

SINGAPORE'S STATEMENT FOR THE ARCTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MEETING, MAY 2021

Singapore would like to commend Iceland for its excellent Chairmanship of the Council. Its Chairmanship focus on “Towards a Sustainable Arctic”, not only reflects Iceland’s commitment to sustainable development; it also highlights the need for closer cooperation between Arctic States, people of the region, and stakeholders beyond.

Since joining the Arctic Council as an Observer State in 2013, Singapore has been supporting the sustainable development of the Arctic, including through active participation in various Council Working Groups, and sharing Singapore’s best practices and knowledge in areas such as preventing oil spills, conserving biodiversity, marine shipping, and sustainable energy development. In the area of Arctic research, Singapore has contributed to the scientific discourse on Arctic shipping governance; carbon cycling of permafrost soils; and sea-level change in the Arctic. In addition, we continue to offer a technical cooperation package to enhance human resource development and governance capacities for the Permanent Participants.

Singapore looks forward to closely working with the incoming Russian Chair to contribute meaningfully to the work of the Council. Sustainable development is one important area that requires collaboration from all stakeholders, which we have emphasised in the recently launched Singapore Green Plan 2030. In line with this, we look forward to supporting the work of sustainable development of the Arctic and environmental issues such as marine litter and green shipping. We will endeavour to continue improving the quality of life of the Indigenous Peoples through relevant technical cooperation programmes for Permanent Participants. The Council can also count on Singapore’s active participation in the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group on the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) project. With a growing number of Singaporean youths taking an interest in the Arctic, we will also explore possible synergies to strengthen the Arctic Council’s youth engagement.

12th Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council

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Last, but not least, Singapore would like to congratulate the Arctic Council on its 25th anniversary. Over the past two decades, the Council has successfully performed its role as the leading intergovernmental forum in promoting cooperation in the Arctic. Singapore stands ready to work with the Council and all stakeholders to strengthen international collaboration and address current and emerging issues to find a common way towards a sustainably prosperous Arctic.

Thank you.

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