 **Document 8.2**

1st Draft

**CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

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

In collaboration with the indigenous peoples of the Arctic;

Meeting to discuss Sustainable infrastructure development, 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 in the Arctic cooperation and would like to promote closer and deeper Arctic cooperation;

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

**Regarding Sustainable Infrastructure Development to;**

1. Promote a closer cooperation between the Coast Guards 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, and consider how to strengthen the possibilities for travelling east – west;
3. Increase the cooperation in developing infrastructure for data-communications and satellite surveillance of cruise ships and other vessels in the Arctic;
4. Develop renewable energy suitable for the Arctic region and develop leading technologies in terms of society and environment.

**Regarding Governance Models and Decision Making Processes to;**

1. 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;
2. Explore new areas for legally binding agreements between the Arctic countries in possible areas such as education, tourism and aspects of environmental protection.

**Regarding Enhancing Northern Economies, Resource Development and Capacity Building to;**

1. Support capacity building, particularly through education, in order that local communities will benefit more from economic development;
2. Establish a Circumpolar Mobility Program to promote student exchange between the Arctic countries.

**Regarding Environmental Challenges to;**

1. Develop overall strategies for assessing environmental, social and cultural consequences when exploiting natural resources in the Arctic, to ensure that any such exploitation is based on principles of sustainability;
2. Initiate joint research on challenges related to oil drilling and transportation of oil and other hazardous goods in Arctic waters in order to improve capacity in the event of oil spills and other environmental accidents;

**Ask the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region to;**

1. Explore the possibility to arrange yearly Conferences of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region;
2. Support and influence the drafting of a statement at the next Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council in Canada in 2015.

**Furthermore the Conference;**

1. Acknowledges the interest and presence of parliamentary observers and representatives from governments and non-government agencies at this Conference, and recognizes their important role in relaying the messages and supporting the actions herein discussed.
2. Welcomes the forthcoming US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and looks forward to continued cooperation with the Arctic Council.
3. Welcomes and accepts the kind invitation of the Parliament of … to host the twelfth Conference in 2016.