

**AGREEMENT**  
**on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution**  
**Preparedness and Response in the Arctic**

*The Government of Canada, the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark, the Government of the Republic of Finland, the Government of Iceland, the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, the Government of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden, and the Government of the United States of America, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”,*

*Taking into account* the relevant provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

*Being* Parties to the 1990 International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation,

*Taking also into account* the 1969 International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties,

*Taking further into account* the “polluter pays” principle as a general principle to be applied,

*Recalling* the 1996 Ottawa Declaration on the Establishment of the Arctic Council,

*Highlighting* that in the 2011 Nuuk Declaration on the occasion of the Seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, ministers representing the eight Arctic States decided to establish a Task Force to develop an international instrument on Arctic marine oil pollution preparedness and response,

*Acknowledging* the role of the International Maritime Organization, in particular in the development and adoption of additional rules and standards to address risks specific for operations in the Arctic environment,

*Conscious* of the threat from marine oil pollution to the vulnerable Arctic marine environment and to the livelihoods of local and indigenous communities,

*Mindful* that in the event of an oil pollution incident, prompt and effective action and cooperation among the Parties is essential in order to minimize damage that may result from such an incident,

*Recognizing* the challenges posed by harsh and remote Arctic conditions on oil pollution preparedness and response operations,

*Mindful also* of the increase in maritime traffic and other human activities in the Arctic region, including activity of Arctic residents and of people coming to the Arctic,