



NORWICH MODEL ARCTIC COUNCIL

NORWICH
DECLARATION

JUNE 2022

**NORMAC**

NORWICH DECLARATION

On the occasion of the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Norwich Model Arctic Council for University

1. **WE**, the Ministers of the Arctic States of the Norwich Model Arctic Council for University (NORMAC University), joined by representatives of the Indigenous Permanent Participant organisations of NORMAC University;
2. **HAVING GATHERED** in Norwich, Norfolk, United Kingdom, on 29th June 2022 at the Second Ministerial Meeting of NORMAC University;
3. **CONFIRMING** the commitment of NORMAC University 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:

Thawing Arctic permafrost

4. **DEEPLY CONCERNED** by the thawing of permafrost in the Arctic, and by the serious consequences of this thawing to the livelihoods, infrastructure and economies of Arctic people;
5. **CONCERNED** that the lack of an overarching Circumpolar strategy for mapping permafrost is hindering mitigation efforts;
6. **STRESSING** the urgent need for further scientific research into thawing permafrost, and for platforms for scientists, Arctic Indigenous communities and Arctic State governments to share information about thawing permafrost;
7. **ACKNOWLEDGING** current research that suggests vastly different rates of methane release from thawing permafrost in different areas of the Arctic, and **FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING** the need to consider differing solutions specific to different areas in accordance with such research;
8. **RECOGNISING** the importance of Indigenous Knowledge in adapting to the effects of thawing permafrost;

9. **RECOGNISING** the need for infrastructure and construction methods that are sustainable and resilient to thawing permafrost;
10. **DESIRING** to promote a holistic approach to the health of human beings, non-human creatures and the ecosystem in connection with the release of pathogens from thawing permafrost;
11. **REAFFIRMING** our respective domestic and international climate and environmental commitments previously made, including the 2015 Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

HEREBY:

12. **INSTRUCT** the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Working Group to:
 - a. Develop a comprehensive Circumpolar permafrost map;
 - b. Establish an ongoing programme to monitor the displacement of communities as a result of thawing permafrost and other environmental changes;
 - c. Engage with the project mentioned below in clause 26(d) in respect of thawing Arctic permafrost;
13. **COMMIT** to continuing and expanding the valuable work of the One Arctic, One Health project, and **INSTRUCT** the Sustainable Development Working Group to:
 - a. Explore the inclusion of traditional and Indigenous Knowledge in the implementation of the One Arctic, One Health project;
 - b. Identify and tackle the release of pathogens caused by the thawing of Arctic permafrost;
 - c. Create international platforms for sharing and developing scientific knowledge about the effects of permafrost thaw on health, including regular cooperative exercises related to such matters;
14. **COMMIT** to further developing sustainable and resilient methods in the construction of infrastructure to adapt to the threat of thawing permafrost;

15. **AGREE** to continue to discuss infrastructure development with Arctic Indigenous communities where it affects their communities, and throughout the process of such development;

Passing Indigenous Knowledge from elders to youth

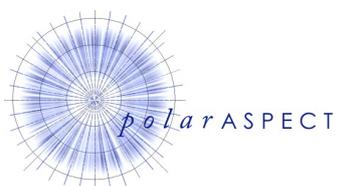
16. **RECOGNISING** that Arctic Indigenous communities must retain their own knowledge, languages, traditions, and lifestyles alongside Western-style education, in order to harmonise the needs of all peoples within the framework of each Arctic State's legislation;
17. **CONCERNED** by the decline of the intergenerational transmission of Indigenous Knowledge;
18. **STRESSING** the need to work towards preventing further loss of Indigenous Knowledge;
19. **RECOGNISING** the value of each person's distinct identity, including nationality and cultural heritage, in Arctic children's education;
20. **BEARING IN MIND** that certain education policies, for example removing Indigenous youth from their communities, could hinder the intergenerational transmission of Indigenous Knowledge;
21. **NOTING** the need to increase the number of qualified teachers in Arctic communities who speak Arctic Indigenous languages;
22. **UNDERSCORING** the importance of undertaking educational infrastructure projects in Indigenous communities in consultation with those communities throughout the project process;
23. **RECOGNISING** that rapid climate change may be seriously contributing to the decline in the transmission of Indigenous Knowledge, and **FURTHER RECOGNISING** the need to explore this issue more deeply;
24. **ACKNOWLEDGING** the contribution that Indigenous Knowledge can make to combating climate change globally;
25. **WELCOMING** forms of sustainable development that start by harmonising Indigenous Knowledge with scientific understanding;

HEREBY:

26. **INSTRUCT** the Sustainable Development Working Group to:
- a. Undertake a project, led by Denmark, the Inuit Circumpolar Council and the Saami Council, to assess the successful integration of Indigenous languages into Greenland's educational curriculum, with the aim of identifying and assessing best practices for incorporating Indigenous languages into the educational curricula in other Arctic States;
 - b. Undertake a project supporting the growth of teaching qualifications amongst speakers of non-dominant languages across the Arctic;
 - c. Undertake a project similar to the Arctic Children: School and Pre-School Education Project, but focused on secondary and tertiary education;
 - d. Undertake a project to enhance trust between Arctic Indigenous Knowledge holders and scientific bodies; taking into account the particular needs and relationships of each community;
27. **AGREE** to establish additional physical and digital infrastructure where needed to aid the intergenerational transmission, preservation and integration of Indigenous Knowledge;
28. **SUPPORT** the development and growth of educational programmes and materials to encourage the intergenerational transmission of Indigenous Knowledge, and to promote such knowledge, in consultation with Arctic Indigenous communities.

Disclaimer

This second Norwich Declaration represents the collective agreement of the student delegates to the Norwich Model Arctic Council of June 2022, an educational initiative for universities, and it does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Polar Aspect, the University of East Anglia or Trent University.



NORWICH MODEL ARCTIC COUNCIL FOR UNIVERSITY IS AN EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE OF POLAR ASPECT
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA AND TRENT UNIVERSITY
AND HOSTED IN JUNE 2022 BY THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA