

# STATEMENT AT THE 12TH ARCTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MEETING

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Dear colleagues,

Thank you Iceland as the Chairman of the Arctic Council for the thoughtful arrangement for the meeting. It is a great pleasure meeting you online.

The Arctic Council is the main inter-governmental forum on issues regarding the environment and sustainable development of the Arctic. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Council. In the past 25 years, the Council keeps adapting to the changing situation and promotes exchanges and cooperation on Arctic issues among countries inside and outside the Arctic. As an important stakeholder in Arctic affairs and an observer to the Council, China has been actively participating in the work of the Council. We sincerely hope the Council takes the 25th anniversary as a new starting point to play a more significant role in building an Arctic of peace and stability, clean and beautiful, open and inclusive and developing in a sustainable approach.

Dear colleagues,

The Arctic is a barometer of global climate change. Climate change has posed a serious challenge and real threat to the livelihood of people around the world. In the recent Leaders Summit on Climate, Chinese President Xi Jinping called upon all sides to build a community of life together and announced a series of new measures China prepares to take. President Xi also pointed out that the targets of carbon peak and carbon neutrality have been added to China's overall layout for ecological conservation. These measures will definitely have positive effect on the climate and ecological environment of the Arctic.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you that, China has finished the domestic approval process for the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean and will deposit the instrument of approval as soon as possible. Chinese side is ready to keep close communications with other contracting Parties on the implementation of the Agreement and jointly promote the management of high sea fishery resources in the Arctic Ocean and protect the marine ecological system in the Arctic.

Dear colleagues,

Russia will succeed Iceland as chair of the Arctic Council during this meeting. In the past two years, under the chairmanship of Iceland, the Council has overcome the difficulties caused by Covid-19 and made progress on various agendas. In particular, the Senior Arctic Official Marine Mechanism (SMM) was established and a special observer meeting on the Arctic

governance was organized. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the work done by Iceland and congratulate Russia on starting the chairmanship. We are ready to work with all countries to make new contributions to a brighter future for the Arctic.

Wish the meeting a great success.

Thank you.