



**THE ARCTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MAY 20<sup>th</sup> 2021**  
*Government of Greenland*  
*Minister of Foreign Affairs, Business, Trade and Climate*  
*Pele Broberg*

Dear colleagues, permanent participants, ladies and gentlemen.

I would first like to echo and thank our neighboring country for their successful Chairmanship, despite these challenging times. Thank you for the very good and constructive cooperation during your Chairmanship.

As we all know the discussions and decisions in the Council can have great effect on our daily lives in the Arctic, many years to come.

It is therefore important to find the right balance between sustainable development for the benefit of us living in the Arctic and the protection of the environment.

Our adoption of the first strategic plan sets the direction for the sustainable development in our region.

Greenland can here contribute to the global transition towards low-emission by exporting green hydropower energy, as well as to nationally substitute imported fossil fuel with green fuel.

The climate change is real in the Arctic, clearly illustrated in Southern Greenland by collapsing icecap edges, and expansion of greenery.

A shared and sound governing of our Arctic is therefore crucial. Decisions should always be based on the benefits or needs of the inhabitants in the Arctic region, and I cannot stress this enough.

In our participation in the work of the Council, it is important for us to continue to gain diplomatic experience and have a good dialogue with our partners in the Arctic.

These experiences are of great importance to us in Greenland as we move towards independence, becoming an Arctic state.

We all know that the great strength of the Arctic Council lies in our strong cooperation and decisions based on the best available knowledge, which include Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge.

Lastly, I would like to welcome the incoming Russian Chairmanship.

On behalf of the Government of Greenland, we look forward to our cooperation and we welcome the plans for increased focus on sustainable economic development during your Chairmanship.

We also share the wish for greater opportunities for trade and business in the Arctic and increased people to people-contact.

To our Russian friends, may you have a successful Chairmanship.

Qujanaq. Thank you.