



Antarctic Parliamentarians Assembly

info@appgpolarregions.uk

ANTARCTIC PARLIAMENTARIANS ASSEMBLY

Meeting in London, 2-3 December 2019

CONFERENCE STATEMENT

We, as a group of parliamentarians from Antarctic Treaty Parties, gathered at the inaugural Antarctic Parliamentarians Assembly in London on 2-3 December:

Recognise the global importance of the Antarctic Treaty System, comprising the Antarctic Treaty and its Protocol on Environmental Protection, which designates Antarctica as a natural reserve, devoted to peace and science; and the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, which provides for the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources;

Note with concern the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, which highlights the profound effects of climate change on Antarctica's ecosystems and the potentially catastrophic effects of Antarctic ice loss on global sea level;

Encourage the continued and strengthened contribution of all scientific investigation in, from, and about Antarctica to the better understanding of our world and the implications of climate change and other environmental changes;

Commit ourselves to upholding the Antarctic Treaty System and its key objectives: to preserve the continent for peace and science; prevent mineral exploitation and measures of a military nature; promote scientific endeavour and research;



comprehensively protect the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems; and conserve Antarctic and Southern Ocean marine living resources;

Recommit ourselves to supporting our Governments with regard to the full implementation of the Antarctic Treaty, including to expedite the entry into force of measures made under the Antarctic Treaty, and

Recognise that national legislatures, alongside governments, international organisations, the private sector and civil society all have an important role to play in promoting the conservation and protection of Antarctica, including the Southern Ocean.

Agree to:

1. Work towards establishing the Antarctic Parliamentarians Assembly on a biennial basis:
 - a. Parliamentarians from Antarctic Treaty Parties are invited to participate, and Parliamentarians from other countries, representatives from non-governmental organisations, and other experts wishing to support the actions of the Assembly are invited to observe the Assembly; and
 - b. The Assembly will be hosted by agreement among participating parliamentarians from Antarctic Treaty Parties, subject to further discussions, and alternating between the Southern and Northern hemispheres.



2. Urge the Antarctic Treaty Parties and Members of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources actively to support and, as appropriate, prioritise their efforts to:
 - a. Protect and conserve the Antarctic environment including by:
 - i. Continuing international efforts, through relevant forums, to address issues arising from activities outside the Antarctic region that adversely impact on the Antarctic environment;
 - ii. Ensuring robust Environmental Impact Assessment processes are conducted for all activities in Antarctica, in accordance with Annex I of the Protocol on Environmental Protection and that environmental impacts are mitigated and minimised as far as practicable;
 - iii. Reinforcing international cooperation on pollution issues, including plastics, that affect the Antarctic environment;
 - iv. Encouraging work to further strengthen the interaction and synergies within the Antarctic Treaty System, to ensure that the clear connectivity between ocean and land in Antarctica is appropriately addressed;
 - v. Addressing the effects of climate change on Antarctic marine biodiversity and marine conservation, including ecosystem-based fisheries management;
 - vi. Promoting effective establishment, management and monitoring of a systematic network of Antarctic specially protected areas;
 - vii. Enhancing the management and protection of Antarctic heritage;
 - viii. Encouraging the exchange of knowledge and best practice among Antarctic Treaty Parties;



- ix. Urging those countries that have not yet ratified Annex VI to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty relating to environmental liability to do so; and
 - x. Ensuring effective national engagement in the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.
- b. Promote and support international scientific collaboration, including to:
- i. Facilitate the detection, assessment, and predictions of the rate of change in Antarctica in response to human activities and climate change, and the consequential effects of these changes on the Antarctic ecosystem and the rest of the world;
 - ii. Enhance the scientific knowledge of Antarctic biodiversity to be used for the conservation and management of Antarctic ecosystems;
 - iii. Encourage further coordinated efforts in expanding and maintaining observation efforts in Antarctica, including the Southern Ocean, recognising the role that integrated and sustained observations play in answering key scientific questions, from predicting sea level rise to understanding ecosystem response to environmental change;
 - iv. Facilitate the efficient collection and sharing of scientific information and encourage work to increase data comparability;
 - v. Undertake and support science that will inform the effective protection and conservation of Antarctica; and
 - vi. Promote the designation of a fifth International Polar Year.
- c. Ensure effective management of activities in Antarctica, including by:



- i. Encouraging the further establishment of a representative system of Marine Protected Areas;
 - ii. Enhancing the efforts of logistics operators to cooperate in order to reduce the environmental impact of scientific and non-governmental activities;
 - iii. Ensuring sustainable fishing practices and a responsible fishing industry, in order to minimise impacts on non-target species and, in particular, to avoid sea-bird and marine mammal by-catch; and to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities;
 - iv. Noting the anticipated continued growth in tourism and any adverse environmental impact that some activities may have;
 - v. to ensure that tourism is conducted strictly in a safe, environmentally responsible manner, including through the implementation of all tourism-related Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting Measures; and
 - vi. Continuing to enhance search and rescue cooperation and facilitating the improvement of hydrographic charting and navigation systems in Antarctic waters, promoting coordinated efforts and data sharing among national hydrographic institutions.
3. Encourage our parliaments to adopt, where appropriate, additional national legislation contributing to the full and effective implementation of the Antarctic Treaty System.
4. Encourage all parliamentarians from Antarctic Treaty Parties to endorse and support this statement.



Signed by:

James Gray, UK

The Rt Hon Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones, UK

Generoso Maraia MP, Italy

Senator Massimo Vittorio Berutti, Italy

Senator Patricia Bovey, Canada

Mélissa Hanus MP, Belgium

Jean-Marc Delizée MP, Belgium

Chen Lifeng MP, China

Hubert Julien-Lafférière MP, France

Jacques Maire MP, France

Eirik Sivertsen MP, Norway

Andrew Bayly MP, New Zealand

Congressman Vitor Hugo, Brazil

Keith Pitt MP, Australia

Warren Snowdon MP, Australia

First Deputy Speaker Åsa Lindestam, Sweden

Hamza Dag MP, Turkey

Rumeysa Kadak MP, Turkey

Roman Hryshchuk MP, Ukraine



Signed by:

~~Ann Coag~~
~~[Signature]~~

~~[Signature]~~

~~[Signature]~~
Ava Jindal

~~Melissa Hume~~

Vitor Sbrago

Patricia E. Bevey

~~[Signature]~~

~~[Signature]~~

J. Mair

~~[Signature]~~

A. H. Bayly

Guillaume Morneau

Eirik Swerfse

~~[Signature]~~

~~[Signature]~~
Pauline Neville Jones