, in particular the options and opportunities for strengthening global and regional efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment,

Science and Monitoring

Recognize the importance of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) process as a major legacy of the International Polar Year for enhancing scientific observations and data-sharing and **accept** the recommendations of the Senior Arctic Officials as contained in the SAO report for the ongoing management of SAON,

Recognize that the International Polar Year (IPY) was the largest circumpolar program on scientific research to date, and **welcome** in 2012 the “Knowledge to Action Conference” in Montreal as the concluding event of IPY and the opportunity it presents to transform knowledge and scientific results into policies that will guide our future actions related to the environment and well-being of Arctic communities,

Decide to task the Senior Arctic Officials to consider maximizing the legacy of the IPY by supporting a proposal to arrange an International Polar Decade in light of the rapid climate change of the Arctic and the need for further coordinated research of the Arctic environment and its human dimension,

Welcome the contributions of the Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010 Report toward understanding the adaptability of nature and living resources in the Arctic to global and regional stressors, and **await** the scientific assessment and policy recommendations from the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) scheduled to be completed in 2013,

Congratulate the University of the Arctic (UArctic) on its 10th anniversary, **recognize** its contribution in developing specialized education aimed at building capacity and fostering traditional and scientific knowledge relevant to Indigenous Peoples, Arctic communities and policy-makers, and **encourage** continuous support for the UArctic,



Nuuk Declaration signing ceremony
Photos: U. Bang



OTHER ISSUES

Adopt the recommendations in the SAO Report to Ministers and **instruct** SAOs to review and adjust, if needed, the mandates of the Arctic Council working groups and task forces and their work plans for 2011-2013,

Reiterate the need to finance circumpolar cooperation, as well as the importance of providing adequate funding to Permanent Participants to support their preparations for, and participation in, the Arctic Council, the working groups, task forces and Arctic Council projects,

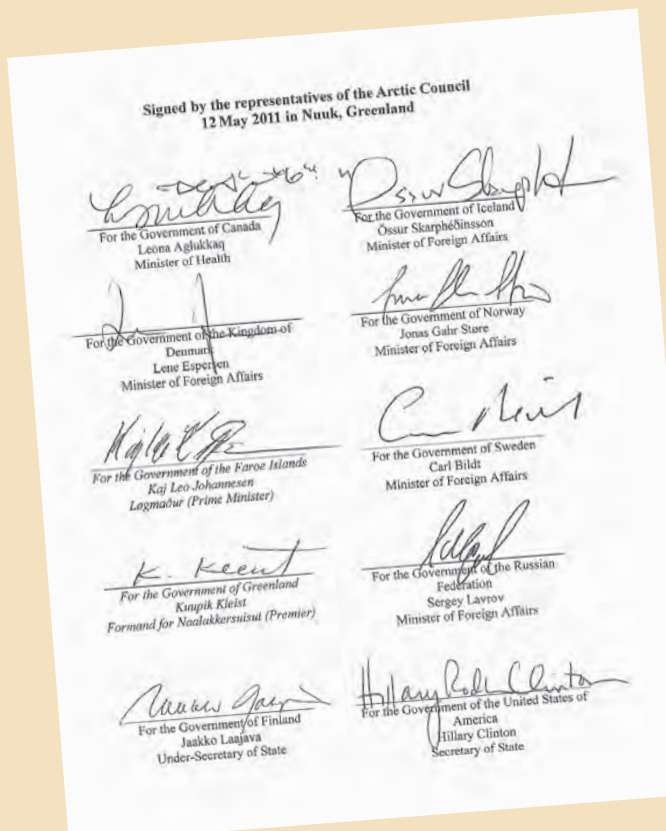
Note the Arctic Environment Ministers Meeting in June 2010, and the Arctic Health Ministers meeting in February 2011, and **welcome** further high-level meetings,

Welcome continued cooperation with other relevant bodies,
Thank the Kingdom of Denmark for its Chairmanship of the Arctic Council during the period 2009-2011, and **welcome** the offer of the Kingdom of Sweden to chair the Arctic Council during the period 2011-2013 and to host the Eighth Ministerial meeting in 2013.





Outside Katuaq Cultura Centre, Nuuk.
 From left: Aqqualuk Lynge, Inuit Circumpolar Council; Sergey Kharyuchi, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the north; Olav Mattis Eira, Saami Council; Kaj Leo Johannessen, Prime Minister of the Faroe Islands; Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, Canada; Kuupik Kleist, Premier of Greenland; Lene Espersen, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Denmark; Össur Skarphéðinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Iceland; Carl Bildt, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sweden; Hilary Rodham Clinton, United States Secretary of State; Jaakko Laajava, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland; Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway; Lisa Murkowski, United States Senator; Ken Salazar, United States Secretary of the Interior; Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation.
 Photo: U. Bang



Arctic Council Secretariat

Kiruna Declaration

Kiruna, Sweden, 15 May 2013



ARCTIC COUNCIL

KIRUNA DECLARATION

On the occasion of the Eighth Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council

We, the Ministers representing the eight Arctic States, joined by the representatives of the six Permanent Participant organizations of the Arctic Council, have gathered in Kiruna, Sweden, at the conclusion of the first cycle of Chairmanships for the Eighth Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council,

Recognizing the importance of maintaining peace, stability, and constructive cooperation in the Arctic,

Recognizing the importance of the sustainable use of resources, economic development and environmental protection,

Recognizing that the Arctic is first and foremost an inhabited region with diverse economies, cultures and societies, further recognizing the rights of the indigenous peoples and interests of all Arctic inhabitants, and emphasizing that a fundamental strength of the Council is the unique role played by Arctic indigenous peoples,

Expressing concern that global emissions of greenhouse gases are resulting in rapid changes in the climate and physical environment of the Arctic with widespread effects for societies and ecosystems and repercussions around the world, **reiterating** the urgent need for increased national and global actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change,

Noting the substantial progress we have made to strengthen our cooperation and acknowledging the leadership of the Arctic Council in taking concrete action to respond to new challenges and opportunities,

Hereby:

IMPROVING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Recognize the central role of business in the development of the Arctic, and **decide** to increase cooperation and interaction with the business community to advance sustainable development in the Arctic,

