

The Northern Forum

Resolution #53

Concerning the Status of the Northern Forum Within the Arctic Council

We, the heads of northern regional governments, the participants of the international, non-governmental organization, the Northern Forum, welcome the initiative of the heads of the governments of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States of America to found the international organization, the Arctic Council. We believe that the founding of the Arctic Council is an event of historical significance. We are hopeful that this new organization will become a reliable body, aimed at solving the problems of the Arctic and northern regions of the world.

Today, the Arctic represents a perpetual value to world civilization, a weighty and constructive factor of international stability. It is gratifying that, in this part of the planet, an aspiration toward collective efforts for solving regional problems is becoming gradually perceptible. We highly value this initiative of the Arctic countries and international organizations to strengthen and develop dialogue and cooperation mechanisms in the region.

Unfortunately, acute problems of security, ecology, social and economic difficulties still exist in the northern regions. Coordinated activity of the Arctic and northern countries and regions, and coordinated efforts of existing regional governments and organizations are especially important in this situation.

The Northern Forum, as an organization of heads of northern regions, has from its founding, served to convey the interests of the northern regions, and strives to solve the urgent problems of the North in the future.

In this connection, we request that the heads of national governments, founders of the Arctic Council, consider the question of participation of the Northern Forum in further activity of the Arctic Council as a permanent observer. We believe that it is impossible to solve region-wide problems of the Arctic and North without consolidation of joint efforts. The future of the North is our common task.

We express our hope that the Arctic Council, jointly with the Northern Forum and other regional organizations, will promote the transformation of the Arctic and North to a region of peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity.