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## Arctic Council – Arctic Coast Guard Forum Statement of Cooperation

The Arctic Council (the Council) serves as the leading intergovernmental forum for promoting cooperation, coordination, and interaction on common issues among the Arctic States, Arctic Indigenous communities, and other Arctic inhabitants. The Arctic Coast Guard Forum (ACGF) is an independent, informal, operationally-driven organization unifying coast guards or organizations that perform coast guard functions, not bound by treaty, to foster safe, secure, and environmentally responsible maritime activity in the Arctic.

The members of the Council and the ACGF have reached the following understanding to further our common goal of enhancing and promoting safe, sustainable, and responsible maritime activity in the Arctic:

- that strengthened cooperation between the Council and the ACGF is mutually beneficial.
- to exchange information of current concern on initiatives and operational experience related to the Council's and ACGF's respective mandates – with a view to avoid duplication and optimizing resources.
- to enhance information sharing and coordinate mutually beneficial activities through the Council and ACGF Secretariats.
- that in respect of the differences in the structure, membership, and mandates of the Council and ACGF, all possible activities are expected to be realized when feasible and appropriate, including to extend invitations to their respective meetings as serves their purposes.
- that both the Council and ACGF representatives can be invited to observe (participate in) each other's meetings/exercises. The extent of participation in meetings and exercises will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and approved in accordance with each organization's internal procedures.
- that the Council and ACGF members will each bear their own costs and expenses to finance activities undertaken under this cooperation in accordance with their own organizational documents.
- that in order to facilitate the joint collaboration between the Council and the ACGF, relevant planning documents may be developed that coincide with other planning factors. Before implementing any specific activities of mutual interest, the Council and the ACGF intend to discuss the opportunities and challenges presented.
- that all activities and exchange of information under this Statement of Cooperation are subject to the domestic law of Participants of both the Council and the ACGF.

In light of the operational focus of the areas of collaboration noted above, the Council's Working Group on Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response is the designated primary liaison between the Council and the ACGF Secretariat for implementing this strengthened cooperation on the two existing agreements negotiated under the auspices of the Council: the *Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic* (2011) and the *Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic* (2013). This does not preclude the Council and ACGF cooperation through other Council bodies where and when appropriate.