Welcome the Arctic Council's work on corporate social responsibility and sustainable business, and **encourage** enterprises operating in the Arctic to respect international guidelines and principles,

Recognize that Arctic economic endeavors are integral to sustainable development for peoples and communities in the region, **desire** to further enhance the work of the Arctic Council to promote dynamic and sustainable Arctic economies and best practices, and **decide** to establish a Task Force to facilitate the creation of a circumpolar business forum,

Welcome the Arctic Maritime and Aviation Transportation Infrastructure Initiative and its comparative analysis of seaport and airport infrastructure in the Arctic States, and **encourage** continued efforts to identify opportunities for complementary infrastructure development and use,

Appreciate that the first legally binding agreement negotiated under the auspices of the Arctic Council, the Agreement on Cooperation in Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic, has come into force, **recognize** its important role for safe transport and enhancing cooperation in assisting people in distress in the Arctic, and **acknowledge** the importance of continued operational exercises in support of its implementation,

Acknowledge that Arctic peoples are experiencing challenges associated with rapid socio-economic and environmental changes, **note** the previous work of the Arctic Council to promote mental health in Arctic communities, and **decide** to undertake further work to improve and develop mental wellness promotion strategies,

Recognize that the use of traditional and local knowledge is essential to a sustainable future in the Arctic, and **decide** to develop recommendations to integrate traditional and local knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council,

Acknowledge the importance of indigenous peoples' traditional ways of life to their economic well-being, culture and health, and **request** Senior Arctic Officials to recommend ways to increase awareness regionally and globally on traditional ways of life of the Arctic indigenous peoples and to **present** a report on this work at the next Ministerial meeting in 2015,

ACTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Recognize that climate change in the Arctic causes significant changes in water, snow, ice and permafrost conditions, with cascading effects on biodiversity, ecosystems, economic and human living conditions in the Arctic with repercussions around the world, and that substantial cuts in emissions of carbon dioxide and other long-lived greenhouse gases are necessary for any meaningful global climate change mitigation efforts, and **commit** to strengthen our efforts to find solutions,

Recognize that Arctic States, along with other major emitters, substantially contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions, and **confirm** the commitment of all Arctic States to work together and with other countries under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to conclude a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force no later than 2015, and **urge** all Parties to the Convention to continue to take urgent action to meet the long-term goal aimed at limiting the increase in global average temperature to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels,

Recognize that reduction of short-lived climate forcers, could slow Arctic and global climate change, and have positive effects on health, and **welcome** the report on short lived climate forcers, and support its recommendations including that national black carbon emission inventories for the Arctic should continue to be developed and reported as a matter of priority,

Urge the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to take action as soon as possible, complementary to the UNFCCC, to phase-down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons, which contribute to the warming of the Arctic region,

Decide to establish a Task Force to develop arrangements on actions to achieve enhanced black carbon and methane emission reductions in the Arctic, and report at the next Ministerial meeting in 2015,

Welcome the on-going work on the Arctic Resilience Report, and **emphasize** the need for forward-looking cooperation with a view to increase Arctic capacity to adequately address rapid change and resilience,

Recognize that adaptation to the impacts of climate change is a challenge for the Arctic, and the need for strengthened collaboration with Arctic indigenous peoples and other residents, governments and industry, **welcome** the reports, key findings and on-going work on the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic initiative, and **decide** to continue the work on enhancing the capacity of decision-makers to manage climate risks including through an on-line information portal and through improved predictions of combined effects,

PROTECTING THE ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT

Announce the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic, the second legally binding agreement negotiated under the auspices of the Arctic Council, and **encourage** future national, bi-national and multinational contingency plans, training and exercises, to develop effective response measures,

Recognize that effective prevention, including related containment practices, is critical to ensuring the protection of the Arctic marine environment from oil pollution incidents, **welcome** the Recommended Practices in the Prevention of Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Project reports and recommendations to Ministers, and **encourage** Arctic States to pursue further work in the recommended areas,

Decide to establish a Task Force to develop an Arctic Council action plan or other arrangement on oil pollution prevention, and to present the outcomes of its work and any recommendations for further action at the next Ministerial meeting in 2015,

Recognize the value of sustaining Arctic ecosystems and biodiversity and that the Arctic environment needs to be protected as a basis for sustainable development, prosperity, lifestyles and human well-being, and **commit** to pursue the conservation and sustainable use of Arctic biological resources,

Note with concern that Arctic biodiversity is being degraded and that climate change is the most serious threat, **welcome** the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment, the first Arctic-wide comprehensive assessment of status and emerging trends in Arctic biodiversity, **approve** its recommendations and **encourage** Arctic States to follow up on its recommendations, and **instruct** Senior Arctic Officials to ensure that a plan for further work under the Arctic Council to support and implement its recommendations is developed, and that a progress report is delivered to the next ministerial meeting,

Encourage Arctic States to take decisive action to help sustain Arctic biodiversity and implement internationally agreed biodiversity objectives, to cooperate on adaptive management strategies for vulnerable species and ecosystems, and to continue existing Arctic biodiversity research and monitoring efforts through the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program,

Welcome the Arctic Ocean Acidification assessment, **approve** its recommendations, **note** with concern the potential impacts of acidification on marine life and people that are dependent on healthy marine ecosystems, **recognize** that carbon dioxide emission reductions are the only effective way to mitigate ocean acidification, and **request** the Arctic States to continue to take action on mitigation and adaptation and to monitor and assess the state of Arctic Ocean acidification,

Recognize the important ongoing work in the International Maritime Organization to develop a mandatory Polar Code on shipping and **decide** to strengthen our collaboration in that work toward its expeditious completion,

Welcome the Arctic Ocean Review report, undertaken to provide guidance to Arctic States on strengthening governance in the Arctic through a cooperative, coordinated and integrated approach to the management of the Arctic marine environment, **approve** its recommendations and **request** appropriate follow-up actions, and report on progress at subsequent ministerial meetings,

Recognize that there are further persistent organic pollutants to be addressed that pose threats to human health and the environment in the Arctic, **encourage** Arctic States to continue monitoring and assessment activities and enhance their efforts to meet the objectives of the Stockholm convention, and **welcome** the completion of the successful demonstration project preventing the release of 7000 tons of obsolete pesticides into the Arctic environment, and look forward to further activities in this area,

