

ARCTIC COUNCIL 3RD MINISTERIAL MEETING INARI, FINLAND OCTOBER 9-10, 2002

Summary of the meeting

The 3rd Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting convened in Inari, Finnish Lapland on October 9-10, 2002. The Meeting was held at the Holiday Club Hotel Saariselkä and attended by 260 people of which 23 represented different media. The Ministerial meeting was opened by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland Mr Erkki Tuomioja. Welcoming words were presented by the Governor of Lapland Ms Hannele Pokka and the President of the Saami Parliament of Finland Mr Pekka Aikio. Saami music performance was given by Mr Wimme Saari.

The main decisions by the Ministerial are documented in the Inari Declaration, which was adopted and signed by the Ministers. The Inari Declaration is available at the Arctic Council's web page at http://www.arctic-council.org/files/inari2002/inari_Declaration.pdf.

The Ministers welcomed with appreciation the Report of the Senior Arctic Officials, noted with appreciation the progress made by the Council's subsidiary bodies and adopted the recommendations as included in the report. The report contains the summary of the Council's activities during 2000-2002 as well as the work plans of the subsidiary bodies for the following two years period. The Report is available at the net <http://www.arctic-council.org/files/inari2002/SAOreport.pdf>.

The Ministers endorsed the recommendations in the Senior Arctic Officials's report on the review of the working structures of the Arctic Council.

The Ministerial meeting had three round table discussions. The first was titled as "Actions against Pollution and Environmental Degradation". Introductory remarks were made by the Arctic Council Working groups AMAP, CAFF, EPPR, PAME and ACAP and all Arctic Council Member States and Permanent Participants participated in the following discussion. Also the United Kingdom and WWF made interventions. Interventions made during the discussion are available at the AC's web page at <http://www.arctic-council.org/inari2002.html> The main elements of the discussion were included into the Inari Declaration.

The second round table discussion was titled as "New Focus on Arctic Human Development". Introductory remarks were made by ACIA, SDWG, Raipon and Iceland. All Arctic Council Member States and Permanent Participants as well as the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region and NAMMCO made interventions in the following discussion. Interventions made during the discussion are available at the AC web pages <http://www.arctic-council.org/inari2002.html> The main elements of the discussion were included into the Inari Declaration as well.

The theme of the third round table discussion was the future perspectives of Arctic cooperation. The incoming Chair Iceland introduced the theme by a key note speech followed by active discussion by all the other Member States and Permanent Participants. Summation of all the three discussions were made by the outgoing Chair, Finland. WRH also addressed the meeting. Also interventions made during this discussion are available at the AC's web pages <http://www.arctic-council.org/inari2002.html> The main elements of the discussion were included into the Inari Declaration.

The meeting approved the status as observers of the Arctic Council for the period of time until the 4th Ministerial Meeting to the following observer countries: France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom; the the following international organizations: Conference of Parliamentarians of

the Arctic Region, International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), Northern Forum, North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE) and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and to the following non-governmental organizations: Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS), Association of World Reindeer Herders, Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU), International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH), International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), University of the Arctic and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The meeting welcomed with appreciation the continuing offers of Norway to host AMAP and ACAP secretariats, of Iceland to host CAFF and PAME secretariats, of the USA to host ACIA secretariat, of Denmark to host IPS, and the new offer of Canada to host a secretariat for the SDWG and provide a temporary secretariat for EPPR, and encouraged all partners to assist the hosts in financing the secretariats.

The Ministerial meeting congratulated Finland for her chairmanship 2000 - 2002 and welcomed with gratitude the kind offer of Iceland to chair the Arctic Council during the period of 2002-2004 and host the 4th Ministerial Meeting in 2004.

The Inari Ministerial meeting was highlighted by the signing of the Inari Declaration and as the sign of the changing chairmanship the Arctic Council gavel was passed from Finland to Iceland.