 **Document 7.2**

2nd Draft

**CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

We, the elected representatives from 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, 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;

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

**Regarding Sustainable Infrastructure Development to;**

1. Promote closer cooperation between the Coast Guards in the Arctic countries and work towards getting a common operational picture for ships operating in the Arctic, not least to develop cooperation on search and rescue;
2. Support cross-border and trans-border economic and human cooperation in the Arctic Region, in particular east-west travel between Arctic states;
3. Improve the cooperation and coordination when developing new infrastructure in the Arctic region, such as satellite surveillance- and communications, maps and other marine infrastructure;
4. Develop renewable energy suitable for the Arctic region, for example to drastically reduce black carbon emissions, and deploy leading technologies in terms of society and environment;
5. Promote the creation of infrastructure to promote food security, such as local processing and incentives supporting Northern agriculture;
6. Support the creation of infrastructure, such as roads, ports and airports, that supports and assists in the development of tourism, shipment of goods, local economies and other sustainable economic activities;
7. Support the development of training and research through the University of the Arctic which encourages sustainable development, cultural activities and circumpolar mobility.

**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 tourism and aspects of environmental protection;
3. Develop the democratic infrastructure continuously as an important part of the capacity building and decision-making processes;
4. Support initiatives to spread information and research about the Arctic such as the forthcoming EU Arctic Information Centre.

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

1. Support capacity building, particularly through education and training, in order that local communities will continue to benefit from economic development;
2. Exchange experiences and good practices of how to start new industrial projects at the same time as the traditional livelihoods in the area are allowed to continue to prosper;
3. Establish a Circumpolar Mobility Program to promote student exchange between the Arctic countries;
4. Support the on-going work with the International Polar Partnership Initiative (IPPI) to facilitate improved cooperation on future polar research.
5. Make overall strategies for assessing environmental, social and cultural consequences when developing natural resources in the Arctic, to ensure that any such utilization is based on principles of sustainability;
6. Establish an Arctic innovation system which links up science community, the business sector and the political society, for instance through an Arctic mentorship and mobility program;
7. Examine the possibilities of eco-tourism and geo-tourism in the Arctic as well as to develop guidelines for sustainable tourism and cruise-ships operations;
8. Continue to explore the possibilities which lie in developing Corporate Social Responsibility – CSR - in the Arctic region;
9. Complete the establishment of a business driven Arctic Economic Council as one of many partners in the development of a sustainable and prosperous Arctic region.

**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;
3. Find closer cooperation on challenges related to oil drilling and transportation of oil and other hazardous goods in Arctic waters;

**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.

**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.