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The Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council 2021-2023 is marked by introducing the “Arctic Youth” dimension in its program therefore expressing strong support for moving forward on fostering sustainable and meaningful collaboration of young people interested in Arctic affairs and Arctic Council activities and living in the Arctic territories or outside. The aim is to promote the potential of Arctic youth, access to education, and facilitation of international youth cooperation across borders in a wide range of areas, including but not limited to volunteering, entrepreneurship, creative industries, environmental and urban development. The introduction of “Arctic Youth” cluster into the Chairmanship program corresponds to the provisions of 1) “Arctic Council Strategic Plan 2021 to 2030”, namely Strategic Action 4.6 under Strategic Goal 4 “Sustainable Development” in order to “encourage meaningful engagement with youth across the Arctic in a manner that can both support and inform the Council’s work and empower Arctic youth”; as well as 2) “Reykjavik Declaration 2021” and its decision 10 to “Recognize the importance of engaging Arctic youth in international cooperation, welcome youth engagement initiatives by the Council's subsidiary bodies and encourage Senior Arctic Officials to continue to seek practical and innovative ways to support youth cooperation across borders as well as interest in Arctic affairs”.

The Russian Chairmanship acknowledges the previously-made efforts and advances of the Arctic Council in directly or indirectly facilitating Arctic Youth agenda, as for instance release of CAFF working group Youth Engagement Strategy 2021-2026, creation of Permanent Participants’ youth network, support of the University of the Arctic as a promising platform for networking between students, early career scientists and academia etc., to name just a few.

Following the trend of Youth agenda promotion and understanding the challenges related to the Arctic Youth, namely the need to preserve youth creative and professional potential in the territory for sustainable development of the Arctic, the Russian Chairmanship has 1) allocated the positions Russian Envoy for Youth Cooperation in the Arctic and Russian Indigenous Youth Envoy in order to communicate youth voices to the decision makers through various Arctic-focused events and to support youth-run initiatives and projects for the sustainable development of the Arctic; 2) developed a series of youth-related events in order to provide a platform for mutual exchange of ideas and facilitation of shared leadership paradigm within the Arctic context.

The Russian Chairmanship expresses its readiness to jointly explore the areas and modalities of possible international Arctic Youth cooperation and to saturate the actual projects and initiatives with substantial youth-related content. What is more, the Russian Chairmanship stresses the importance of implementing the Triple Helix

model in developing the thematic activities, in particular through thoughtful cooperation and joint work of the Arctic business, the Academia, and the representatives of youth as future professionals and decision makers for the mitigation of youth migration issues, enhancement of the population well-being, development and applied use of contemporary technologies, environmental stability, cultural sustainability, diversification of Arctic household activities and facilitation of Arctic image as creative and attractive economy market.