



NARYAN-MAR DECLARATION - 2021

Approved by the Northern Forum Board of Governors

Naryan-Mar, Nenets Autonomous Okrug

Russian Federation

April 29, 2021

We, the Governors of the Northern regions, gathered in the city of Naryan-Mar, Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation on April 29, 2021 at the 14th General Assembly of the Northern Forum to discuss the development of international interregional cooperation in the Far North, identify the priorities and ways of the organization's development for effective assistance to the sustainable development of the Arctic territories, as well as to sum up the results of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug Chairmanship in the Northern Forum,

1. **Reaffirming** the Northern Forum's mission to improve the quality of life in the North by providing the northern regional leaders a means and opportunities to share their knowledge and experience in addressing common challenges of people, living in the North, and to support sustainable development and the implementation of cooperative socio-economic initiatives of the Northern regions,
2. **Noting the** importance of consolidating the efforts of all interested parties to find optimal solutions to the problems of socio-economic development of Northern territories and to effectively counter global and local challenges in the Arctic,
3. **Realizing the** need for more active interaction of the Northern Forum with other organizations of cooperation in the Arctic to strengthen the role of the organization as a significant forum for interregional interaction on sustainable development of the Arctic and Northern territories,
4. **Recognizing the** need to expand the organization's partner network, develop new approaches to interaction and improve the organizational structure to fulfill the organization's potential,
5. **Noting the** contribution of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug to the development of practical interaction of the Northern Forum regions, focused on concrete

result, and to maintaining the organization's positions in the international arena,

Hereby

CURRENT STATUS AND TRENDS

1. In 2021, the Northern Forum celebrates its 30th Anniversary. We express our sincere gratitude to all regions and business partners that have supported our cooperation and actually preserved the organization despite the challenges the Northern Forum has occasionally faced, and that are committed to secure the organization's dynamic development in the coming decade. We call upon all regions to arrange the events in different formats, dedicated to the Northern Forum's Anniversary, throughout the year 2021.
2. We note that under the chairmanship of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug, the Northern Forum, like the entire global community, faced a serious challenge that has significantly limited the possibilities for international cooperation - the coronavirus pandemic. We recognize that the organization has managed to develop new approaches and solutions to joint activities during the period of restrictions, associated with travelling within and between the countries, and to continue interregional contacts and interaction.
3. We express our gratitude to the former Governor of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug Alexander Tsybulsky and the Governor of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug Yuri Bezdudny for leading the Northern Forum and contributing to the development of international interregional ties in the North.
4. We express our gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and the Arctic, Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Senior Arctic Official of the Russian Federation Nikolai Korchunov for their extensive support of the Northern Forum activities.
5. We note the importance of approving the Northern Forum Development Strategy till 2030, defining the organization's objectives and policies for the next decade in the key areas of development – becoming the center of Northern and Arctic knowledge and skills, creating a pool of innovative projects in the field of economic development of the North and the Arctic, improving the efficiency and competitiveness of the organization on the global stage.
6. We express our gratitude to Lapland for its proactive leadership in elaborating the Northern Forum Development Strategy till 2030.

7. We acknowledge the success of implementing the mechanism for supporting the project activities of the Northern Forum and the significant interest of the regional community to this instrument, however, we note the need for searching for additional sources of funding for such activities to empower the implementation of practical initiatives and people's interaction at the local level.
8. We express our gratitude to the Governor of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug – Yugra for the initiative of forming a Creative Industry Working Group and to the State Assembly (Il Tumen) of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) for the initiative of forming a Working Group on the Development of Interparliamentary Cooperation in the Arctic and the North.
9. We assign the Northern Forum Working Groups to intensify their efforts in implementing the Northern Forum policies in relevant domains.
10. We express our gratitude to the Arctic Portal (Akureyri, Iceland) for its continuous support of the Northern Forum activities and for the initiative of creating the Northern Forum Foundation that will facilitate the provision of the organization's financial stability.
11. We call on the regions interested in developing cooperation in the Arctic and the North to engage in the Northern Forum activities to combine efforts in addressing common challenges and countering global and local challenges of our time.
12. We recommend to intensify efforts to attract new members to the Northern Forum, in particular the regions of the Russian Northwest and Scandinavia and the Canadian territories.
13. We welcome new business partners of the Northern Forum: ArKtiKa Company LLC (Alaska, USA) and Legal Assistance to Business LLC (Moscow, Russia).
14. We are grateful to the Nenets Autonomous Okrug and the Northern Forum Secretariat for a high-level organization of the 2nd Meeting of the Northern Forum Governors within the 5th International Arctic Forum "Arctic - Territory of Dialogue" in Saint-Petersburg in April 2019.
15. We express our gratitude to the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University and the Northern Forum Secretariat for the initiatives of holding the Northern Sustainable Development Forum as a platform for a comprehensive discussion of the problems and prospects for the implementation of principles and goals of sustainable development in the Arctic and Northern regions and for the successful holding of the 1st and 2nd Northern Sustainable Development Forum in September 2019 and September 2020.
16. We express our gratitude to the Nenets Autonomous Okrug for preparing and holding the meetings of the Northern Forum Regional Coordinators Committee in November 2018 in Naryan-Mar, in April 2019 in Saint-Petersburg within the

