

# **Program of implementation on the Declaration of Cooperation between Greenland and Iceland signed in Reykjavík on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Following a signed declaration of cooperation between Greenland and Iceland, a program for implementation is here concluded for the priority areas in the declaration. Both sides agree that the new declaration, signed in October 2022, shall be the overall framework for the bilateral cooperation between Greenland and Iceland.

There has been a considerable increase in bilateral relations between Iceland and Greenland, both political, cultural, and economic, in recent years. This is reflected in the Icelandic Government's decision to establish a diplomatic mission in Nuuk in 2013, and the decision of the Greenland authorities to establish a diplomatic mission in Reykjavík in 2018.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013, a joint declaration was signed by the Prime Minister of Greenland and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland on cooperation between the two countries on areas such as transportation, tourism, fisheries, trade, and health.

Another joint declaration was signed in September 2021 by the Foreign Ministers of Greenland and Iceland with an agreement on further strengthening the relationship between the two countries.

The Prime Minister of Greenland and the Prime Minister of Iceland, in their October 2022 declaration, reaffirm their unwavering commitment to the strengthening and the expansion of bilateral relations, and identify the following priority areas for future cooperation: trade, fisheries, economic cooperation, climate change and biodiversity, gender equality, education and research, and cultural cooperation. These are all listed below following action points under each category.

## **1. Trade: We will work to identify obstacles and opportunities for an equitable bilateral trade agreement between Greenland and Iceland.**

1.1 An agreement has been made to establish a joint working group to conduct a study on the feasibility of an equitable trade agreement.

1.2. After finalization of the feasibility study, parties will discuss the possibilities of developing a Terms of Reference for an equitable bilateral trade agreement.

2. Fisheries: We will work to identify obstacles and opportunities for equitable, fair, and sustainable fisheries agreements between Greenland and Iceland.

2.1 Greenland and Iceland will strengthen their cooperation on biological surveys on shared stocks such as Golden Redfish, Greenland Halibut, and Capelin in the seas between East-Greenland and Iceland. Furthermore, the Parties will strengthen scientific collaboration on fisheries in general.

2.2 Greenland and Iceland remain committed to manage shared stocks through equitable, fair and sustainable fisheries agreements based on the best available scientific data. New agreements on Golden redfish and Caplin have been successfully completed in 2023 and the Parties will engage in a similar revision of the agreement on Greenland halibut.

2.3 Iceland and Greenland agree that a task force should be appointed under the auspices of the Joint Greenlandic – Icelandic Fisheries Commission comprising representatives of the fisheries industries of both countries, to examine ways to encourage increased cooperation between Greenlandic and Icelandic businesses in the fishing industry and related sectors.

3. Economic cooperation: Cooperation on fisheries and other parts of the blue economy, and on agriculture, entail great opportunities, as well as cooperation on renewable energy and climate smart solutions, sustainable tourism, aviation, and the construction industry.

3.1 The Icelandic Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate and the Greenlandic Ministry for Agriculture, Self-sufficiency, Energy and Environment will discuss opportunities for cooperation on developing more small hydropower plants, especially in East Greenland. This could include cooperation between the National Energy Authority in Iceland and Nukissiorfiit on the mapping of micro hydropower potential.

3.2 Both parties will explore the possibility to resume and strengthen the successful cooperation between farmers in Greenland and Iceland and between the Agricultural University of Iceland and the research station in Upernaviarsuk.

3.3 Continued cooperation on tourism, including through West Nordic tourism cooperation fora, is encouraged and especially on possible increased cooperation when the new runways are ready in Nuuk, Ilulissat and Qaqortoq. Strategies and Guidelines for best practices in tourism growth could be developed to ensure sustainable tourism development balancing economic, cultural, social and environmental interests.

3.4 Explore with Business Iceland/Íslandsstofa and Visit Greenland on interests and opportunities for establishing a cooperation platform on enhanced collaboration on marketing in remote markets, like Asia and the United States, and other issues of common interest.

3.5 Explore the feasibility of a collaboration on promoting investments in the Arctic. The possible collaboration shall be explored jointly between the relevant ministries in Greenland and Iceland as well as with Greenland Business Association and Business Iceland.

3.6 Icelandic Tourist Board/ Business Iceland should invite the Greenlandic administration together with other stakeholders to join a workshop in Greenland on projects that the Icelandic administration has undertaken, such as legislation, tourist safety, protection of vulnerable areas, development of new tourist destinations, load distribution, contingency plans, and problems that may arise with increased volume of tourists.

3.7 Exploring the ways and means for a possible cooperation between the two countries regarding aviation and air traffic control.

3.8 Explore options for increased cooperation in the field of civil engineering and the construction industry.

3.9 Explore cooperation regarding food security and medical supplies security.

3.10 Continued cooperation on technologies, research and innovation related to the green transition within the mineral resources industry including Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) should be encouraged.