Note the work of the Arctic Council in raising global awareness and understanding of the impacts of mercury on the health of people and wildlife in the Arctic, **welcome** the Minamata Convention on Mercury, **appreciate** the reference to the particular vulnerabilities of Arctic ecosystems and indigenous communities, **encourage** its swift entry into force along with robust use and emission reduction actions, and **pledge** to assist the evaluation of its effectiveness through continued monitoring and assessments,

Welcome the report on Ecosystem Based Management, **approve** the definition, principles and recommendations, **encourage** Arctic States to implement recommendations both within and across boundaries, and **ensure** coordination of approaches in the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups,

Agree that cooperation in scientific research across the circumpolar Arctic is of great importance to the work of the Arctic Council, and **establish** a Task Force to work towards an arrangement on improved scientific research cooperation among the eight Arctic States,

STRENGTHENING THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Adopt the statement “Vision for the Arctic”,

Welcome the establishment of the Arctic Council Secretariat in Tromsø, Norway, **note** the Host Country Agreement signed between the Government of Norway and the Director of the Arctic Council Secretariat, **approve** its Terms of Reference, Staff rules, Financial rules, Roles and Responsibilities of the Director, and budget for 2013, and **instruct** Senior Arctic Officials to approve a budget for 2014-2015,

Approve the revised Arctic Council Rules of Procedure,

Note the Chair’s conclusions from the Arctic Environment Ministers Meeting in February 2013, and **welcome** further high-level engagement and meetings,

Welcome China, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea and Singapore as new Observer States, and **take note** of the adoption by Senior Arctic Officials of an Observer manual to guide the Council’s subsidiary bodies in relation to meeting logistics and the roles played by Observers,

The Arctic Council receives the application of the EU for observer status affirmatively, but defers a final decision on implementation until the Council ministers are agreed by consensus that the concerns of Council members, addressed by the President of the European Commission in his letter of 8 May are resolved, with the understanding that the EU may observe Council proceedings until such time as the Council acts on the letter’s proposal,

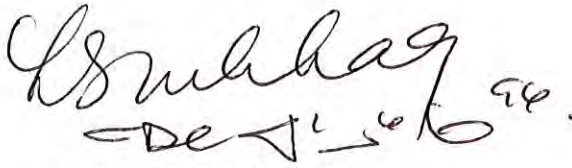
Acknowledge that the work of the Arctic Council continues to evolve to respond to new challenges and opportunities in the Arctic, request Senior Arctic Officials to recommend ways and means to strengthen how the work of the Arctic Council is carried out, including identifying opportunities for Arctic States to use the Council’s work to influence and shape action in other regional and international fora as well as identifying approaches to support the active participation of Permanent Participants, and to present a report on their work at the next Ministerial meeting in 2015,

Acknowledge the decision of the Permanent Participants to relocate the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat to Tromsø, Norway,

Adopt the Senior Arctic Officials Report to Ministers, including its working group work plans, and instruct Senior Arctic Officials to review and adjust the mandates and work plans of the Arctic Council working groups and other subsidiary bodies, and establish new ones, if appropriate, and to follow up on the recommendations agreed to by the Arctic Council,

Thank the Kingdom of Sweden for its Chairmanship of the Arctic Council during the period 2011-2013, concluding the first round of eight Arctic States chairmanships, and **welcome** the offer of Canada to chair the Arctic Council during the period 2013-2015 and to host the Ninth Ministerial meeting in 2015.

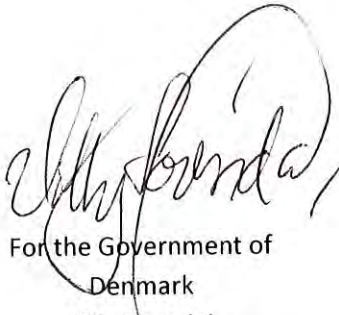
Signed by the representatives of the Arctic Council
15th of May 2013 in Kiruna, Sweden.



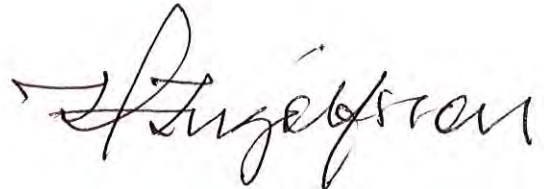
For the Government of
Canada
Leona Aglukkaq
Minister for the Arctic Council



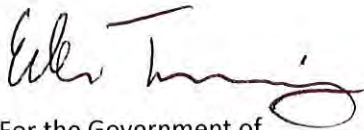
For the Government of
Sweden
Carl Bildt
Minister of Foreign Affairs



For the Government of
Denmark
Villy Søvndal
Minister of Foreign Affairs



For the Government of
Iceland
Hermann Örn Ingólfsson
Director General



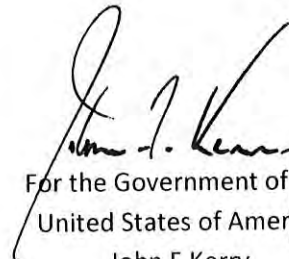
For the Government of
Finland
Erkki Tuomioja
Minister of Foreign Affairs



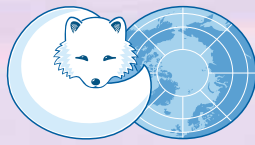
For the Government of
the Russian Federation
Sergey Lavrov
Minister of Foreign Affairs



For the Government of
Norway
Espen Barth Eide
Minister of Foreign Affairs



For the Government of the
United States of America
John F. Kerry
Secretary of State



ARCTIC COUNCIL

IQALUIT DECLARATION

**IQALUIT, CANADA
24 APRIL 2015**



Cover photo: Government of Nunavut, Iqaluit

Back Cover: Stephanie Gauvreau, Pagnirtung mountain

Layout: Arctic Council Secretariat



Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Iqaluit, Canada 24 April, 2015. (Photo: State Department / Public Domain)

IQALUIT DECLARATION 2015

ON THE OCCASION OF THE NINTH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

1. We, the Ministers representing the eight Arctic States, joined by the representatives of the six Permanent Participant organizations of the Arctic Council, have gathered in Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada, to conclude Canada's second Chairmanship, under the theme of Development for the People of the North, at the Ninth Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council,

2. Reaffirming the commitment to maintain peace, stability and constructive cooperation in the Arctic,

3. Confirming the commitment of the Arctic states and permanent participants to respond jointly to new opportunities and challenges in the Arctic, **noting** the substantial progress the Council has made to strengthen circumpolar cooperation, and **affirming** the important leadership role of the Council in taking concrete action through enhanced results-oriented cooperation,

4. Reaffirming our commitment to sustainable development in the Arctic region, including economic and social development, improved health conditions and cultural well-being, and our commitment to the protection of the Arctic environment, including the health of Arctic ecosystems, conservation of biodiversity in the Arctic and sustainable use of natural resources, as stated in the Ottawa Declaration of 1996,

5. Recognizing that the Arctic is an inhabited region with diverse economies, cultures and societies, **further recognizing** the rights of the indigenous peoples and reaffirming our commitment to consult in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned, and also **recognizing** interests of all Arctic inhabitants, and **emphasizing** the unique role played by Arctic indigenous peoples and their traditional knowledge in the Arctic Council,

6. Noting with concern the findings of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that the Arctic will continue to warm at twice the rate of the global average, increasing the likelihood of severe impacts in the Arctic and around the world, and **recognizing** that ambitious global and national action is needed to reduce climate risks, increase prospects for effective adaptation, and reduce the costs and challenges of mitigation in the long term,

7. Reaffirming Arctic States' commitment to work together and with partners towards an effective, ambitious, durable international climate agreement in Paris in December 2015 that is applicable to all, and our determination to work within and beyond the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to limit the increase in global average temperature to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels,

HEREBY:

SUSTAINING ARCTIC COMMUNITIES

8. Welcome the establishment of the Arctic Economic Council, and **look forward** to developing a cooperative relationship with this body in order to increase responsible economic development for the benefit of the people of the Arctic,

9. Recognize the importance of improving health, mental wellness and resilience in Arctic communities, **welcome** the progress made through the Circumpolar Mental Wellness Symposium and the review of cancer among indigenous peoples, and **encourage** continued collaborative and innovative approaches to address health issues in the Arctic,



Inuit representatives meet Ministers at the Iqaluit Ministerial Meeting 24 April, 2015. (Photo: DFATD)

10. Welcome the recommendations on traditional and local knowledge and recognize the importance of using this knowledge in the work of the Council, **instruct** the Arctic Council to take relevant actions to implement these recommendations, and **note with appreciation** the work done by the Permanent Participants to develop their own principles for the use of traditional knowledge,

11. Acknowledge the importance of indigenous peoples' traditional ways of life to their economic wellbeing, culture, nutrition and health, and **welcome** the work done on this issue,

12. Recognize the importance of Arctic indigenous languages in empowering Arctic communities, and look forward to continuous efforts to assess and promote Arctic indigenous languages through the Arctic Council,

13. Note the importance of telecommunications infrastructure to Arctic communities, science, navigation and emergency response and **decide** to establish a telecommunications infrastructure experts group to develop a circumpolar infrastructure assessment as a first step in exploring ways to improve telecommunications in the Arctic, and report to Ministers in 2017,

14. Recognize the importance of freshwater to the health of Arctic inhabitants and their communities and to Arctic biodiversity, and **request** that appropriate next steps be presented to Ministers in this area and to consider whether existing national or regional initiatives could be extended to other parts of the Arctic,

15. Recognize the importance of community infrastructure and public health to Arctic peoples and communities and **decide** to consider options for new initiatives,

16. Recognize the importance of Arctic communities' access to clean, affordable and renewable energy alternatives and **decide** to facilitate initiatives to promote circumpolar collaboration on renewable energy and energy efficiency,

17. Recognize the growing importance of tourism to many Arctic communities, and **welcome** the report on Arctic marine tourism,

18. Acknowledge the importance of continued operational exercises in support of the Arctic Search and Rescue Agreement, **welcome** the progress made under this Agreement, and plan to further strengthen international cooperation toward regional search and rescue capability through work within the Arctic Council,

19. Note the work done for the Arctic Council through the second Arctic Human Development Report, **acknowledge** that gender equality is very important for economic, social and cultural development and improves the prospects for future generations in the Arctic, and **welcome** the report on current gender realities and future challenges,

20. Welcome the work of the Arctic Council on reindeer herding and youth, and further welcome the promotion of food culture and leadership opportunities for indigenous youth,

21. Acknowledge the cultural and nutritional importance of traditional and local foods, including from marine living resources in the Arctic, and **welcome** project proposals to assess and promote food security,



The Tlicho Drummers and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation Drummers performed together during the Traditional Knowledge outreach event at the Yellowknife SAO meeting in October 2014. (Photo: Arctic Council Secretariat / Jesper Stig Andersen)

PROTECTING THE UNIQUE ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT

22. Acknowledge that reducing greenhouse gas emissions continues to be the most important contribution to addressing global and Arctic climate change and to the long-term conservation and sustainability of the unique Arctic environment, **recognize** that short-lived climate pollutants emitted within and beyond the borders of the Arctic States have substantial impact on the Arctic, and **further recognize** that efforts undertaken by the Arctic states to reduce these emissions, which complement initiatives such as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, lead to climate, as well as health and economic benefits, in the Arctic,



(Photo: Arctic Council Secretariat / Linnea Nordström)

23. Welcome the assessments and conclusions on black carbon, tropospheric ozone and methane which provide a clear and compelling basis for further action on short-lived climate forcers in the Arctic and beyond, as well as the successful work related to reducing black carbon emissions from diesel and residential wood combustion,

24. Decide to implement the Framework for Action on Enhanced Black Carbon and Methane Emissions reductions, **establish** an expert group reporting to Senior Arctic Officials to report on our collective progress, and **call upon** observer states to join us in these actions given the global nature of the challenge,

25. Recognize that resilience and adaptation to climate change are critically important for Arctic communities, **welcome** the launch of the Arctic Adaptation Exchange Portal, which will allow Arctic communities to exchange experiences, lessons learned and best practices as they continue to adapt to a changing climate, and **commit** to complete the ongoing work,

