

Ministerial Meeting Statement

Ministerial Statement at Arctic Council
Ministerial Meeting in Kiruna, 2013
DMM02-15 May 2012-Stockholm, Sweden



ARCTIC COUNCIL

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting Kiruna 2013

The Swedish chairmanship proposes that the Arctic Council adopts a statement at the Kiruna ministerial in May 2013. The statement would be adopted in addition to the declarations that are recurrently adopted by the Arctic Council.

The Arctic Council is increasingly turning attention to policy-relevant and action-oriented outcomes that respond to our understanding of the Arctic region, and its emerging challenges and opportunities. At the Kiruna ministerial in May 2013 the Arctic Council will conclude eight chairmanships and there might be a momentum now to outline a strategic direction to ensure focus and results for the forthcoming round of chairmanships. It would improve the possibilities for the Arctic Council to use its resources more efficiently and to guide the working groups' efforts.

The purpose of the statement would be to call for action and to demonstrate that the Arctic states are responding and reacting to the pressing needs of the region. Despite the many difficult challenges in the Arctic, the Arctic states all agree on the importance of addressing issues in cooperation and mutual understanding. The statement could further consolidate and acknowledge the unique cooperative approach among the Arctic states and Permanent Participants today and in the future.

The statement should be short and written in a language that is accessible to the public and could include the following:

- Reaffirm the Ottawa Declaration
- Recognize the important role of Permanent Participants in the work of the Arctic Council
- Recognize the changing context in the region since 1996
- Recognize the important progress made in the first 16 years, including with respect to enhanced scientific understanding of the region
- Recognize Kiruna as a turning point – we are embarking on the second cycle of chairmanships
- Provide strategic direction to ensure focus and results with a set of priorities, for example;
 - *Protecting the environment,*
 - *An Arctic home,*
 - *A safe Arctic,*
 - *A prosperous Arctic*
 - *Better knowledge of the Arctic,*
 - *A strong Arctic Council*