#### 4. Climate change and biodiversity: Climate change calls for joint efforts with focus on monitoring and mitigating the ongoing changes in our region, including the impact on our oceans, as well as concrete measures to counter and adapt to the effects of climate change.

4.1 Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network and the International Arctic Hub in Greenland are encouraged to look into possibilities and usefulness of a formalized cooperation.

4.2 Cooperation on fisheries and ocean science. Recommendation that consultation meetings on fisheries and research, at minimum once a year, should be formalised between the directors and main experts of Pinngortitaleriffik and the Icelandic Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (Hafrannsóknastofnun). Working visits of specialists in various fields of fisheries science could also be established between the institutes. A channel should be created to share on a regular basis new, relevant data from fisheries and marine research.

4.3 Both parties should explore cooperation in the field of renewable energy and construction of hydropower plants, on market-based conditions, as a part of a wider co-operation to protect the Arctic climate.

5. Gender equality. Includes overall exchange of research and know-how regarding gender equality and the work on combatting discrimination against all genders. This includes sharing of experience and best practices regarding the forming of an anti-discriminatory legislation which considers and protects all genders, mainstreaming of legislations and best practices on how to combat a gender segregated labour market, as well as the exchange of best practices to combat sexual and gender-based violence against women and research on the impact of trauma on women's health.

5.1 A presentation of the SAGA cohort which is a unique Iceland wide study on the impact of trauma on women's health will be given to Greenlandic stakeholders. The SAGA cohort is organized by investigators at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Iceland in collaboration with deCode Genetics as well as an extended pool of leading national and international experts in the field. (Public Health Institute at University of Iceland).

6. Education and research. Various bilateral research, education, and training projects, as well as bilateral student and teacher exchanges, should be strengthened, building on already successful cooperation models. This includes cooperation in the blue economy, agriculture, health sectors.

6.1 Health care and cooperation on recruitment of staff to the healthcare sector. Iceland has experience in recruitment of foreign health personnel including nurses and doctors. The cooperation aims to share the knowledge, experience and cooperation on recruitment and integration of foreign health personnel. Possible joint recruitment initiatives are to be explored. Possible further cooperation on other issues to be studied.

6.2 Health care education. A cooperation platform on life-long training needs of health care staff will be looked into.

6.3 Cooperation between The Agricultural University of Iceland and the agricultural sector in Greenland should be encouraged.

6.4 The administrations of both countries will provide an overview of existing agreements and funding programmes on the exchange of students and faculty staff with the view to promote exchanges between universities and other institutes of higher learning in Greenland and Iceland.

6.5 MFA Greenland will facilitate contact between the Arctic Engineering Research and Education Centre in Sisimiut, and relevant Icelandic Research institutions (Reykjavik University was mentioned as a possibility) for possible cooperation or knowledge sharing.

6.6 Encourage the possibilities for future cooperation between Eqqumiitsuliornermik Ilinniarfik/ Nuuk Kunstkole, Nunattta Isiginnaartitsineramik Ilinniarfia/ The National Acting School of Greenland and Iceland University of the Arts.

7. Cultural cooperation. As small nations, culture remains key to the preservation of our identity and languages. The aim is to nurture continued people-to-people contact, as well as strengthen bilateral cooperation in creative industries.

7.1 Educational authorities in Iceland should be encouraged to promote material on Greenland suitable for primary school pupils. School authorities should also encourage closer ties between Icelandic and Greenlandic schools at the primary level, for instance, through joint projects.

7.2 An annual essay contest on Greenland to be initiated among pupils in the last class of primary school, in co-operation with the Icelandic Ministry of Education, the Icelandic Greenland Fund and Icelandair. A trip to Greenland as the prize for the best essay.

7.3 Both parties will encourage the revival of the musical band exchange program between the two countries.

7.4 Both parties will encourage Katuaq (Greenlands Culture House), Nuuk International Film Festival and the Greenlandic Filmmakers Organization Film.gl to start a dialogue with RÚV and Bió Paradís about organizing an annual Icelandic film festival in Nuuk and a similar event with Greenlandic films in Iceland.

7.5 Cooperation regarding filmmaking, film production services and the international film industry will be encouraged.

7.6 Closer cooperation in the field of art and culture in general to facilitate the exchange, sharing and learning between the two countries will be encouraged.

7.7 Two annual grants for trips from Iceland to Greenland as well as from Greenland to Iceland should be offered to the media, through the Icelandic Greenland Fund.

7.8 A strengthen cooperation in the field of sports should be explored to enhance mutual exchanges and learning between Iceland and Greenland. Adding a Westnordic dimension to this cooperation could also be explored.

7.9 Both parties will engage with airlines on possible support for cultural exchanges between Greenland and Iceland. It should be noted that both Air Greenland and Icelandair support programmes for civil society organizations including actors within culture.

**A Senior Officials working group of the two countries that was established in 2013 will be meeting twice a year, whereoff one can be in a virtual format. Between the meetings, the officials may meet virtually or in person when deemed necessary.**