26. Recognize the importance of risk assessments in relation to climate change, and the need to evaluate the widest possible range of impacts, **appreciate** the effort to provide updated knowledge of changes in Arctic snow, water, ice and permafrost, and **welcome** the efforts within the project Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic to integrate climate projections with knowledge about other drivers of change, in order to inform decisions and develop adaptation strategies,

27. Note the importance of climate science to the Arctic, and **encourage** the creation of an enhanced elevation map of the Arctic to provide improved information for use in scientific analysis and sustainable development, as well as an Arctic climate change indicator system to help predict the effects of climate change in the region,



(Photo: Larry Trigatti)

28. Welcome the launch of the Project Support Instrument in 2014 to facilitate the financing of Arctic Council projects related to pollution prevention, abatement and elimination,

29. Welcome the assessments of human health, trends in persistent organic pollutants and radioactivity in the Arctic, and their findings that efforts to reduce emissions of persistent organic pollutants such as DDT and PCBs have contributed to decreasing overall levels in the Arctic environment and humans, and **urge** Arctic States and observers to continue their efforts in monitoring and assessing existing and emerging contaminants,

30. Support the continued work of the Arctic Council to address mercury pollution, noting the particular vulnerability of Arctic ecosystems and the observed health effects in Arctic communities, **recall** with appreciation the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in 2013, and **urge** governments to ratify the Convention so that it may come into force and be implemented as soon as possible,

31. Recognize that effective prevention measures are critical to ensuring the protection of the Arctic marine environment from potential incidents, also **recognize** the importance of cooperation between the public and the private sectors, and further **recognize** that marine oil pollution prevention, preparedness and response remain a long-term commitment of the Arctic Council,

32. Welcome the Framework Plan for Cooperation on Prevention of Oil Pollution from Petroleum and Maritime Activities in the Marine Areas of the Arctic, and **decide** to begin implementing the Framework Plan through Working Groups, expert-level dialogues, and further actions to prevent marine oil pollution, including regular exchanges of knowledge and experience among Arctic offshore petroleum regulators,

33. Welcome the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines: Systems Safety Management and Safety Culture report, **urge** governments to apply these guidelines throughout the Arctic, **welcome** the progress made on implementing the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment recommendations, and **welcome** the progress made on the Polar Code at the International Maritime Organization following extensive engagement by Arctic States,

34. Welcome the Guide to Oil Spill Response in Snow and Ice Conditions in the Arctic and the further efforts to implement the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic, **request** continuous efforts to further cooperation on oil spill preparedness and response, especially through renewed emphasis on research, information sharing, and exercises,

35. Recognize the multiple stresses on the Arctic environment and the need for an ecosystem-based approach to management, **welcome** and continue to **encourage** progress toward implementation of the ecosystem-based management recommendations approved by Ministers in Kiruna, and **request** the development of practical guidelines for an ecosystem-based approach to the work of the Arctic Council be completed as soon as possible,

36. Note with concern that Arctic biodiversity is being degraded and that climate change is the most serious threat, **encourage** decisive action to help sustain Arctic biodiversity and promote cooperation on adaptive management strategies for vulnerable species and ecosystems where possible, **decide** to work within relevant international processes to follow up on the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment, and **welcome** its implementation plan,



Working Group Chairs and Executive Secretaries, Whitehorse, Canada, March 2015.
(Photo: Arctic Council Secretariat / Linnea Nordström)

37. Welcome the outcomes of the Arctic Biodiversity Congress, **recognize** with appreciation the contribution of permanent participants, observer countries, organizations and stakeholders, and **instruct** Senior Arctic Officials to determine how these outcomes can inform the broader work of the Council,

38. Welcome progress on the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program, **encourage** all states and permanent participants to continue national implementation, and look forward to the State of Marine Biodiversity report in 2017,

39. Note the importance of the numerous Arctic breeding migratory bird species to communities in the Arctic and worldwide, **welcome** the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative Action Plan, and **invite** all participants and observers in the Arctic Council to contribute to this initiative to improve the health of migratory bird populations and the ecosystems on which they depend,

40. Approve the Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas, and **decide** to continue work to develop such a network, based on the best available knowledge and science in order to strengthen marine ecosystem resilience, taking into account the cultural and sustainable use of marine resources,

41. Recognize that acidification of marine areas of the Arctic caused by carbon dioxide absorption has the potential to have significant impacts on Arctic Marine Ecosystems and the people who rely on them, **appreciate** the efforts to provide information on biological and socio-economic consequences, and **decide** to undertake work to raise awareness of ocean acidification in the Arctic,

42. Approve the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2025 as a framework to protect Arctic marine and coastal ecosystems and to promote sustainable development in the region,

43. Establish a Task Force to assess future needs for a regional seas program or other mechanism, as appropriate, for increased cooperation in Arctic marine areas,

44. Acknowledge the importance of scientific cooperation to the circumpolar region, **note** the work on Enhancing Scientific Cooperation in the Arctic, and **decide** to extend the Task Force mandate, including to work towards a legally-binding agreement on scientific cooperation, with a view to completing its work no later than the next Ministerial meeting,

BUILDING A STRONGER ARCTIC COUNCIL

45. Recognize that the Arctic Council Secretariat in Tromsø, Norway has successfully supported and enhanced the work of the Arctic Council, **thank** its staff, and **encourage** further strengthening of the Secretariat,

46. Express appreciation to the Kingdom of Denmark for hosting the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat for more than two decades, **reaffirm** the decision taken by Permanent Participants to relocate it to Tromsø, Norway, and **note** the decision to host it with the Arctic Council Secretariat,

47. Acknowledge that the work of the Arctic Council continues to evolve to respond to new opportunities and challenges in the Arctic, **reaffirm** existing mechanisms and commit to identifying new approaches to support the active participation of Permanent Participants, and **welcome** the work done by Permanent Participants to establish a funding mechanism to strengthen their capacity,

48. Welcome the initiatives undertaken to enhance the accountability and transparency of the work of the Arctic Council in tracking the progress of the Council's activities, archiving and opening access to Council documents, and **decide** to continue this work,



Senior Arctic Officials and Permanent Participant Heads of Delegation at the Yellowknife Senior Arctic Official Meeting in March 2014. (Photo: Arctic Council Secretariat/Linnea Nordström)

49. Welcome efforts to work with the youth of the Arctic states and request that this work continue and be strengthened, and **recognize** the need to focus on indigenous youth concerning the development and preservation of their culture, language, mental and physical health, and leadership qualities,

50. Adopt the Senior Arctic Officials Report to Ministers, including its working group deliverables and work plans, **approve** the Arctic Council Secretariat budget for 2016 and 2017, and **instruct** Senior Arctic Officials to review and adjust the mandates and work plans of the Arctic Council working groups and other subsidiary bodies as necessary,

51. Acknowledge the positive contributions of Observers to the work of the Council, **instruct** the Senior Arctic Officials to further guide the Council's engagement with Observers, taking into account contributions to date and opportunities for future collaboration, and **defer** decisions on pending Observer issues with the goal of deciding on them at the Ministerial Meeting in 2017,

52. Acknowledge with appreciation Canada's role in chairing the Arctic Council during the period 2013-2015, and **accept with appreciation** the offer of the United States of America to chair the Arctic Council during the period 2015-2017 and to host the Tenth Ministerial meeting in 2017



U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry and The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Minister for the Arctic Council. (Photo: DFATD)

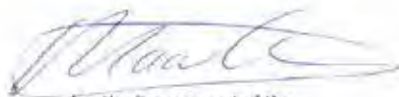
SIGNED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
ARCTIC COUNCIL
24TH DAY OF APRIL, 2015



For the Government of
Canada
Rob Nicholson
Minister of Foreign Affairs




For the Government of
Norway
Børge Brende
Minister of Foreign Affairs



For the Government of the
Kingdom of Denmark
Martin Lidegaard
Minister of Foreign Affairs



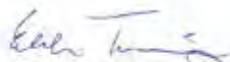
For the Government of the
Russian Federation
Sergei Donskoi
Minister of Natural Resources and
Environment



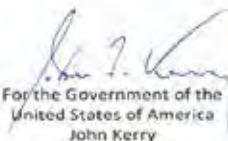
For the Government of
Iceland
Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson
Minister for Foreign Affairs



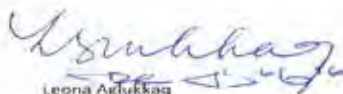
For the Government of
Sweden
Kristina Persson
Minister for Nordic Cooperation



For the Government of
Finland
Erkki Tuomioja
Minister for Foreign Affairs



For the Government of the
United States of America
John Kerry
Secretary of State



Leona Aglukkaq
Chair of the Arctic Council

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Arctic Council Secretariat
Fram Centre
Postboks 6606 Langnes
NO-9296 Tromsø
NORWAY



FAIRBANKS DECLARATION 2017

On the Occasion of the Tenth Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council

We, the Ministers representing the eight Arctic States, joined by representatives of the six Permanent Participant organizations, have gathered in Fairbanks, Alaska, at the conclusion of the second United States Chairmanship, at the Tenth Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council,

Reaffirming the commitment to maintain peace, stability, and constructive cooperation in the Arctic,

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Arctic Council and its emergence as the preeminent intergovernmental forum for the Arctic Region, and **affirming** the commitment to further strengthen the Arctic Council and its activities,

Reaffirming our commitment to the well-being of the inhabitants of the Arctic, to sustainable development and to the protection of the Arctic environment,

Recognizing the rights of Arctic indigenous peoples and the unique role of the Permanent Participants within the Arctic Council, as well as the commitment to consult and cooperate in good faith with Arctic indigenous peoples and to support their meaningful engagement in Arctic Council activities,

Acknowledging the contributions of local authorities, and the interests of all Arctic residents and communities in the work of the Arctic Council,

Further recognizing that activities taking place outside the Arctic region, including activities occurring in Arctic States, are the main contributors to climate change effects and pollution in the Arctic, and **underlining** the need for action at all levels,

Noting with concern that the Arctic is warming at more than twice the rate of the global average, resulting in widespread social, environmental, and economic impacts in the Arctic and worldwide, and the pressing and increasing need for mitigation and adaptation actions and to strengthen resilience,

Noting the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change and its implementation, and **reiterating** the need for global action to reduce both long-lived greenhouse gases and short-lived climate pollutants, and

Reaffirming the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the need for their realization by 2030,

HEREBY:

ARCTIC OCEAN SAFETY, SECURITY AND STEWARDSHIP

1. Note with concern the widespread impacts of climate change on the Arctic marine environment and **decide** to continue efforts to assess these impacts as a basis for marine stewardship and adaptation,

2. Welcome the operational exercises that have advanced the implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic, as well as cooperation through the Arctic Coast Guard Forum, and **request** continued actions within the framework of that Agreement to promote regional capability and readiness,

3. Welcome the entry into force of the Polar Code to ensure safe and environmentally sound shipping in the harsh Arctic marine environment, and **encourage** continued engagement by Arctic States, including at the International Maritime Organization, to facilitate harmonized implementation and enforcement of the Polar Code, and **note** with appreciation the establishment of the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum to promote the implementation of the Code,

4. Note the discussions within the International Maritime Organization on the use and carriage of heavy fuel oil by ships in Arctic waters and the assessment of associated risks, and **decide** to provide expertise and information developed through the ongoing work of the Arctic Council for consideration by those involved in Arctic shipping matters, including at the International Maritime Organization,

5. Note that the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic has entered into force, **recognize** its important role in ensuring the protection of the Arctic marine environment from oil pollution incidents, **welcome** operational exercises and reports in support of its implementation including the database on Arctic response assets, and **encourage** their continuation,

6. Reiterate the importance of oil pollution prevention, preparedness, and response, and the role of research, technology and community participation, and **welcome** the status report on the oil pollution prevention framework plan and the Circumpolar Oil Spill Response Viability Analysis as concrete steps towards realizing this goal,

7. Recognize the value of sustained biodiversity monitoring, **welcome** the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program's State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report as the first of its kind, **welcome** the summary report, and **encourage** further efforts to address monitoring needs and to develop biodiversity status reports for other Arctic ecosystems,

8. Welcome the Arctic Protected Area Indicator Report, **adopt** the Marine Protected Area Network Toolbox, and **encourage** additional work to help implement the Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas in order to strengthen marine ecosystem resilience and to foster the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources,

