

**Declaration  
among  
the Department of Defense of the United States of America,  
the Royal Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway, and  
the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation,  
on  
Arctic Military Environmental Cooperation**

The Department of Defense of the United States of America, the Royal Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway, and the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Recognizing the need to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic environment, including through the Arctic Military Environmental Cooperation program, hereinafter referred to as AMEC,

Understanding that some aspects of military activities, in particular radioactive and chemical contamination issues, may have negative impacts on the Arctic environment,

Underscoring the vital importance of cooperation between military organizations to prevent and solve environmental problems in the Arctic caused by their activities,

Considering cooperation between military organizations as a valuable contribution to the established framework for international environmental cooperation in the Arctic,

Expressing a common desire of the Parties to contribute to the realization of specific projects to protect the Arctic environment,

Taking into account

- the Memorandum between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Environmental Protection Issues of 30 June 1995;
- the Agreement between the Royal Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway and the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation on Cooperation on Defence-Related Environmental Issues of 15 December 1995;
- the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Prevention of Pollution of the Environment in the Arctic of 16 December 1994; and
- the Agreement between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Royal Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway for Cooperation on Environmental Protection in Defense Matters of 19 May 1994,

Hereby declare:

**Article I**

This Declaration establishes a framework for contacts and cooperation among the Parties on military environmental issues in the Arctic, and does not pertain to matters beyond the competencies of the Parties.

**Article II**

Contacts and cooperation under this Declaration are based on reciprocal rights and obligations in accordance with the laws of the United States of America, the laws of the Kingdom of Norway, and the laws of the Russian Federation, and the international obligations of the Parties.

### **Article III**

Cooperation between the Parties may include the following:

- Discussing the principles, directions, and methods for the repair and protection of the environment with regard to military activities in the Arctic;
- Studying the processes of the movement of contamination and evaluating its environmental impact in the Arctic in connection with military activities;
- Reviewing the methods, technologies, and organization of the work to prevent contamination and carry out clean-up efforts in Arctic conditions, as well as the disposal of military arms and equipment;
- Examining methods of emergency response simulation;
- Reviewing and prioritizing technical and other projects, consistent with the laws of the United States of America, the laws of the Kingdom of Norway, and the laws of the Russian Federation, for the repair and protection of the Arctic environment with regard to military activities; and
- Undertaking other activities upon written mutual agreement of the Parties.

### **Article IV**

Cooperation between the Parties may take the following forms:

- Meetings of ad-hoc tripartite working groups on specific topics;
- Conferences, seminars, and workshops;
- Exchanges of visits and delegations;
- Communication of AMEC's achievements and concerns regarding work on military environmental problems in the Arctic through appropriate media;
- Exchange of information on results of environmental monitoring studies in the Arctic and work plans designed to eliminate or reduce the negative impact on the Arctic environment;
- Surveys of the sources of contamination in the Arctic associated with military activities; and
- Research work and technology exchange, upon mutual agreement of the Parties.

### **Article V**

In principle, each Party will pay its own costs for participation in AMEC activities. All activities undertaken pursuant to this Declaration are subject to availability of funds.

For delegations conducting visits to promote activities under this Declaration, the visiting Parties will cover travel expenses to and from the host country, expenses for room and board within the host country, as well as travel allowance and insurance costs. The host party will, to the extent practicable, cover travel expenses within the host country.

Each specific AMEC project conducted under this Declaration may be supported by all three Parties in the form of direct financing, the supply of materiel and equipment, or other forms of payment, to the extent permitted by the laws of the United States of America, the laws of the Kingdom of Norway, and the laws of the Russian Federation. Financial arrangements for each specific AMEC project shall be governed by subsequent written mutual

agreements of the Parties.

To the extent permitted by the laws and regulations applicable to the host party, the host party will be responsible for the other costs associated with organizing events in accordance with this Declaration. Other arrangements may be agreed upon, in writing, on a case by case basis.

#### **Article VI**

A Steering Group with representatives from the three countries is created to organize the AMEC Program work. The Steering Group is led by leaders of the environmental organizations, who select and affirm the priority projects on military environmental issues in the Arctic.

Each year, the Parties will prepare proposals for cooperation in the fields referred to in Articles III and IV of this Declaration. On the basis of these proposals, the AMEC Steering Group shall develop a work plan to implement the AMEC program. Due account will be taken of related activities in other fora in order to avoid duplication of effort.

Not less than once a year, the AMEC Steering Group will inform the Parties about the work being conducted.

The AMEC Steering Group will prepare proposals to implement Articles III and IV, including standard operating procedures, for consideration by the Parties and will oversee implementation of the approved program and report to the Parties no less frequently than annually.

The AMEC Steering Group is composed of representatives appointed by the Parties to discuss issues as directed by the Parties at times and locations approved by the Parties. The Steering Group currently consists of representatives from the environmental organizations of the Parties.

#### **Article VII**

Ministry of Defense organizations of any other country may participate in activities conducted this Declaration, subject to the written approval of all the Parties. Requests for such participation shall be directed to the AMEC Steering Group.

#### **Article VIII**

Information obtained within the framework of AMEC will be protected and exchanged in accordance with the laws of the United States of America, the laws of the Kingdom of Norway, and the laws of the Russian Federation in this respect. Disagreements as to the interpretation or implementation of this Declaration should be resolved by consultation between the Parties and shall not be referred to a third party.

Signed at Bergen on the 26 September 1996, in three copies in the English, Norwegian, and Russian languages, each being equally authentic.

For  
The Department of Defense  
of the United States of America  
///s///  
William J. Perry  
Secretary of Defense

For  
The Ministry of Defence  
of the Kingdom of Norway  
///s///  
Joregen Kosmo  
Minister of Defence

For  
The Ministry of Defence  
of the Russian Federation  
///s///  
Igor Rodionov  
Minister of Defence