

**Minister of Education, Culture, Church and Foreign Affairs of  
Greenland**

**Ms. Ane Lone Bagger**

**At the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting**

**May 7, 2019**

**Lappi Arena**

**Rovaniemi, Finland**

Thank you, Minister Samuelsen

Dear Colleagues, Permanent Participant leaders, ladies and gentlemen,

Firstly, I would also like to thank Finland for the good cooperation during your chairmanship – and congratulate the upcoming Icelandic chairmanship.

I do anticipate a strong cooperation with our good friends and neighbors in Iceland.

To us, the Arctic is not a distant and exotic place – the Arctic is our daily reality. And, as an Arctic nation, the development in the region has always been extremely important to us. The Arctic is our homeland, and we have lived and adapted to the harsh conditions for thousands of years. And we are still living and adapting to the ever-changing environment.

Our daily lives consist of working for a thriving Greenland and the Arctic, for the benefit of our people. To achieve this, we, the Arctic nations, should continue to take the lead in exploring common solutions. Because

we need to find common solutions to the changing environment and to secure the well-being of the people, in partnership with you all.

Here we see Arctic cooperation as key, and this is why we prioritize the work of the Arctic Council. Our common work in the Council has shown that we all are prepared to work collectively, in order to create the best possible conditions for a peaceful development– combined with a sustainable economic development, securing at the same time the fragile environment.

From Greenland, we welcome the still increasing interest in the region from all around the world, an interest when conducted responsibly, can benefit our people in many different areas.

Whether it is regarding science, education, infrastructure, commercial projects, environment or sustainable development, our cooperation should create great opportunities for the Arctic and our future generations.

Together we can lead and facilitate a positive development across the Arctic – for the benefit of the Arctic People.

Qujanaq, thank you!