9. Note with concern the vulnerability of Arctic marine ecosystems to the impacts of ocean acidification, **reiterate** the need to study and raise awareness of the impacts of increasing acidity in the marine areas of the Arctic, and **decide** to continue efforts to study the effects of ocean acidification in the Arctic and its environmental, social and economic consequences,

10. Welcome the progress made on implementing the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment recommendations, **note** the importance of increased understanding of Arctic shipping activities and of reducing the risks to the Arctic marine environment, **acknowledge** the creation of the Framework for Cooperative Action on Arctic Ship Traffic Data Sharing, and **welcome** the Arctic Regional Reception Facilities Outline and Planning Guide,

11. Note with concern the increasing accumulation of marine debris in the Arctic, its effects on the environment and its impacts on Arctic communities, and **decide** to assess the scope of the problem and contribute to its prevention and reduction, and also to continue efforts to address growing concerns relating to the increasing levels of microplastics in the Arctic and potential effects on ecosystems and human health,

12. Recognize the increasing need for regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment, **adopt** the report of the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation as an assessment of future needs and existing mechanisms of cooperation, and its recommendations to strengthen coordinated marine stewardship, and **decide** to establish a new mandate for the Task Force to build upon this work by presenting terms of reference for a possible new subsidiary body, and recommendations for complementary enhancements to existing Arctic Council mechanisms, for consideration by Ministers in 2019,

IMPROVING ECONOMIC AND LIVING CONDITIONS

13. Reaffirm the role of the Arctic Council in promoting sustainable development through harmonizing its three core pillars in an integrated way: economic development, social development and environmental protection,

14. Recognize the vital importance of healthy Arctic communities, homes and peoples, and the essential role of the human and social dimension in the work of the Arctic Council, **welcome** reports and policy recommendations on food security and culture, on the One Health approach in the Arctic, on mental wellness and suicide prevention, and on access to safe water and sewer services, and **encourage** continued work on these issues,

15. Further recognize the vital importance for human health of a healthy natural environment in the Arctic, **welcome** the advancements made to reduce pollutants, such as dioxins, furans,

heavy metals, as well as black carbon, and **encourage** continued work on these issues at all levels,

16. Look forward to the entry into force of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, **encourage** prompt and effective implementation of the Convention by the parties, which is important in our efforts to reduce mercury contamination in the Arctic, **welcome** continued progress in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and **welcome** the work on Chemicals of Emerging Arctic Concern, addressing new potential persistent organic pollutants and other pollutants,

17. Recognize the importance of collaborating with the private sector, **welcome** the operationalization of the Arctic Economic Council, and **look forward** to strengthened co-operation in order to enhance responsible economic development and to build partnerships for issues of common interest and capacity-building of Arctic populations,

18. Recognize the need for an improved understanding of the economy, socio-economic living conditions and environmental issues in the Arctic, and **welcome** the third Economy of the North Report as a resource for decision-makers,

19. Welcome the assessment on telecommunications infrastructure in the Arctic and its associated findings and recommendations, **note** the importance of furthering efforts to improve telecommunications in the Arctic as a means to support thriving Arctic communities, and **decide** to establish a Task Force on Improved Connectivity in the Arctic to compare the needs of those who live, operate, and work in the Arctic with available infrastructure, and to work with the telecommunications industry and the Arctic Economic Council to encourage the creation of required infrastructure with an eye toward pan-Arctic solutions, and to report to Ministers in 2019,

20. Note the critical role that energy plays in promoting sustainable development, **reiterate** the need to improve the access of Arctic communities to clean, affordable and reliable energy sources including renewable energy, **recognize** the potential to further reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and black carbon, to enhance energy efficiency and conservation, **welcome** the Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy initiative, the Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas, and the Wind-Diesel Project at the Tundra Collective in the Murmansk Region as concrete steps towards this goal, and **encourage** national continuation of these initiatives and additional efforts to identify innovative energy infrastructure solutions in the Arctic,

21. Recognize the importance of education in fostering sustainable development and building resilience in Arctic communities, **encourage** the advancement of equal access to good education at all levels, from early childhood to post-secondary, to all Arctic residents, paying particular attention to empowerment and capacity-building of indigenous youth and involving the University of the Arctic where appropriate, and **encourage** international co-operation in developing culturally appropriate teacher competencies,

22. Welcome the initiative concerning preschool education practices aiming to raise the living standards of Arctic indigenous peoples while maintaining their cultures and languages and **encourage** the establishment of a program for training indigenous youth in the documentation of traditional knowledge related to food, food entrepreneurship and innovation,

ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

23. Note again that the Arctic is warming at more than twice the rate of the global average, **note** with concern that the pace and scale of continuing Arctic warming will depend on future emissions of greenhouse gases and short-lived climate pollutants, **reiterate** the importance of global action to **reduce** both greenhouse gases and short-lived climate pollutants to mitigate climate change, and **call** for the Arctic Council to undertake additional analyses to contribute to the assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and continued collaboration with all levels of governments,

24. Adopt the first Pan-Arctic report on collective progress to reduce black carbon and methane emissions by the Arctic States and numerous Observer States and its recommendations, including an aspirational collective goal, **acknowledge** the importance of implementing those recommendations as nationally appropriate, recognizing that Arctic communities are entitled to develop in accordance with their needs and interests, **note** the importance of the continued work of the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane, **recognize** the gains that some industries have already made in reducing the emissions and intensity of greenhouse gases, including methane, and **underscore** the important role of industry in fostering innovative technologies to contribute to further reductions in greenhouse gases and short-lived climate pollutants,

25. Recognize that resilience and adaptation to climate change are important for Arctic communities and ecosystems, **welcome** the three regional Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic Overview Reports that further our understanding of integrated climate, social and ecological change, as well as the Arctic Resilience Report and Synthesis for Arctic Leaders, **adopt** the Arctic Resilience Action Framework to track suggested circumpolar resilience priorities and to coordinate such efforts, and **welcome** actions as appropriate to address those priorities,

26. Welcome the creation of the Framework for the Circumpolar Expansion of the Local Environmental Observer Network and **encourage** expansion of such networks,