5th International Arctic Forum "Arctic - Territory of Dialogue", in June 2020 by videoconference and in December 2020 in Saint-Petersburg as part of the 10th International Forum "The Arctic: Today and the Future".

17. We express our gratitude to the Province of Lapland, the Municipality of Akureyri and the Northern Forum Secretariat for organizing and successful holding Youth Eco Forum in October 2018 and October 2019. We call on the regions to continue the successful practice of holding Youth Eco Forum in the regions.
18. We express our gratitude to the Secretariat of the Northern Forum and the action group of youth from the Northern Forum member regions for creating the Northern Youth Forum.
19. We express our gratitude to the Nenets Autonomous Okrug for organizing the meeting of the Northern Forum Health in the North and Social Issues Working Group within the 3rd International Scientific and Practical Conference "Arctic Telemedicine" in November 2018 in Naryan-Mar.
20. We express our gratitude the Northern Forum member regions for their active participation in the 1st and 2nd Northern Forum Calls for Projects in 2018 and 2019.
21. We welcome the initiative of the business partner ArKtiKa Company LLC to organize a series of meetings on the development of business cooperation in the Arctic, and we encourage the interested representatives of the Northern Forum member regions to get actively involved.
22. We recognize the importance of information support of the Northern Forum activities to effectively address the challenges faced by the organization, and request the Secretariat of the Northern Forum to develop the basic principles of information policy, including the task of producing the content for the Northern Forum Internet portal and its promotion, developing the brand book, the organization's positioning in the social media, posting information on the organization's activities on the official websites of its member regions and business partners, etc.

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE NORTHERN FORUM IN THE ARCTIC COOPERATION

23. We emphasize the importance of enhancing cooperation with the structures of the Arctic Council, including the permanent participants - organizations of indigenous peoples, working and expert groups, observer organizations, the Arctic Economic Council.
24. We express our commitment to being proactively engaged in the implementation of the Program of the Russian Federation's Chairmanship in the Arctic Council.

25. We welcome the decision of the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group to identify the Northern Forum as the main organizer of the Arctic Resilience Forum and the Arctic Energy Summit in 2021-2023, and are committed to proactively engage in preparing and holding these events.
26. We support the holding of the Youth Startup Forum within the activities of the Northern Youth Forum.
27. We express our commitment to work jointly with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation to prepare and hold the 1st International Conference of Chambers of Trade and Commerce and Business Associations of the Arctic and Northern Regions.
28. Taking into account the growing significance of the Arctic in achieving all sustainable development goals, and in line with the Final Resolution of the 2nd Northern Sustainable Development Forum, we request the Arctic Council to consider the possibility of submitting to the United Nations Organizations a proposal of proclaiming the Decade of the Arctic and setting the International Arctic Day.
29. We highlight the need for developing cooperation with the agencies and structures of the United Nations Organizations, such as UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, GEF, WHO, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, etc.
30. We confirm our interest in developing cooperation with the Barents Euro-Arctic Region Council and the Barents Regional Council and express our hope for proactive cooperation in connection with the upcoming chairmanship of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug in the Barents Regional Council in 2021-2023.
31. We highlight the need for stronger cooperation with the European Union and its structures, the University of the Arctic, International Arctic Social Sciences Association, International Arctic Science Committee, World Wildlife Fund, Association of World Reindeer Herders, and commit to implement joint projects and events for a mutual support of the initiatives aimed at the sustainable development and improvement of the living standards in the North.
32. We note the need for more intensive efforts in engaging the Northern Forum member regions in the ongoing projects of the Arctic Council, primarily, *Arctic Children: Preschool and School Education* and *Digitalization of the Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic*. We welcome the above projects as the priority projects of the Northern Forum.
33. We express our gratitude to the Nenets Autonomous Okrug for its productive work as the Chair of the Northern Forum in the years 2018-2021 and extend our good wishes to the newly elected region in its chairmanship in the Northern Forum in the years 2021-2023.