ARCTIC COUNCIL

5th May, 2017

ROME DECLARATION

on the Occasion of the Tenth Ministerial Meeting of The Arctic Council
We, the Ministers of the Arctic States, joined by the representatives of the six Permanent Participant organizations of the Arctic Council, have gathered in Rome, Italy, under the able Chairmainship of the United States of America,


taking into consideration the Senior Arctic Officials’ reports,

at the conclusion of the Tenth Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council,

**Emphasizing** the purpose of the Arctic Council;

**Affirming** the relevance of Arctic’s resources and communities to the global agenda;

**Reaffirming** the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

**Recognizing** the relevance to fulfil the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals number 8,9,11,13,14 and 15 in Arctic Cooperation;

**Guided** by the need to preserve the resources of the Circumpolar North, its environment and inhabitants;

**Recognising** that the scientific research is fundamental and prolific in the Arctic area for all Member States, Permanent Participants, and Observers and it should be properly encouraged given its crucial function and could be further deepened by the contribution of different forms of knowledge;

**Reminding** that the living conditions in the Arctic are particularly difficult and they are characterised by extremely low levels of urbanisation, infrastructure, healthcare, communication, along with extreme climatic conditions;

**Taking into consideration** that the resilience capacity of Indigenous Peoples constitutes a fundamental source of knowledge which should help the implementation of further actions;

**Recognizing** the critical conditions of sea ice melt and extreme weather are due to the effects of climate change;

**Guided by** the need to preserve the Arctic region; specifically, the environment, communities, and maritime commerce;
HEREBY:

REGARDING THE ISSUE OF POLLUTION AND CONTAMINANTS

Recommend implementing black carbon emission reduction policies that already exist not only in the area of the Arctic rather the International Community as a whole;

Urge the Arctic States to expand the pilot projects on the reduction of Black Carbon from Diesel Engines and other sources by way of highly technologically advanced Diesel Particulate filters and other modern technologies as implemented in the Murmansk region;

Encourage the development of National policies addressing carbon shortage, in order to allow for proper management, followed by usage of waste, of natural resources in order to promote the industrial development of the region;

Express our hope for creating fora involving universities and research institutes on the effective and proper cooperation for the utilisation of low enthalpy geothermal energy and other forms of cleaner energy;

Proclaim that it is fundamental for the region to specifically deal with the proper treatment of mercury, whose persistency in the environment has a significant impact and health of both Arctic fauna and human communities;

Support research on filtering out mercury and all poisonous sources of pollution from lakes, rivers, wetlands and alike;

Encourage the control over the fishing industry as to assure food safety and water quality;

ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Encourage to harmonize legislation among all Arctic States regarding building insulation standards and domestic heating to the level of those in Sweden, Norway, Canada, Finland, and Denmark in order to obtain reduction of emissions of black carbon and methane;

Strongly encourage the Arctic States to set targets for the treatment and re-using of biodegradable waste to reduce methane emissions following targets set by the COP21 of Paris 2015;

Recommend that Arctic States and Observers fully implement gas leakage control regulations such as those put forward by the United States of America’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to reduce methane emissions;
Suggest all Arctic States to invest part of their revenues from their activities in the Arctic in the economy, training and technological development of indigenous peoples, helping to empower them and permitting them to be actively involved in other activities of the Arctic Region;

Urge Arctic States to build international scientific centers to study how to avoid flaring and venting, thus helping reduce methane and black carbon emissions within the Arctic region;

Invite the Arctic States to yearly publish reports on their progresses on the implementation of greenhouse gas emission reduction policies;

GREEN AND CLEANER ENERGY

Request the creation of a Task Force on Green Energy Solutions (TFGES), aimed at developing guidelines for the implementation of green and sustainable best practices in the energy sector in the Arctic, to minimize environmental risk provoked by any fossil fuel, prevent pollution in the Arctic marine environment and protect marine biodiversity and ecosystem;

Commit to work in the direction of providing small-scale renewable energy also for remote communities;

Urge the necessity of developing leading-edge technologies suitable for the Arctic Area, taking into account the green energy sources and considering the extreme conditions of the region, and consequently encourage all Arctic States to promote research and implementation of technologies such as wind turbines, kinetic energy produced by melting ice, biological and thermochemical waste management methods, and geothermal energy;

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Suggest the creation of an Institute on Data Research and Implementation (IDRI), aimed at setting a common space of exchange of data and information among members to progressively build a database of scientific and economic data, in order to maximize the effectiveness of all efforts aimed at the preservation of the environment and economic growth;

Encourage all States to share information, when appropriate, from National centers to the aforementioned international body, which would become a vital source in providing key information on the status of the Arctic environment and human activities;
Recommend the implementation of knowledge-sharing policies within local communities on environmental friendly practices;

Call upon Arctic States to establish an information sharing platform for improving common rescue strategies in the field of SAR agreements;

**IMPROVING ECONOMIC AND LIVING CONDITIONS**

Express its hopes for indigenous languages preservation;

Support the preservation of indigenous languages, which are vital for the cultural link between the communities’ members;

Support integration of indigenous communities and non-indigenous local communities;

Affirm the importance of Arctic identity both for the populations’ sustainable economic growth and for the cultural linkage amongst themselves and each other;

Support the creation of an Arctic *label* for products aimed at guaranteeing quality and recognition of Arctic peoples’ production;

Support the organization of events such as moving fairs, festivals, sportive competitions (each year in a different Arctic country) in order to promote cooperation and healthy competition and prevent suicide motivated by boredom in Arctic countries;

Encourage inter-connection between generations;

Suggest social transmission of knowledge across indigenous peoples’ generations in order to fill the gap created by the rapid changes in their way of life and home region;

**IN VOLVEMENT OF ARCTIC COMMUNITIES TO THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Recommend the inclusion of traditional practices of indigenous peoples in governmental growth plans;

Encourage the modernization of traditional production processes through the sharing and lowering of prices of available and useful technologies to indigenous populations;

Urge the improvement of regional transportation networks;

Support the empowering of cooperation between institutions and local communities;

Encourage the sharing of expertise between local and non-arctic communities regarding transportation infrastructure;
Recommend a safe use of already existing non-renewable energies (e.g. nuclear and thermodynamic) to provide a reasonable amount of energy while still preserving the local natural resources;

Encourage the creation of a non-governmental association which would comprehend and aid local communities by advocating for the energetic and social needs of arctic populations;

Support the amelioration of local food production and supply structures;

Support the attempts to conciliate traditional means of local food production and modern techniques;

Express hope for the implementation of systems based on a fair attribution of fishing and hunting quotas which would be based on the actual subsistence need of each community;

PROMOTION AND ASSURANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH

Urge for the adoption of suicide prevention measures;

Encourage the enhancement of cooperation between Arctic states for the promotion of activities to ensure leisure and prevent suicide caused by boredom;

Affirm the need for community engagement to strengthen cultural and social bonds between individuals.

Adopted on May 5th, 2017
Rome, Italy
Signed by the representatives of the Arctic Council on the 5th of May 2017, in Rome, Italy.

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