

**Joint Declaration
of Aleqa Hammond, Premier of Greenland, and
Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland
Nuuk, 8 November 2013**

The Premier of Greenland, Aleqa Hammond, and Foreign Minister of Iceland, Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, met in Nuuk on 8 November 2013.

The Ministers welcomed the opening of the Consulate General of Iceland in Nuuk on 8 November 2013, which represents a milestone in the bilateral relations between Iceland and Greenland. The Government of Greenland is for its part considering how to strengthen its representation in Iceland over the coming years.

Developments in the Arctic are of fundamental importance for Iceland and Greenland. The Ministers agreed that activities such as increased resource utilisation, transportation and tourism in the Arctic should bring economic benefits to the citizens of the two countries. They underlined their commitment to safeguarding the fragile ecosystem of the Arctic and that economic development will be based on the highest environmental and safety standards.

Recognizing the fundamental importance of marine resources for Iceland and Greenland the Ministers agreed that it is in the interest of both countries to work closely together on fisheries issues. They welcomed the establishment of the joint Icelandic-Greenlandic Fisheries Commission earlier this year and agreed to seek further opportunities to enhance their cooperation in this field.

The Ministers welcomed the increase in trade activities between Greenland and Iceland over the past years and stressed their common objective to build on these positive developments. They expressed their intention to initiate high level consultations between the two governments on how these trade relations can be strengthened further for the mutual benefit of the peoples of both countries. The Ministers agreed to examine new ways of facilitating trade links both ways on a commercial basis.

The Ministers also agreed to examine how to strengthen collaboration on food and veterinary issues in general. Emerging diseases, drinking water hygiene and science/risk based food safety measures were identified as areas for further cooperation. Traditional arctic foods are an important common heritage. The Ministers agreed to work to minimize technical problems

related to food and veterinary regulations for trade in these products between Greenland and Iceland.

On health issues, the Ministers noted the existing good cooperation, and agreed to work towards deepening it further to the benefit of patients and with the objective of reducing costs.

Increased maritime transport in the Arctic brings about new opportunities, as well as challenges, for Iceland and Greenland. The Ministers decided to task the joint working group of officials that was established in 2008 to make recommendations on possible synergies and opportunities for cooperation in this field. They also agreed to explore ways to share expertise and knowledge, and work for a stronger cooperation among Arctic States, on search and rescue.

On energy and power generation issues, collaboration should continue, in order to ensure exchange of experiences and best practice.

The Ministers, noted the existing good academic cooperation, and stressed the potential for enhanced academic cooperation and agreed to initiate preparations for a student exchange program between Iceland and Greenland.

They also decided to strengthen cooperation on staff exchanges between the Icelandic Foreign Service and the Greenlandic Foreign Affairs Department, for example by using the Nordic Mobility Programme.

This Declaration will be implemented with regular meetings at the level of ministers or senior officials.

Nuuk, 8 November 2013



Aleqa Hammond

Premier of Greenland



Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland