

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Environmental challenges and economic opportunities in the High North

Principal Sponsor: Mr. Torstein Tvedt Solberg (Norway)

1. Recalling the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Oslo declaration (2010) resolution on the Arctic;
2. Considering the transformative change now occurring in the Arctic driven by the forces of climate change and globalization resulting in tighter economic and geopolitical links;
3. Underlining the positive development of Arctic cooperation and with a view to promote even closer and deeper cooperation;
4. Emphasizing the role of the parliamentarians in the OSSE area to advise and contribute to this work;
5. Welcoming the US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and its focus on climate change and ocean governance;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Supports cross-border and trans-border economic and human cooperation in the Arctic Region;
7. Stresses the importance of cooperation and coordination when developing sustainable infrastructure and domain awareness in the Arctic Region, such as satellite surveillance, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, communications, maps and marine infrastructure and look for financial solutions that encourage a regional and international approach;
8. Encourages the Arctic states to take nature conservation measures to protect endangered flora and fauna in the Arctic region, and develop research on the impact of global warming on the nature and biodiversity of the Arctic.
9. Supports the development of renewable energy suitable for the Arctic Region to drastically reduce black carbon emissions;
10. Calls for new technological innovation and research that supports sustainable energy generation pilot projects in the Arctic for affordable electricity production and heating, and to create efficient waste disposal and reduce emissions in order to establish self-supporting energy production for Arctic communities;
11. Encourages the creation of infrastructure to support food security, such as local processing and incentives supporting Arctic traditional livelihoods, fisheries and agriculture;
12. Supports the creation of infrastructure, such as roads, ports and airports, that support and assist in the development of sustainable tourism, local economies and other environmentally friendly economic activities;

13. Recognizes the important ongoing work in the International Maritime Organization to develop a mandatory Polar Code on shipping and decide to strengthen the collaboration towards its expeditious completion;
14. Supports relevant capacity building, particularly through education and training, to ensure that local communities will continue to benefit from economic development;
15. Underlines the importance of sharing and utilizing existing technologies and affordable energy generation and deployment practices, particularly in remote communities, as a way to reduce the cost of energy, reduce carbon emissions, support infrastructure development, and contribute to the wellbeing of residents of the Arctic, and the viability of communities across the Arctic;
16. Encourages the exchange of experiences and best practices about how industrial projects and traditional industries can coexist and benefit from one another;
17. Supports sustainable resource development in the Arctic by assessing the impacts of development on the environment, societies and cultures, including resilience assessments;
18. Recognizes the importance of tourism and examine the possibilities of eco-tourism and geo-tourism in the Arctic while developing joint guidelines for sustainable land- and sea-based tourism;
19. Encourages mutual understanding of the rights of the peoples of the Arctic to utilize their resources in a sustainable way, and the importance of securing their livelihoods by expanding the markets for traditional products;
20. Asks participating States in the Arctic to develop overall strategies for assessing environmental, social and cultural benefits and impacts when developing natural resources in the Arctic, to ensure that any such development is based on principles of sustainability;
21. Calls on participating States in the Arctic to initiate joint research on challenges related to oil drilling and transportation of oil and other hazardous goods in Arctic waters in order to prevent accidents and improve capacity in the event of oil spills and other environmental accidents;
22. Encourages closer cooperation on challenges related to oil drilling and transportation of oil and other hazardous goods in Arctic waters;
23. Underlines the importance of comprehensive adaptation strategies to prepare Arctic societies for the consequences of climate change;
24. Promotes the health and growth of forests through the sustainable management and use of forest resources while facilitating adaptation to climate change.

**Supplementary Item on
Environmental challenges and economic opportunities in the High North**

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