



# ROVANIEMI JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT 2019

## On the Occasion of the Eleventh Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council

We, the Ministers representing the eight Arctic States, joined by representatives of the six Permanent Participant organizations, have gathered in Rovaniemi, Finland, at the conclusion of Finland's second Chairmanship, at the Eleventh Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council,

**Reaffirming** our commitment to maintain peace, stability and constructive cooperation in the Arctic,

**Emphasizing** the role of Arctic States in providing leadership in addressing new opportunities and challenges in the Arctic, working in close cooperation with the Permanent Participants,

**Recognizing** the diversity of the societies, cultures and economies in the Arctic, **reaffirming** our commitment to the well-being of the inhabitants of the Arctic, to sustainable development and to the protection of the Arctic environment,

**Recognizing** the rights of Arctic indigenous peoples and the unique role of the Permanent Participants within the Arctic Council, as well as the commitment to consult and cooperate in good faith with Arctic indigenous peoples and to support their meaningful engagement in Arctic Council activities,

**Welcome** the ongoing strategic work, and **instruct** the Senior Arctic Officials to continue strategic planning, in order to provide guidance and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Arctic Council, further **instruct** the SAOs to review the roles of the Ministerial meetings, the Senior Arctic Officials and the Permanent Participants, and to report to Ministers in 2021,

**Acknowledge with appreciation** Finland's role in chairing the Arctic Council during the period 2017-2019, and **accept with appreciation** Iceland's offer to chair the Council for the period 2019-2021, **welcome** its Chairmanship program and Iceland's offer to host the twelfth Ministerial meeting in 2021.



## Signed by Representatives of the Arctic Council

7 May 2019

Rovaniemi, Finland

For the Government of Canada  
Chrystia Freeland  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Norway  
Ine Eriksen Sørdeide  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of  
the Kingdom of Denmark  
Anders Samuelsen  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of  
the Russian Federation  
Sergey Lavrov  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Finland  
Timo Soini  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Sweden  
Margot Wallström  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Iceland  
Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of  
the United States of America  
Michael R. Pompeo  
Secretary of State