

## **Fourth draft 15 June**

### **CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

We, the elected representatives of Canada, Denmark/Greenland, the European Parliament, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the USA,

Meeting in Kiruna, Sweden, on 2-4 August 2006, to discuss shared responsibilities and opportunities related to the Arctic region,

**Recalling** the Conference Statements from the six previous Conferences of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region held in the period 1993 – 2004

#### **A. NOTING**

1. The consequences of climate change which are becoming more visible and greatly influencing the living conditions of human beings, especially the indigenous peoples, as well as the region's flora and fauna;
2. That climate change makes the Arctic more accessible to human activities such as exploitation of resources and increased shipping activities;
3. The international environmental cooperation which has taken place concerning sustainable development, climate change and biodiversity;

#### **B. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT**

4. The Declaration and Policy document from the Arctic Council meeting in Reykjavik 24 November 2004;
5. The Joint Communiqué from the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council in November 2005;
6. The Statement from the first meeting of Ministers of Culture of the Arctic Council member states in January 2006;
7. The planning of the International Polar Year, 2007/2008, and the significance and potential it holds for the development of Arctic science, and the provision of information that may be useful in policymaking;
8. The work towards developing a framework document for the Northern Dimension Policy of the European Union;

### **C. ASK GOVERNMENTS IN THE ARCTIC REGION AND THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO**

9. Use the attention and debate following the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) to raise a strong Arctic message on climate change on the international agenda, underlining the role of the Arctic as an early warning sign for global climate change;
10. Make sure that concrete policy proposals are made on how to follow up the ACIA Policy Document from the Arctic Council meeting in Reykjavik, November 2004, and initiate a continuous follow up with reports at regular intervals (5 – 10 years);
11. Strengthen their cooperation regarding marine security, especially search and rescue matters;
12. Ensure that natural resources of the Arctic are exploited in a sustainable manner and to the benefit of the peoples living in the Arctic;
13. Make concerted efforts to develop environmentally friendly technology for transport and economic activity in the Arctic to protect its vulnerable nature and the traditional way of life for the Arctic peoples;
14. Strengthen the adaptive capacities of the Arctic residents as mentioned in a political statement by the Arctic states at the COP 11 meeting in Montreal, December 2005;
15. Retain continued strong focus on the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and other greenhouse gases and strengthen the multilateral environmental agreements relevant to the Arctic;
16. In light of the impact of climate change, and increasing economic and human activity, take part in the process to create a legal regime for the Arctic region, preferably within the framework of the Arctic Council;
17. Strengthen the dialogue, analyzes and take concrete measures regarding gender aspects in Arctic societies, especially men's changing role in society and female out-migration from rural areas;
18. Make sure the potential of the International Polar Year 2007/2008 is maximised through sufficient governmental financial support;
19. Use the findings of the Arctic Human Development Report as a tool to give the International Polar Year 2007/2008 a strong human dimension;
20. Take initiatives to ensure a coordinated and joint effort to analyse and make use of the results of the International Polar Year in policymaking;
21. Promote the Arctic region and Arctic science, with a special focus on the young generation, to create a renewed curiosity and interest in Arctic science, and use the University of the Arctic as an important player in this process;
22. Implement the funding of the approved Project Support Instrument;

23. Carry out an assessment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as proposed by the Arctic ICT network;
24. Carry out the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment as outlined in the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan adopted by the Arctic Council of Ministers at the 4th Arctic Council meeting in November 2004

**D. ASK THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION TO**

25. Continue the work, also at a national level, of promoting a strong social dimension in Arctic cooperation, as indicated in the Arctic Human Development Report, with a special focus on children and youth;
26. Actively follow the work of the planning and implementation of the International Polar Year 2007/2008;
27. Actively follow and promote the Arctic perspective in the process of creating and implementing a new Northern Dimension policy in the European Union;
28. Continue to promote the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in concrete projects as a tool for delivering services to Arctic citizens, such as telemedicine and education in local communities;
29. Ensure that there is adequate and continuous follow-up, in parliaments of Arctic countries as well as in international organisations and negotiations, of conclusions and recommendations that have implications for the Arctic regions and peoples;

**E. THE CONFERENCE**

30. Acknowledges the interest and presence of parliamentary observers and representatives from governments and non-government agencies at this Conference, and recognises their important role in relaying the messages and supporting the actions herein discussed;
31. Welcomes the forthcoming Norwegian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and looks forward to continued cooperation with the Arctic Council in 2006-2008;
32. Welcomes and accepts the kind invitation of .....to host the Eighth Conference in 2008.