

6th CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

Nuuk, Greenland, 3 – 6 September 2004

MAIN MESSAGE

The elected representatives of Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Sweden, meeting in Nuuk, Greenland, on 3 – 6 September 2004, to discuss shared concerns and responsibilities related to the Arctic Region,

Note that

1. Arctic climate is warming rapidly and much larger changes are projected;
2. Rapid Arctic warming is likely to have major implications for the whole planet, and the world-wide environmental, economic, social, cultural and political implications of Arctic climate change and its consequences need to be addressed globally;
3. Climate change and increased ultraviolet radiation in the Arctic have a major impact on the social, cultural and economic well-being of Arctic peoples, pose significant health risks to Arctic residents, and threaten the livelihood and identity of certain communities in the Arctic, especially indigenous communities;
4. Climate change in the Arctic is already having a major environmental impact on Arctic eco-systems, wildlife and habitat;
5. Human influences, particularly increased emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, are an important cause of climate change in the Arctic;
6. With changing climate, possibilities for the utilization of Arctic shipping routes increase greatly;
7. The need for governments and policy makers to address and respond to Arctic climate change and its consequences is urgent.

Ask governments in the Arctic region and the institutions of the European Union to

8. Take mitigative action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, increase the energy efficiency of Arctic economies and promote the development and adoption of renewable energy sources;
9. Develop management procedures to support Arctic communities in adapting to climate change;
10. Ensure that the opportunities afforded by the foreseeable opening of new Arctic Sea Routes are pursued in a sustainable manner, and that the inherent risks of large-scale Arctic shipping are framed by adequate environmental standards, improved ship technology and the dissemination of transparent and accurate information on the quality of ships in Arctic waters;
11. Actively communicate the findings of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) within the Arctic region as well as internationally, and incorporate materials from ACIA into relevant education, research and training programs throughout the Arctic;
12. Continue research on Arctic climate and follow-up on the remaining gaps in knowledge;
13. Periodically assess the progress of sustainable human development in the Arctic by working systematically and on a continual basis towards filling the gaps of knowledge identified in the Arctic Human Development Report, and participate in the International Polar Year with the inclusion of social and human science components;
14. Ensure that core funding of the University of the Arctic is raised to an adequate and stable level;
15. Support the steps needed to enable the set-up of an Arctic Council Project Support Fund so as to mobilize financial resources for project preparation and implementation in a more timely and effective manner;
16. Ensure the participation of indigenous peoples at all levels of scientific research and decision-making processes within the Arctic Council.

Ask the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region to

16. Carry to governments of the Arctic states a strong message on the importance and seriousness of Arctic climate change and the urgency with which it needs to be addressed;
17. Play an active role in the continued evaluation of the findings of the Arctic Human Development Report;
18. Participate in the Arctic Council Information and Communications Network, and actively promote the development and implementation of an Arctic ICT pilot project, TRAICE (Target Region Arctic Information Communications Enquiry);
19. Consider possibilities to initiate a process which over time could lead to a binding legal regime for conservation and sustainable activities within the Arctic, including its marine environment;
20. Ensure that there is adequate and continuous follow-up in parliaments of Arctic countries, of the conclusions, recommendations and agreements from the Johannesburg Summit.