



APPF27/RES/06

RESOLUTION  
ON  
PROMOTING COOPERATION AND  
RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF THE ARCTIC REGION

(Sponsored by Canada)

We, parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), gathering in historic city of Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of APPF under the theme “Strengthening Parliamentary Partnership for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development”:

**Recalling** resolutions adopted by APPF Member States at past Annual Meetings, including the most recent 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;

**Affirming** that many of the concerns facing the Arctic Region are shared by the Antarctic Region;

**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;

**RESOLVE 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. **Respect** national laws of the Arctic States concerning polar navigation;
6. **Invite** APPF Member States to sign, ratify and implement the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
7. **Call on** APPF Member States to refrain from any behavior that would contravene the established sovereign rights and jurisdiction of Arctic states and the international legal framework that applies in the Arctic Ocean;
8. **Reiterate** the importance of science diplomacy and emphasize 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 to safeguard it as a safe, sustainable, prosperous and peaceful place for generations to come;
9. **Commit** to building the research capacity of polar science institutes, and the exchanges and linkages amongst them;
10. **Affirm** that many of these actions are also relevant for the Antarctic and should be applied as appropriate.