

Written statement from the Nordic Council of Ministers - Arctic Council Environmental Ministers meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland, 11-12th of October 2018

The Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) has since 1996 had a special cooperation program dedicated to the Arctic. The current program is a four year program from 2018 to 2021 that focuses supporting the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development and has four main themes: People(s), Planet, Prosperity and Partnerships.

The Nordic Council of Ministers is committed to the sustainable development and environmental protection of the Arctic region. The first Arctic program of the Nordic Council of Ministers was adopted in 1996 and since then the NCM has each year supported projects, research and various initiatives on a wide variety of issues that are relevant to the region. With the support of the Arctic Cooperation program the NCM has contributed to better understanding of the socioeconomic conditions as well as enhanced knowledge about the environmental changes occurring in the Arctic.

During the period 2012 to 2018 the NCM Arctic Program has allocated around 6,427 million Danish Crowns or approximately 1,013,431 USD to the works of Arctic Council. This support has gone to specific projects under the administration of Arctic Council working groups, its subsidiary bodies as well to projects organized by the six permanent participants of the Arctic Council.

The current Arctic Cooperation program for 2018-2021, Nordic Partnerships for the Arctic, was adopted in November 2017. It is a four year program that has focuses on four priority areas, people(s), planet, prosperity and partnerships. In the program each of the categories are matched against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) in an effort to reach the targets and goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015.

The purpose of the program is to contribute to the sustainable development and environmental agenda by focusing on issues such as resilience and adaptation to climate change, raising and improving the standard of living of the regions inhabitants, including the indigenous peoples, encourage economic development and development of business opportunities, innovation, entrepreneurship as well as to enhance education and training in the region.

Further information about the Nordic Council of Ministers Arctic Cooperation Program 2018-2021, Nordic Partnerships for the Arctic, can be found here:

<https://www.norden.org/en/information/nordic-council-ministers-arctic-co-operation-programme-2018-2021>

<http://nordregio.se/arcticprogramme>