



Copenhagen 27 May 2010

Chairman's Summary

Strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of the Arctic Council

Following the discussion at the informal meeting 26 and 27 May 2010 the Deputy Ministers (DM) tasked the SAOs of the Arctic Council to produce a document analyzing various alternatives and exploring options for a strengthened AC.

The document should address the following questions:

- The role of observers and the format for their participation
- The question of a permanent secretariat
- The question of budgetizing expenditures
- The nature of the decisions taken in the AC and the increased use of task forces.

The document could also contain the outcome of the ongoing work on Communication and Outreach and include other aspects deemed relevant in regard to strengthening the Arctic Council.

The document is to be presented to the Member States and PPs with the view that Ministers, in 2011, on the basis of the report, can make appropriate decisions on a balanced and comprehensive proposal to strengthen the AC and solve the observer question while maintaining the key role of Member States and PPs.

The Chair will make the arrangements necessary for this work, including convening the appropriate number of meetings.

The Development of a Mandatory Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters

The members of the Arctic Council expressed their strong support towards the ongoing work in the IMO to address important maritime safety and environmental protection issues in the Arctic (and Antarctic) area. In our view the establishment of mandatory requirements as part of a Polar Code would address a significant gap in the existing regulations for ships operating in the Polar Regions.

The Arctic Council urges the IMO Member States to actively participate in this important process and work towards an early completion date.