

Ministerial Declaration



Arctic Energy Horizons:
*A Vision for Sustainable Arctic
Solutions*

We, the Ministers representing the eight Arctic States, joined by the representatives of the six Permanent Participant organizations, have gathered in Rovaniemi, Finland, at the conclusion of this **Special Ministerial Summit** on Arctic Energy Horizons during the second Finnish Chairmanship.

Acknowledging and **prioritizing** the Permanent Participants' Joint Statement,

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

Affirming the Arctic Council's 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 and policy shaping,

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

Acknowledging the contributions of non-Arctic states, other permanent and *ad hoc* observers,

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,

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

HEREBY:

IMPROVING ENERGY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

- 1. Welcomes** the successful negotiation of a legally binding agreement on oil pollution prevention with stricter minimum standards, with details outlined in Annex I
- 2. Welcomes** the discussion of a memorandum on Oil Rig Movement During Winter Months. Winter months are herein defined as the period, in which there is greater than thirty percent of sea ice concentration above the Arctic Circle and winter storm sea conditions below the Arctic Circle,
- 3. Encourages** the expansion of commitment to and enhanced coordination of rapid response for rescue and disaster clean-up in Arctic waters, given the extreme environmental conditions of the Arctic,
- 4. Amends** the Memorandum for Oil Spill Prevention Agreement by adding an annex clarifying prevention standards,

ESTABLISHMENT OF “WAVES”

- 5. Establishes** a new working group of the Arctic Council, Working toward an Arctic with Visionary Energy Solutions (WAVES),
- 6. Notes** that the mandate shall be: to support collaborative research; to identify and develop best practices for Arctic-specific

challenges in energy production, diversification, and technology; and to promote responsible and sustainable management, use, and development of energy and natural resources, as well as innovative approaches encouraging renewable energy in even the most remote Arctic communities,

- 7. Instructs** the Arctic Council Secretariat to organize the Parties to develop the Terms of Reference, and drawing on the initial elements outlined in Annex II before the end of the Icelandic Chairmanship,
- 8. Establishes** a network within WAVES called *Technology and Innovation for Mindful Energy*,
- 9. Welcomes** the establishment of a Technological Innovation Fund,
- 10. Welcomes** Iceland's offer to host the Secretariat of the new Working Group and Norway's offer to provide financial support,

BIODIVERSITY

- 11. Revises** the Circumpolar Biodiversity Assessment to enact a more specific direction on approaching and including Indigenous Knowledge,
- 12. Establishes** an Arctic Research Institute for Energy and Conservation of Flora and Fauna (ARIECFF),
- 13. Welcomes** Russia's offer to manage and fund the ARIE CFF,

14. Considers the implications of transitioning away from active seismic surveys,

IMPROVING ECONOMIC AND LIVING CONDITIONS

15. Extends and **expands** upon the Arctic Resilience and Action Framework (ARAF) Project through another term for the period of 2019 to 2021,

16. Increases the capacity of Indigenous peoples and those living in the Arctic on adapting to further socioeconomic impacts and mitigating environmental changes, and especially to **enhance** the educational training of personnel employed in the Arctic,

17. Develops a comprehensive assessment of both the physical and mental human health outcomes of hydrocarbon development that takes into consideration Indigenous Knowledge and local knowledge,

18. Adopts a holistic approach to developing health reports that consider the environmental changes that will result from increased infrastructure and influx of non-Indigenous populations,

19. Welcomes greater investment in alternative energy resources, with the cooperation of all relevant stakeholders in the Arctic,

PROTECTING ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENTS

20. **Expands** on *Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities* (MEMA), to **include** more information on the gathering of Indigenous Knowledge,
21. **Encourages** documenting best practices and lessons learned. This includes **hosting** a workshop on these results and **publishing** a related Narrative Report with the intention to provide policy guidance,
22. **Welcomes** additional funding to support this initiative,
23. **Requests** Protection of Arctic Marine Environment Working Group to continue to update the 2009 and 2014 Offshore Oil & Gas Guidelines,

DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

24. **Requests** Arctic Contaminants Action Programme and Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Working Groups to jointly produce a report on combined stressors of Arctic oil and gas impacts on people and the environment, emphasizing climate change and mitigation efforts of short lived climate forcers and energy transition. The report **should** refer to the work of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks,

25. **Invites** all relevant experts and Observers to collaborate on the report,
26. **Expands** on the 2018 Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Working Group assessment on Biological Effects of Contaminants on Arctic Wildlife and Fish to include stressors from oil and gas development,
27. **Promotes** the public involvement of both Indigenous groups and Arctic communities in monitoring and data gathering initiatives,
28. **Welcomes** the use of emerging technologies such as satellite communications and mobile networks to enhance public participation,
29. **Encourages** developing alternatives to routine oil & gas flaring,

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

30. **Encourages** all working groups to proceed its work with the prioritization of the Permanent Participants' Joint Statement, as outlined in Annex III.

Signed by Representatives of the Arctic Council on the 1st Day of
November, 2018 in Rovaniemi, Finland:

For the Government of Canada

For the Government of the
Kingdom of Denmark

For the Government of Finland

For the Government of Iceland

For the Government of Norway

For the Government of Sweden

For the Government of the
Russian Federation

For the Government of the
United States of America

Annex I: Agreement on Oil Spill Prevention During Extraction

The Member States and Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council agree to adopt the highest level of industry standards currently being utilized in the Barents Sea region as the minimum level of oil and gas extraction standards in the Arctic. The Arctic Council States also agree to assist its member states to develop their standards to reach these minimum requirements for those who do not already do so. Within this agreement, the Arctic Council confirms its prioritization of the protection of Indigenous communities, recognizing the importance of the marine environment to these communities. Within this agreement, the Arctic Council acknowledges the Recommended Practices for Arctic Oil Spill Prevention (2013) produced by EPPR, the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines produced by PAME (2014) and the commitment of the Arctic States to continue contributing to the exchange of information, best practices, and relevant experiences being shared within the Arctic Offshore Regulators Forum (AORF). The Arctic Council also encourages its member states to continue to advance their standards beyond the minimum standards agreed upon.

Annex II: WAVES Thematic Areas

The themes of WAVES include:

- A) Traditional and Indigenous knowledge and leadership in projects and initiatives, with at least 2 experts appointed by each Permanent Participant;
- B) Renewable and alternative energy solutions, with an emphasis on solutions uniquely suited to each locale with community/Indigenous involvement in the process;
- C) Oil and gas futures (comprehensive strategic plan);
- D) Approaches to regulation, policy, and financing;
- E) Efficient transportation, transmission, and storage of energy
- F) Small and off-grid community energy issues;
- G) Principles of remediation for ongoing or previous oil and gas activities; and
- H) Promote the creation of global navigation satellite system (GNSS) base station network in the circumpolar north to aid environmental monitoring and research.

Annex III: Permanent Participants' Joint Statement on Indigenous Issues in Arctic Council Discussions

The Permanent Participants would like the Arctic Council member states to consider the following concerns of Indigenous Groups that have consistently been reiterated by our representatives and to see these concerns reflected in their own proposals to be more holistic and inclusive.

1. Importance of ecosystems as persons that can be respected through:

- Fish and Wildlife protection to guarantee protection of subsistence harvesting, as well as commercial harvesting by Indigenous peoples
- Inclusion of Traditional Ecological Knowledge values, as well as local understandings of associated factors, for example, environmental health
 - TEK expert groups should be mandatory in working groups
 - Increase in public hearings, cultural support, economic agreements, and consultations
 - Expert Groups representing Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Peoples include at least 2 experts from each PP (GCI/ICC)
- Hold governments (legal systems) and corporations (corporate law) accountable for their actions
 - liability caps are removed
 - Compensation measures, including financial compensation, for Indigenous communities negatively affected by hydrocarbon resource activity (customary law)

2. Finding alternate economic opportunities and energy sources for northern Indigenous communities by:

- Increasing alternate energy sources like wind and solar for indigenous communities
- Slow, with Indigenous agency, move away from reliance on oil and gas in communities
- Preference given to Indigenous employment in local projects (including training opportunities), as well as co-direction of projects by local leaders