



CONFERENCE STATEMENT

We, the elected representatives from Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States of America;

In collaboration with the indigenous peoples of the Arctic;

Meeting to discuss Sustainable Infrastructure Development, Governance Models and Decision-Making Processes, Enhancing Northern Economies: Responsible Resource Development and Capacity Building, and Environmental Challenges;

Considering the transformative change now occurring in the Arctic driven by the forces of climate change and globalization resulting in tighter economic and geopolitical links;

Underlining the positive development of Arctic cooperation and with a view to promote even closer and deeper cooperation;

Emphasizing the role of the parliamentarians in the Arctic Region to advise and contribute to the work of the Arctic Council;

Ask the governments in the Arctic Region, the Arctic Council and the institutions of the European Union, where appropriate:

Regarding Sustainable Infrastructure Development to:

1. Promote closer cooperation among coastguards in the Arctic countries and work towards getting a common operational picture for ships operating in the Arctic;
2. Support cross-border and trans-border economic and human cooperation in the Arctic Region;
3. Improve cooperation and coordination when developing sustainable infrastructure and domain awareness in the Arctic Region, such as satellite surveillance, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, communications, maps and marine infrastructure and look for financial solutions that encourage a regional and international approach;
4. Support the development of renewable energy suitable for the Arctic Region to drastically reduce black carbon emissions;
5. Promote new technological innovation and research that supports sustainable energy generation pilot projects in the Arctic for affordable electricity production and heating,

and to create efficient waste disposal and reduce emissions in order to establish self-supporting energy production for Arctic communities;

6. Promote the creation of infrastructure to support food security, such as local processing and incentives supporting Arctic traditional livelihoods, fisheries and agriculture;
7. Support the creation of infrastructure, such as roads, ports and airports, that support and assist in the development of tourism, local economies and other environmentally sustainable economic activities;
8. Continue and strengthen cooperation in the International Maritime Organization to ensure the finalization of the Polar Code and its effective implementation.

Regarding Governance Models and Decision-Making Processes to:

9. Support the development of training and research programs through the University of the Arctic which encourage sustainable development, cultural activities and circumpolar mobility;
10. Promote a human rights approach to development in the Arctic and enhance knowledge of basic human rights on all levels of governance;
11. Exchange best practices on how to nationally involve local and regional governments in decision-making processes in the Arctic Council;
12. Explore new ways to involve regional and local stakeholders in Arctic decision-making processes, such as the outreach events established under the Canadian Chairmanship;
13. Secure the role and participation of the Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council and provide mechanisms to increase their financial and human resources to participate fully in all the activities of the Arctic Council;
14. Address the issue of the growing number of Observers in the Arctic Council, and the possibility for these observers to speak and interact directly with states and Permanent Participants at relevant Arctic Council meetings;
15. Exchange best practices on national governance models to include the views of the indigenous peoples in the national decision-making processes;
16. Explore new areas for legally binding agreements between the Arctic countries;
17. Support initiatives such as the forthcoming EU Arctic Information Centre and the Canadian High Arctic Research Centre as vital tools to supplement existing structures for Arctic research, education and information collaboration;
18. Hold an Arctic Summit, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Arctic Council in 2016, involving heads of state and governments of the Arctic Council member states, as well as the heads of the Permanent Participants.

Regarding Enhancing Northern Economies, Resource Development and Capacity Building to:

19. Establish an Arctic innovation system which links the scientific community, the business sector, political society and local populations, for instance through an Arctic mentorship and mobility program;
20. Support relevant capacity building, particularly through education and training, to ensure that local communities will continue to benefit from economic development;
21. Share and utilize existing technologies and affordable energy generation and deployment practices, particularly in remote communities, as a way to reduce the cost of energy, reduce carbon emissions, support infrastructure development, and contribute to the well-being of residents of the Arctic, and the viability of communities across the Arctic;
22. Exchange experiences and best practices about how industrial projects and traditional industries can coexist and benefit from one another;
23. Promote a Circumpolar Mobility Program to encourage the mobility of students as well as scientists among the Arctic countries with a focus on mutual understanding, collaboration, innovation and sustainable economic development;
24. Support the ongoing work with the International Polar Partnership Initiative to facilitate improved cooperation on future polar research;
25. Promote sustainable resource development in the Arctic by assessing the impacts of development on the environment, societies and cultures, including resilience assessments;
26. Promote cooperation in order to develop new technological solutions that improve the capabilities of the mining industry in challenging Arctic conditions;
27. Recognize the importance of tourism and examine the possibilities of eco-tourism and geo-tourism in the Arctic while developing joint guidelines for sustainable land- and sea-based tourism;
28. Continue to explore the possibilities of ensuring Corporate Social Responsibility – CSR - in the Arctic Region and assess if the principles of the UN Global Compact initiative can be applied when developing activities in the Arctic;

29. Promote the role of a business-driven Arctic Economic Council as one of many partners in the development of a diverse, sustainable and prosperous economy for the Arctic Region;
30. Encourage mutual understanding of the rights of the peoples of the Arctic to utilize their resources in a sustainable way, and the importance of securing their livelihoods by expanding the markets for traditional products, such as seal products, where applicable;
31. Support the value added and innovation in Arctic indigenous societies to strengthen their adaptive capacity to change, including initiatives such as the Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Culinary Institute, the Arctic Council Indigenous Youth Engagement Leadership Program for Local Adaptation, and the EALLIN Reindeer Herding Youth Project.

Regarding Environmental Challenges to:

32. Develop overall strategies for assessing environmental, social and cultural benefits and impacts when developing natural resources in the Arctic, to ensure that any such development is based on principles of sustainability;
33. Initiate joint research on challenges related to oil drilling and transportation of oil and other hazardous goods in Arctic waters in order to prevent accidents and improve capacity in the event of oil spills and other environmental accidents;
34. Establish closer cooperation on challenges related to oil drilling and transportation of oil and other hazardous goods in Arctic waters;
35. Examine how closer Arctic cooperation can promote the use of renewable resources in the region;
36. Develop comprehensive adaptation strategies to prepare Arctic societies for the consequences of climate change;
37. Enhance the health and growth of forests through the sustainable management and use of forest resources while facilitating adaptation to climate change;
38. Continue the work of identifying particularly vulnerable Arctic areas that require special management to secure biodiversity;
39. Raise a strong Arctic message to communicate the consequences of climate change in the Arctic at the UNFCCC COP 20 in Lima in 2014 as well as at the COP 21 negotiations in Paris in December 2015.

Ask the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region to:

40. Explore the possibility of arranging annual Conferences of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region;

41. Continue to promote an active dialogue between the Arctic Council and the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region to secure mutually beneficial cooperation;
42. Further explore and strengthen the possibilities for increased cooperation in the field of culture in the different parts of the Arctic region, and thereby build capacity in communities to deal with environmental, economic, cultural and social challenges for the benefit of sustainable development in the Arctic region.

Furthermore the Conference:

43. Acknowledges the interest and presence of parliamentary observers and representatives from governments and non-governmental agencies at this Conference, and recognizes their important role in relaying the messages and supporting the actions herein discussed;
44. Acknowledges the importance of, and supports, the active participation of indigenous peoples throughout all ongoing and future activities and processes in the Arctic Region;
45. Welcomes the forthcoming US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and looks forward to continued cooperation with the Arctic Council;
46. Welcomes and accepts the invitation of the Parliament of Russia to host the twelfth Conference in 2016.