



**DECLARATION OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREENLAND
AND
THE PRIME MINISTER OF ICELAND
ON FUTURE COOPERATION
BETWEEN GREENLAND AND ICELAND**

The people of Greenland and Iceland are neighbors in the north with a history dating back more than a thousand years. In recent years, following the opening of the Consulate General of Iceland in Nuuk in 2013, and the Greenland Representation in Reykjavik in 2018, we have enjoyed increasing mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation, including on trade and culture, education and health, and various people-to-people relations. We cooperate as partners within the framework of Nordic, West-Nordic and Arctic cooperation.

Greenland and Iceland have a number of shared interests and opportunities in the North-Atlantic and the Arctic. The sustainable use of our natural resources from land and sea contributes to the prosperity of both countries. At the same time, the safeguarding of our environment remains essential to our future.

We are faced with similar challenges because of the climate crisis. In our immediate region, climate change is happening at an alarming pace. Temperatures are rising and glaciers are melting with serious impact on our oceans, marine biodiversity, ocean currents and weather patterns.

Here, we need to join hands. We need to strengthen cooperation as regards monitoring and assessments of the changes and developments, as well as mitigating the effects. There are ample opportunities to facilitate the green transition of our economies, not least in the energy and transport sector, but also as regards the introduction of various green solutions in society at large.

For Greenland and Iceland, research and education remain top priorities. Together, through continued student and teacher exchange, as well as increased distance learning, we can benefit from each other's skills and practices. The development of sustainable tourism is only one example of many where we can share experiences and expertise and seek synergies.

As both Iceland and Greenland are sparsely populated, we have similarities in our demographic and socio-economic development where we can benefit from each other's experiences, particularly with regards to gender equality and mainstreaming.

We appreciate the comprehensive cooperation between our countries, including in the context of fisheries and the Joint Icelandic-Greenlandic Fisheries Commission and on Tax and Customs, the enhanced interest for the growth in trade of goods and services, and welcome the strong public support in both countries towards further strengthening our relations. We welcome the report from January 2021 "Greenland and Iceland in the New Arctic" and the September 2021 Joint Declaration between our Foreign Ministers.

Considering the above, the Prime Minister of Greenland and the Prime Minister of Iceland, reaffirm their unwavering commitment to the strengthening and the expansion of our bilateral relations, and identify the following priority areas for future cooperation:

- *Trade.* We will work to identify obstacles and opportunities for an equitable bilateral trade agreement between Greenland and Iceland.
- *Fisheries.* We will work to identify obstacles and opportunities for equitable, fair and sustainable fisheries agreements between Greenland and Iceland.
- *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.
- *Climate change and biodiversity.* Climate change calls for joint efforts with focus on monitoring, assessing 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. In these efforts, we will also seek synergies with the activities and initiatives of the multilateral fora that Greenland and Iceland take part in, such as the Arctic Council, the Nordic Council of Ministers and OSPAR.
- *Gender equality.* This is a policy area where Greenland and Iceland are particularly interested in working together. That includes the exchange of best practices to combat sexual and gender-based violence against women and research on the impact of trauma on women's and children's health.
- *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 and health sectors.
- *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, including between individual artists as well as strengthen bilateral cooperation in creative industries.

Both sides agree that this Declaration shall be the overall framework for our bilateral cooperation. A program for implementation shall be concluded for each of the priority areas identified above.

The Prime Minister of Greenland and the Prime Minister of Iceland will meet every other year, alternately in Nuuk and Reykjavik, and review its implementation.

The Declaration shall guide the bilateral cooperation at the level of line ministers and senior officials.

The implementation will respect the Act on Greenland Self-Government (Lov om Grønlands Selvstyre).

Signed in Reykjavik in duplicate on 13 October 2022 in the English language.

The Prime Minister of Greenland

The Prime Minister of Iceland

Múte B. Egede

Katrín Jakobsdóttir