



NORWICH MODEL ARCTIC COUNCIL

NORWICH
DECLARATION

2020

NORMAC

NORWICH DECLARATION

On the occasion of the Fifth 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 8th March 2020 at the Fifth 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:

Safety in Arctic marine tourism

4. **STRESSING** the need for Arctic States to take responsibility to prevent needless injury or loss of life in an emergency;
5. **PROMOTING** cooperation between Arctic States and Permanent Participants on the issue of safety in Arctic marine tourism;
6. **CONCERNED** about the lack of resources available for search-and-rescue (SAR) in the Arctic;
7. **EMPHASISING** the need for new and more reliable Arctic tourism safety information to be available to the public;
8. **BEARING IN MIND** that the Arctic has experienced increasing human presence in recent years, and that commercial and tourism organisations are increasingly looking for business opportunities in the Arctic;
9. **CONSIDERING** not only the needs of Arctic States in relation to Arctic marine tourism, but also the needs of Arctic indigenous peoples;

HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

10. **PRODUCE** frequent, reliable safety information for tourists that will be verified by the Arctic Council bi-annually, including but not limited to:
 - a. A basic safety video containing both safety procedures aboard cruise ships in Arctic waters, and information developed in close consultation with Permanent Participants regarding how tourists can show due respect for indigenous communities and cultures, which should be light-hearted in tone but must not mock, whether explicitly or implicitly, any indigenous people or citizens of Arctic States;
 - b. Maps and charts useful to all travellers in the Arctic, from cruise-ship operators to local fishermen;
11. **DEVELOP** regulations requiring companies engaged in Arctic marine tourism to provide tour guides who are suitably vetted by the relevant indigenous communities, and trained regarding local customs and sustainability issues, in order to ensure that due respect is paid to local indigenous communities and that tourist spending is promoted in such a way as to benefit local indigenous communities;
12. **DIRECT** the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Working Group to determine the minimum infrastructure necessary to ensure that no more than three hours will elapse before appropriate aid and assistance reaches the location of emergencies anywhere in the Arctic, in a manner that does not infringe upon indigenous rights;
13. **STRENGTHEN** the Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic by identifying specific locations in each Arctic region where current resourcing limits SAR capabilities and puts tourists at significant risk, and **COMMIT** to increasing resources for SAR in these locations;

Plastic pollution in the Arctic marine environment

14. **ALARMED** at the fact that every day approximately eight million pieces of plastic enter the world's oceans;

15. **NOTING WITH CONCERN** that, for example, the average American takes in at least 100,000 particles of microplastic annually through eating, drinking and breathing;
16. **CONCERNED** about the amount of plastic Arctic indigenous peoples and Arctic marine wildlife are consuming;
17. **RECOGNISING** that microplastics and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are harmful to both Arctic indigenous peoples and Arctic marine wildlife;
18. **REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the well-being of the inhabitants of the Arctic, to sustainable development in the Arctic region, and to the continued protection of the Arctic marine environment;
19. **RECOGNISING** the special relationship that Arctic indigenous peoples and their communities have with their environment, and the unique contributions they make to the region;
20. **EMPHASISING** the need for further research to help understand human and animal consumption of microplastic and its health effects;

HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

21. **PROMOTE** an initiative to increase awareness of plastic waste in the marine environment, and to encourage local clean-up of coastlines and harbours to help prevent the spread of plastic pollution into the ocean, involving an ad-campaign using the hashtag '*#DoltForTheArctic*' funded by each Arctic State in their respective jurisdictions, the active recruitment of celebrities to endorse of the ad-campaign, and information about how to avoid infringing on any rights that Arctic indigenous people may have over the coastlines and harbours targeted for clean-up;
22. **ESTABLISH** a joint research team with representation from each Arctic state, possibly to be hosted at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre on Vancouver Island, Canada, which will:
 - a. Undertake a longitudinal study on the effects of microplastic and nanoplastic ingestion by Arctic marine animals;

- b. Undertake separate longitudinal studies of the effects of microplastic and nanoplastic ingestion by Arctic indigenous and non-indigenous peoples, as diets vary;
 - c. Complete a short-term evaluation by 2022;
 - d. Include contributions from, and share output with, non-Arctic states in an effort to reduce marine plastic pollution globally;
23. **DIRECT** the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group to determine how plastic waste is being disposed of in each Arctic State, in order to inform future 'reduce, reuse, recycle' schemes, as well as measures to hold companies and industries accountable for how they dispose of their plastic waste;
24. **COMMIT** to adopting, each in our respective jurisdictions, higher taxes on single-use plastics as an incentive to shift production to bio-degradable or reusable materials by 2025, with exemptions for small independent companies and companies producing recycled goods;
25. **COMMIT** to implementing, each in our respective jurisdictions, a reduction in and eventual ban on single-use plastics by 2032, with exceptions only for essential single-use plastics such as medical equipment, assuming no safe or economically viable alternatives have by then been found;
26. **COMMIT** to making, each in our respective jurisdictions, changes to regulations on the fishing industry, which is accountable for a significant proportion of plastic pollution in the Arctic Ocean, including:
- a. A ban on the use of non-biodegradable plastic fishing nets in the Arctic Ocean by 2030;
 - b. Incentives for the use of biodegradable fishing nets, made from a polymer material that will break down after two years;
 - c. Subsidies for companies producing such biodegradable nets;
 - d. Subsidies for indigenous fishing communities so that they do not have to pay any greater price for biodegradable fishing nets than they do currently, to be reviewed biannually after 2022;
27. **COMMIT** to allocating, each in our respective jurisdictions, grant funding towards development of technologies to clean existing plastic pollution from the

