STATEMENT OF MP AAJA CHEMNITZ LARSEN

Honored guests and members of the Arctic Council

My name is Aaja Chemnitz Larsen and I am the newly elected chair of the Standing committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region. As an indigenous person, I represent my home country Greenland at the Danish Parliament.

Together with our co-chair senator Lisa Murkowski from Alaska in the United States and on behalf of the rest of our colleagues from around the Parliaments of the Arctic Region I wish to thank you for this opportunity.

Recently we had a digital conference with Parliamentarians from all the Arctic that we call home.

Our shared recommendations to Governments of the Arctic Region are:

1. First, let’s make a joint effort to limit the Climate Change in the Arctic.

   We can do that by renewing and enforce our commitment to the Paris Agreement. I’m glad a majority in Greenland want to join the Paris agreement. We – the peoples of the Arctic – are depending on the nature for food and it’s a huge part of our livelihood and brings us much joy. Let’s remember nature is actually the only boss and we need to strengthen the work for lowering emission and bring balance back to nature.

   We need an ambitious climate action plan and ensure a new International Polar Initiative.

2. Secondly, we need to deliver on Sustainable Economic Development by increasing connectivity, strengthening the cooperation with the Arctic Economic Council and further implement the Arctic Investment Protocol. Not only should we increase foreign investment in the Arctic, but we should also ensure the money stays in the Arctic.

   Sustainability in the Arctic is also creating new jobs and opportunity for young local people ensure innovation and entrepreneurship, while ensuring food security.

3. Thirdly, our most important resource in the Arctic is the peoples of the Arctic. In the shadow of the Covid-19 situation, we need to strengthen cooperation on public health. By incorporating voices of the youth and strengthening mobility program, we can increase peaceful and joyful collaboration from north to north.

   Stability and low-tension in the Arctic is key for developing not only business, welfare and everyday lives for the peoples of the Arctic.

   The indigenous peoples of the Arctic are having high hopes for a positive change in the Arctic – let’s show them what we are able to achieve together.
Qujanarujussuaq - thank you very much and enjoy the meeting.