

ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)

27th ANNUAL MEETING

Draft Resolution Sponsored by: Canada

PROMOTING COOPERATION AND RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF THE ARCTIC REGION

The 27th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum:

Recalling resolutions adopted by APPF Member States at past Annual Meetings, including most recently: Strengthening Joint Action to Respond to Climate Change (2018); Promotion of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Ecosystems, Oceans and Marine Resources (2017); and Conserving and Sustainably Managing our Shared Ocean (2016),

Recognizing that the Arctic Ocean is a unique and fragile ecosystem;

Deeply concerned that the Arctic is warming at more than twice the global rate,

Aware of the widespread impact of climate change on the Arctic marine environment and on the lives, livelihoods and traditions of the Arctic's inhabitants,

Cognizant that climate change in the Arctic has an impact on global climatic systems;

Recalling national commitments made pursuant to the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change,

Committed to upholding the Arctic as a region of peace, stability and cooperation;

Recognizing the sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction of Arctic states in the Arctic;

Also recognizing that an extensive legal framework applies to the Arctic Ocean, notably the Law of the Sea,

Underscoring its respect for the values, interests, culture and traditions of Arctic Indigenous peoples;

Reaffirming the need to support the realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as it relates to the Arctic region,

Welcoming the entry into force of the legally binding International Code For Ships Operating In Polar Waters [Polar Code],

Recalling the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Convinced of the importance of both scientific knowledge and Indigenous and local knowledge of the Arctic environment and ecosystems,

Recognizing that the level of international interest in the Arctic has been growing in recent years,

RESOLVES TO:

1. **Welcome** initiatives and precautions undertaken by APPF Member States, including Arctic and non-Arctic states, that focus on environmental protection, scientific research, and sustainable development of the region;
2. **Implement** the national commitments put forward under the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change;
3. **Support** efforts to respect the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated Commercial Fishing on the High Seas of the Central Arctic Ocean, which was signed by 10 parties, including the APPF Member States of Canada, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States in October 2018, and will enter into force upon the ratification of the 10 parties;
4. **Support** efforts to comply with the *International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters* and other mandatory instruments administered by the International Maritime Organization;
5. **Invite** APPF Member States to sign, ratify and implement the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;
6. **Call on** APPF Member States to refrain from any behaviour that would contravene the established sovereign rights and jurisdiction of Arctic states and the international legal framework that applies in the Arctic Ocean, or that would undermine inter-state cooperation in the Arctic;
7. **Reiterate** the importance of science diplomacy and emphasise the necessity to work together, in collaboration with Arctic Indigenous Peoples and local communities, to enhance and deepen scientific knowledge and understanding of the Arctic in order that it remains a safe, sustainable, prosperous and peaceful place for generations to come.
8. **Commit** to building the research capacity of polar science institutes, and the exchanges and linkages between them.