

China's Recent Practice on Preventing Marine Pollution in the Arctic

(Agenda Item 10)

Distinguished Mr. Chair,

Good morning to everyone. First of all, China congratulates new leaders of the Secretariats on resuming their new roles, and China welcomes Switzerland and other organizations as new observers of the Council. China would like to commend the Arctic Council for setting up an agenda item on this Observer special session. China believes that the session could serve as a new platform for a meaningful interaction between Observers and AC Members. China supports the idea that AC should continue this practice.

In the past number of years, China has been persistently working on climate change and pollution prevention, contributing to the efforts of the world in these regards in the Arctic.

China attaches great importance to climate change, and makes significant contributions to the multilateral process on climate change, advocating global green development, and safeguarding

global ecological security. In particular, we played a leading role in the multilateral processes under the UNFCCC, and made a key contribution to the conclusion and the entry into force of the Paris Agreement. China continues to be the largest investor in all forms of renewable energy and now has emerged as the largest market of electric vehicles. We are leading profound changes in the auto industry.

For a long time, China has participated in the work of monitoring and research on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the Arctic. Since our first Arctic scientific expedition in 1999, based on the Yellow River Station and the Xue Long Vessel, Chinese scientists have carried out plenty of research programs, and published a number of academic outcomes regarding POPs in the Polar regions, monitoring and studying 7 categories of pollutants, and analyzing their distributions and origins. China is willing to cooperate with the Arctic States and others to continue enhancing the relevant research, and actively participate in the work of relevant Working Groups of the Council.

China has been constructively involved in formulating the Polar Code, which entered into force on January 1 this year. China will

continue its participation in the upcoming second stage of work concerning the implementation of the Polar Code, and endeavor to make new contributions in areas such as providing technical support and protecting the polar navigation environment.

China also attaches great importance to the prevention and management of mercury pollution. The Minamata Convention on Mercury entered into force on August 16, 2017. China ratified the Convention last year, and as a Party to the Convention, China will faithfully fulfill its obligation under the Convention and contribute to the cooperation of the international community aiming to eliminate the harm of mercury to human race.

Mr. Chair,

Pollution Prevention and Management is one of the important trans-regional topics for the Arctic, and is an important area in which Council Members and Observers can enhance their cooperation. China adheres to protection of the Arctic ecological environment and preservation of the Arctic living resources in accordance with international law, and actively participates in confronting challenges of environment and climate change in the Arctic. China is committed to contributing to the work of the AC,

and will recommend more experts with a view to deepening its involvement in relevant Working Groups and Projects of the Council.

Thank you.