



NORWICH MODEL ARCTIC COUNCIL

NORWICH
DECLARATION

2019

NORMAC

NORWICH DECLARATION

On the occasion of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Norwich Model Arctic Council

1. **WE**, the Ministers of the Arctic States of the Norwich Model Arctic Council (NORMAC), joined by representatives of the indigenous Permanent Participant organisations of NORMAC;
2. **HAVING GATHERED** in Norwich, United Kingdom, on 3rd March 2019 at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of NORMAC;
3. **CONFIRMING** the commitment of NORMAC to raise awareness of the Arctic as a region; promote respect for Arctic peoples and their indigenous rights; and enhance understanding of the diverse societies, economies, cultures and ecosystems of the Arctic;

HEREBY DECLARE:

Meteorological cooperation in the Arctic

4. **RECOGNISING** that it is the duty of every Arctic State to contribute to the continued monitoring of Arctic meteorological systems;
5. **WISHING** to exercise our responsibility to support the betterment and self-reliance of Arctic indigenous peoples through meteorological cooperation;
6. **URGING** meteorological cooperation for the sake of not only the Arctic States that would benefit from improved meteorological infrastructure, but also the indigenous peoples who depend on an understanding of climate in order to maintain a stable economy and their many traditions;
7. **FULLY AWARE** that the current methods of collecting and distributing meteorological data are unable to satisfy the high demand for information about the rapid changes occurring in the Arctic, and about the resulting consequences for the Arctic ecosystem and Arctic communities;
8. **REALISING** that immediate action is needed in order to preserve Arctic ways of life and the Arctic environment, and to assist Arctic indigenous peoples;

9. **EXPRESSING HOPE** for all-round improvement in the lives of Arctic peoples, and in the Arctic environment, as a result of meteorological cooperation;
10. **TAKING HEED OF** the 2017 Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation, and of its importance in setting ground rules for cooperation between Arctic States and Permanent Participants;

HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

11. **ENCOURAGE** increased cooperation between Arctic States and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) to encourage independent researchers to share research pertaining to Arctic climate and meteorological with the WMO, and particularly its Arctic Regional Climate Centre Network, such that:
 - a. The WMO is declared the primary source of information on Arctic meteorological matters;
 - b. WMO data is recognised as valid, whilst also taking into account indigenous peoples' knowledge;
 - c. Indigenous knowledge and experience of the Arctic climate is advocated to be, and recognised as, of immense value, and that for this reason it should be combined with scientific data collected;
12. **UTILISE** meteorological infrastructure already in place across the Arctic to provide capacity for a new Arctic meteorological programme within the WMO, recognising that increased dialogue between the WMO and the Arctic Council is required to complete this task in future;
13. **CENTRALISE** Arctic meteorological data collection within this new programme in order to make it available to all Arctic people, acknowledging that there may be future need to improve meteorological infrastructure;
14. **RECOMMEND** that the data collected be made available to Arctic indigenous peoples with minimal delay, and in the following manner:
 - a. Online and free of charge, in a user-friendly format and utilising cloud-based technology, but also available in physical copy or via radio broadcasts where broadband connectivity is an issue, recognising that certain Arctic areas struggle with online connectivity;

- b. Including information about extreme weather and responses to it, with a focus on Arctic weather prediction, so as to protect Arctic indigenous communities;
15. **SUPPORT** enhanced prediction of future weather events, using data collected by Arctic States and centralised within the WMO, so as to mitigate the effects of extreme weather for the future protection of Arctic indigenous communities and the Arctic environment, and accomplished through establishing and extending radio-warning systems for Arctic indigenous communities;
16. **DECIDE** to fund this endeavour, with the allocation of financial responsibility being decided at a later date, once the exact cost has been agreed;

Whaling in Arctic waters

17. **GUIDED BY** the hope that populations of individual whale species will eventually return to their pre-commercial hunting levels;
18. **TAKING HEED OF** the necessity to protect and sustain the whale population, especially those species that are endangered;
19. **AFFIRMING** our commitment to acknowledge and respect the voice of Arctic indigenous peoples, and to facilitate their spiritual and cultural needs;
20. **REALISING** the difficulties in the path towards a cooperative effort to address the issue of whaling in Arctic waters;
21. **RECOGNISING** the importance of preserving and protecting lesser whale species, as well as non-endangered greater whale species such as the Minke;
22. **ESPECIALLY CONCERNED** by past commercial hunting of whales to obtain whale oil as fuel;
23. **EMPHASISING** the distinction between whaling by non-indigenous for-profit organisations and whaling by indigenous peoples;
24. **EXPRESSING HOPE** that in future commercial whaling will become unnecessary;
25. **DEFINING** commercial whaling as whaling by non-indigenous peoples;

HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

26. **ESTABLISH** as a new Working Group of Arctic Council, the Advisory Body on Arctic Whaling (ABAW), to regulate Arctic whaling with a view to the preservation of Arctic whale populations;
27. **DIRECT** ABAW to determine specific quotas for commercial whaling for each species of whale;
28. **EMPOWER** ABAW to:
 - a. Mitigate the hunting of lesser whale species except by special licence to allow for sustainable hunting, ban commercial whaling in the waters of Arctic States used by indigenous peoples, ban the hunting of whales for only one product, and ban the hunting of whales that have not yet reached maturity;
 - b. Require commercial interests to disclose the reason for whaling in order to qualify for quota, in order to discourage the wastage of whales;
 - c. Enforce, at the discretion of ABAW, repercussions for contravening established whaling regulations, such as financial penalties, suspensions of licences and/or the forced reapplication for a licence, with particular attention paid to reimbursing any Arctic indigenous peoples whose whaling rights have been infringed;
29. **AIM** to introduce a bridge between Arctic indigenous peoples, and ABAW and other cetacean research groups, so as to employ specialist knowledge of sustainable whaling to aid Arctic indigenous people in determining their own quotas based on scientific research;
30. **INTRODUCE** seasonal whaling zones for commercial whaling, managed by ABAW and rotating throughout the year to maintain whale population, and excluding indigenous whaling zones;

Growth of Arctic shipping

31. **RECALLING** the importance of acting to safeguard those who call the Arctic their home;
32. **CONSCIOUS OF** the disruption icebreakers cause to traditional indigenous hunting paths;

33. **HAVING REGARD TO** the International Maritime Organisation's 2017 Polar Code;
34. **RECOGNISING** the damage caused to other areas due to unmonitored resource exploitation;
35. **ACKNOWLEDGING** that indigenous people are the foremost experts on Arctic navigation and marine management;

HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

36. **PROVIDE** adequate legal representation to indigenous communities by the Arctic State in which the indigenous community is located to ensure protection against any cultural and social damage due to pollution caused by the growth in Arctic shipping;
37. **URGE** the use of liquefied natural gas as a marine fuel, and the decarbonisation of maritime transport;
38. **EXPAND** significantly designated Marine Protected Areas to ensure Arctic fish stocks are not unduly damaged, and to prevent commercial fishing whilst allowing indigenous subsistence fishing;
39. **CONSIDER** reducing the use of icebreakers to clear Arctic shipping lanes to the minimum required for safe transit;
40. **REGULATE** Arctic shipping traffic, excluding the shipping necessary for the sustainable development of the economies of Arctic States and indigenous peoples;
41. **PROGRESS TOWARDS** additional education for all sailors operating in the Arctic on how to travel in a safe and non-damaging manner, according to best practices, by 2022;
42. **ENCOURAGE** ships to avoid areas used for indigenous navigation or wildlife management;
43. **RECOMMEND** the creation and development of nautical charts of Arctic waters, especially currently un-navigated areas;

44. **FURTHER ENCOURAGE** multinational shipping companies to set preferential quotas for the employment of indigenous peoples, and also to fund maritime education in indigenous communities;
45. **CALL FOR** continued research into technologies mitigating the impact of pollution caused by Arctic shipping, with research priorities to be determined by indigenous communities;

The European Union as an Arctic Council Observer

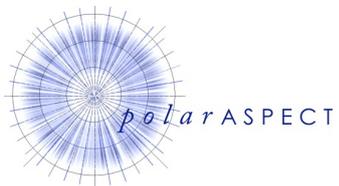
46. **RECOGNISING** that the time required to achieve consensus amongst the Arctic States on the above issues precluded discussion of the European Union's (EU's) application to become an Observer of the Arctic Council;

HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

47. **RECONSIDER** the EU's application as soon as practicable at a future Ministerial Meeting of NORMAC.

Disclaimer

The 2019 Norwich Declaration represents the collective agreement of the student Delegates to the 2019 Norwich Model Arctic Council (NORMAC), an educational initiative for secondary schools, and it does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Polar Aspect or Norwich School.



NORWICH SCHOOL

NORWICH MODEL ARCTIC COUNCIL IS AN INITIATIVE OF POLAR ASPECT
IN COLLABORATION WITH AND HOSTED BY NORWICH SCHOOL