27. Recognize that climate change is the most serious threat to Arctic biodiversity, **reiterate** our commitment to safeguarding biodiversity under changing conditions, and **look forward** to the second Arctic Biodiversity Congress in 2018,

28. Recognize that rapid change in the Arctic is increasing the region's vulnerability to invasive alien species, **adopt** the Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan, and **encourage** their implementation with the aim to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive alien species,

29. Reiterate the importance of climate science to our understanding of the changing Arctic region and our activities in the Arctic environment, **welcome** the work towards a regional digital elevation model, and **encourage** continued efforts to coordinate the management and sharing of data that serve as indicators and predictors of climate change, based, *inter alia*, on the World Climate Research Program of the World Meteorological Organization,

30. Recognize the need to increase cooperation in meteorological, oceanographic and terrestrial observations, research and services, and the need for well-maintained and sustained observation networks and continuous monitoring in the Arctic, such as the World Meteorological Organization's Global Cryosphere Watch Program,

31. Recognize the importance of scientific assessments and projections to informed decision-making in the Arctic, incorporating as well traditional and local knowledge, and the reliance of Arctic biodiversity and inhabitants on the availability of freshwater, **welcome** the updated assessment of Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic, **note** with concern its findings, and **adopt** its recommendations,

32. Reaffirm the need for an ecosystem approach to management in the Arctic, **welcome** the Status of Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Arctic Report, and **encourage** future efforts to develop practical guidelines for implementing an ecosystem approach,

33. Announce the Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation, the third legally binding agreement negotiated under the auspices of the Arctic Council, which will help increase effectiveness and efficiency in the development of scientific knowledge about the region as well as strengthen scientific cooperation in the Arctic region, and **encourage** its implementation by all parties following its entry into force,

STRENGTHENING THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

34. Recognize that the Arctic Council continues to evolve, responding to new opportunities and challenges in the Arctic, and **instruct** the Senior Arctic Officials to develop a strategic plan based on the Arctic Council's foundational documents and subsidiary body strategies and guiding documents, for approval by Ministers in 2019,

35. Recognize the important work carried out by the Arctic Council Secretariat and the Secretariats of the Arctic Council Working Groups, and **encourage** further efforts to strengthen their capacity,

36. Recognize the need to inform Arctic residents and the general public of the work of the Arctic Council, **welcome** the Arctic Council's successful communications efforts and **note** the updated 2016 Communications Strategy and the Communications and Outreach Guidelines to be used by the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies,

37. Note the ongoing initiatives undertaken to enhance the accountability and transparency of the work of the Arctic Council, and **welcome** the work to complete the archives of the Arctic Council,

38. Welcome the contribution of the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument to the protection of the Arctic environment by providing and leveraging financing for pollution mitigation projects, including the recent completion of its first projects,

39. Note with appreciation the work done by the Permanent Participants to establish the Álgu Fund to strengthen their capacity, and **acknowledge** existing mechanisms to support their active participation,

40. Welcome the Working Group Common Operating Guidelines that will strengthen the coherence of the work and procedures of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies,

41. Instruct Senior Arctic Officials to explore the possibility of establishing formal cooperation mechanisms, such as memoranda of understanding, with those intergovernmental organizations that could contribute to the work of the Arctic Council, and submit relevant proposals on the potential structure and content of any such mechanisms to Ministers in 2019,

42. Recognize the positive contributions of Observers to the work of the Arctic Council, **note** the efforts made by the Senior Arctic Officials and the subsidiary bodies to enhance engagement with Observers, and **encourage** further efforts to strengthen this working relationship,

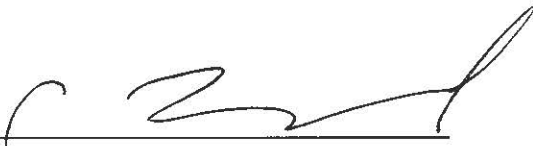
43. Note the review of those Observers in the Arctic Council admitted during the years 1998-2000, **reaffirm** the Observer status of those reviewed, and **instruct** the Senior Arctic Officials to conduct a review of the remaining accredited Observers and report the outcome to Ministers in 2019,

44. Welcome the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, Oceana, the National Geographic Society, the Oslo-Paris Commission, Switzerland, the West Nordic Council and the World Meteorological Organization as new Observers, and also **commit** to invite, in cooperation with the Arctic Economic Council, representatives of industry and business associations to participate as experts in relevant activities of the Arctic Council,

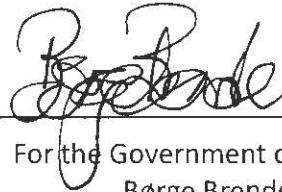
45. Adopt the Senior Arctic Officials Report to Ministers, including its working group deliverables and work plans, **approve** the Arctic Council Secretariat budget for 2018 and 2019, and **instruct** Senior Arctic Officials to review and adjust the mandates and work plans of the Arctic Council working groups and other subsidiary bodies as necessary, and

46. Acknowledge with appreciation the United States' role in chairing the Arctic Council during the period 2015 – 2017, and **accept with appreciation** Finland's offer to chair the Council for the period 2017 – 2019 and to host the eleventh Ministerial meeting in 2019.

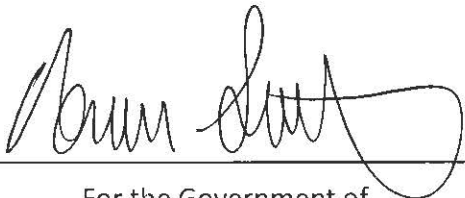
Signed by Representatives of the Arctic Council
11th Day of May, 2017
Fairbanks, Alaska



For the Government of Canada
Christina Alexandra Freeland
Minister of Foreign Affairs



For the Government of Norway
Børge Brende
Minister of Foreign Affairs



For the Government of
the Kingdom of Denmark
Anders Samuelsen
Minister of Foreign Affairs



For the Government of
the Russian Federation
Sergey Lavrov
Minister of Foreign Affairs



For the Government of Finland
Timo Soini
Minister for Foreign Affairs



For the Government of Sweden
Margot Wallström
Minister for Foreign Affairs



For the Government of Iceland
Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson
Minister for Foreign Affairs



For the Government of
the United States of America
Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State