

**Meeting of Deputy Ministers
Stockholm, 15 May 2012
FINAL Report**

1. Introduction

Welcoming Remarks by the State Secretary for Foreign Policy of Sweden, Frank Belfrage

2. Kiruna statement

Background: The Swedish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council has proposed that the Arctic Council at its 8th Ministerial Meeting in Kiruna on May 15 2013 issue a political statement in addition to the Kiruna Declaration. A short presentation was given by the SAO Chair Gustaf Lind (all presentations and background documents are available on the AC website).

Decision: The Deputy Ministers decided to give the Senior Arctic Officials mandate to start negotiating a political Kiruna statement, in addition to the traditional Arctic Council Kiruna Declaration.

3. Adoption of the Communication Strategy for the Arctic Council

Background: The Senior Arctic Officials at their last meeting in Stockholm 28-29 March provisionally adopted the Communication Strategy for the Arctic Council. SAO Chair Gustaf Lind introduced the main elements of the strategy.

Decision: The Deputy Ministers approved the Communication Strategy for the Arctic Council, and encouraged all involved parties to contribute to the implementation of the strategy in their daily activities.

4. Adoption of the project Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic

Background: The Senior Arctic Officials have proposed to initiate a new Arctic Council project called Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA). The Norwegian SAO, Karsten Klepsvik, introduced the core elements of the project, underlining that many had contributed to the development of the AACA.

Action: The Deputy Ministers approved the AACA as an Arctic Council project.

5. Final adoption of documents to establish the standing Arctic Council Secretariat in Tromsø

Background: The Senior Arctic Officials at their last meeting in Stockholm 28-29 March provisionally adopted the documents necessary to establish the standing Arctic Council

Secretariat in Tromsø. The Swedish SAO, and chair of the Task Force for Institutional Issues, Andreas von Uexkull, gave a brief introduction of the process which had led to these final documents, and the plans for the next year, until the Secretariat is expected to be operational at the beginning of the Canadian chairmanship.

Decision: The Deputy Ministers approved the documents as proposed and thanked Norway and Denmark for laying the ground for the successful establishment of the Arctic Council Secretariat in Tromsø, Norway from 2013.

6. Report from the Task Force on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response

Background: The Nuuk Declaration established the Task Force on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response. The Task Force is co-chaired by the USA, Russia and Norway. The Russian SAO, and co-chair for the Task Force, Anton Vasiliev, presented the progress to date, underlining that it had now been decided that the end result of the process will be a legally binding agreement. The negotiations are going well, and the agreement will hopefully be ready for signing by Ministers in Kiruna 2013.

Conclusion: For information purposes.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada, Mr. Morris Rosenberg, reported from the recent IPY conference "From knowledge to action" in Montreal, Canada. The conference had been very successful, with more than 3000 delegates attending.

7.2 The Chair informed the meeting that the Deputy Ministers have adopted a recommendation on the observer applications. The statement was read out aloud, and distributed to delegates.

7.3 Gudfridur Lilja Gretarsdottir, Vice Chair of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians in the Arctic Region (SCPAR) and Member of Parliament, Iceland, informed the meeting about SCPAR's view on some current Arctic Council projects.

8. Conclusion of the Meeting

The Chair thanked the delegates for a good meeting and the Deputy Ministers wished SAOs good luck with preparations for the Kiruna Ministerial.

Background documents and presentations from the meeting may be found on the Arctic Council website.