

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

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Paula Dobriansky
Under Secretary of State for
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