

Arctic Council Ministerial 20 May 2021 - Speech from the Kingdom of Denmark

Colleagues, permanent participant leaders, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me thank our Icelandic hosts for a strong Chairmanship performance.

You have managed to secure a productive Arctic Council – despite challenging circumstances. Well done.

The Arctic is one of the fastest changing regions in the world.

Recent studies point to an increase in annual temperatures three times higher than the global average.

We have a duty to strengthen our cooperation.

For the benefit of the people inhabiting the Arctic.

And as a signal to everybody, that we will ensure responsible governance in the Arctic.

With the Arctic Council Strategic Plan 2030, we have set the direction based on shared values.

We want to deepen our cooperation.

And we agree that the Arctic must be a stable and secure region based on the rule of law.

Just one example of our leadership:

Today we have adopted a “Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter in the Arctic”.

Marine litter, particularly when made of plastic, is a threat to ecosystems and to human health. A Plan that complements the work on a global agreement to combat marine litter.

Now we must deliver on the actions in the Plan.

I commend the focus on marine matters during the Icelandic Chairmanship.

The cross cutting work in the Senior Arctic Official Marine Mechanism deserves praise. I look forward to building on this work in the future.

Finally, I would like to welcome the incoming Russian Chairmanship.

I look forward to our cooperation.

I would now like to pass the floor to Minister for Business, Trade, Foreign Affairs and Climate Mr. Pele Broberg of the Government of Greenland, followed by Prime Minister of the Government of the Faroes Bárður á Steig Nielsen.

Thank you!