Arctic marine environment, such as the 5Gyres and Seabin projects, on the condition that the technologies remain off-patent and free to use, and also that they include the removal of POPs associated with plastic pollution in the Arctic marine environment;

28. **SPONSOR** a joint resolution at the United Nations General Assembly as soon as practically possible, asking United Nations member states to take note of the issue that much plastic pollution in the Arctic originates outside the Arctic and from non-Arctic states;
29. **RESPECT** Russia's intention to develop of the Northern Sea Route for both economic and research purposes without infringing upon the rights of Arctic indigenous peoples, insofar as care is taken to minimise environmental impact by recycling vessels and cleaning up oil spills, including by imposing fines upon companies that fail to clean up oil spills, with a recommendation that 80% of fines go directly to clean-up and 20% into a fund to support smaller companies with minimising their environmental impacts;

Sustainable energy in Arctic communities

30. **RECOGNISING** the urgent need for sustainable energy in the Arctic;
31. **RECOGNISING** that Arctic indigenous peoples rely heavily on fossil fuels for their communities and economies;
32. **RECOGNISING** that any transition to sustainable energy involves costs that Arctic indigenous communities cannot currently afford;
33. **ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of utilising Arctic natural resources to develop the economies of certain Arctic States;
34. **INTENDING** to reduce reliance on fossil fuels in future;
35. **HOPING** to make renewable energy easily available to Arctic peoples;

HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

36. **ESTABLISH** the Arctic Energy Commission as a collaborative organisation based at the University of Tromsø in Norway, staffed by sustainable energy experts from all Arctic States and Permanent Participants, led by an executive rotating annually

amongst the Arctic States, and reporting annually to the Arctic Council on its activities;

37. **DIRECT** the Arctic Energy Commission to:
 - a. Establish and manage a unified Arctic Energy Crisis Fund to which all Arctic States will voluntarily contribute, and assess applications for support from the Arctic Energy Crisis Fund;
 - b. Conduct research into Arctic sustainable energy, such as renewable electricity generation technology specialised for Arctic conditions;
 - c. Oversee the progress of the Arctic Resilience Action Framework and the Arctic Remote Energy Network Academy;
 - d. Create and deliver, together with appropriate non-governmental organisations such as the Centre for Sustainable Energy, an educational programme to teach Arctic residents how to reduce their energy usage in easy, affordable and widely available ways, and to train local Arctic community leaders how to deliver the educational programme, so that they can teach others in their community themselves;
38. **CREATE**, each in our respective jurisdictions, a four-part plan for a transition to greater use of renewable energy in Arctic regions over the next two years, ending April 2022, to be publicised to all Arctic States and to consist of overall sustainable energy targets, total funding and identified funding sources; specific infrastructure to be implemented, and total resources needed including manpower resources;
39. **ESTABLISH**, each in our respective jurisdictions, independent organisations to administer the four-part Arctic renewable-energy transition plans, having obtained consent from relevant Permanent Participants, and with the Arctic Energy Commission acting as observer;
40. **PLEDGE** jointly to review each four-part plan, together with representatives from Permanent Participant organisation, and to share available resources to help implement these plans, including manpower resources, especially where Permanent Participants have identified Arctic communities that could benefit from additional paid work and training in renewable energy;

41. **DIRECT** the Arctic Energy Commission to help minimise job loss in Arctic regions due to decreasing fossil-fuel use, by recording in as much detail as reasonably possible the number of jobs lost and in which Arctic communities lost, by assisting Arctic States in hiring unemployed Arctic community members to build infrastructure for renewable or sustainable energy projects, and by training unemployed Arctic community members to operate newly built renewable-energy infrastructure;

The European Union as an Arctic Council Observer

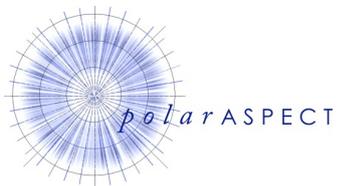
42. **RECOGNISING** that the time required to achieve consensus amongst the Arctic States on the above issues precluded discussion of the European Union's (EU's) application to become an Observer of the Arctic Council;

HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

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

Disclaimer

The 2020 Norwich Declaration represents the collective agreement of the student delegates to the 2020 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