

## 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 peoples<sup>1</sup> 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,

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<sup>1</sup> 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

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Stéphane Dion  
Minister of the Environment

For the Government of Denmark

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Josef Motzfeldt  
Greenland's Deputy Premier

For the Government of Finland

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Erkki Tuomioja  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Iceland

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Davíð Oddsson  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Norway

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Jan Petersen  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Russian  
Federation

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Sergei Lavrov  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Sweden

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Laila Freivalds  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the United  
States of America

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Paula Dobriansky  
Under Secretary of State for  
Global Affairs