

## Statement of Canada to the 2nd DRAFT

*We, Canada, highly appreciate the initiative of the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we would like to emphasize our gratitude for the opportunity to participate on the discussion about the Arctic issue which is crucial for Canadian society. We would like to express our gratefulness for considering and examining Canadian proposals and proposing the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft concerning the Arctic issues. Our north, our heritage, our future – these words sum up our relationship with the Arctic zone. We are a northern country and the Arctic is a fundamental piece of our national identity. The Arctic which is embedded in Canadian history, culture and in the Canadian soul is home to many Canadians, including indigenous peoples. We honestly declare that our vision for the Arctic is a stable, rules-based region, with clearly defined boundaries, dynamic economic growth, vibrant Northern communities, and healthy environment. Canada appreciates the proposal of the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century to look for the solution concerning the development for the people of the North as the main theme of our chairmanship with a focus on responsible Arctic resource development, safe Arctic shipping and sustainable circumpolar communities.*

In the section proposals:

### **Research, Climate and Environmental Change**

- i. Canada welcomes the discussion about the reinforcement of the current Arctic research capacities. In 2007 the Government of Canada introduced the project to create The Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS). CHARS will be a world-class Arctic research station that will be on the cutting edge of Arctic issues, including resource development and environmental science. Although the station will be built by Canadians, it will be there to serve the world. Station will be located in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut due to the scientific, technological and economical potential. The new Station will provide a suite of services for science and technology in Canada's North including a technology development centre, traditional knowledge centre, and advanced laboratories. Opening of the CHARS is foreseen in 2017 and the pre-construction design is budgeted at C\$18mil. and therefore the possibilities of investing are arising. On the basis of Canadian mutual cooperation approach, we suggest the other states will support this initiative also due to the possibility of the cost reduction. The money saved could be used for the research itself.

We call upon international scientists from Arctic but also non Arctic states to participate in the mutual research. Canada highly emphasizes the importance of the ArcticNet which contribute to the development and dissemination of the knowledge needed to face the impacts of climate changes. The great potential for the cooperation is present in that area.

- ii. Regarding the creation of a new, legally binding international agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions mandatory for all the states, Canada highly emphasizes that proposal. Canada believes that ultimately, a new agreement that includes all of the world's major emitters in both the developing and the developed world is the only way to materially reduce annual megatonnage to the point that we can to prevent global warming hitting or exceeding two degrees set by Kyoto agreement. We want to appeal to all present countries to start the negotiation

concerning that issue, but we suggest solving the problem on the global level and therefore we propose to create another multilateral forum. If we do not prevent the global warming, the cooperation in the field of research will be baseless.

### **Population and indigenous people**

- i. More than four million inhabitants, living in the eight Arctic states, call the Arctic region home. We highly appreciate the proposal of the Forum concerning the position of indigenous population due to the main theme of our chairmanship – development for the people of the North and therefore we welcome the grounding of the Fund, designed for the Indigenous people of the Arctic, to support their adaptability to the changing conditions in their region, with the contributions from all the governments engaged.
- ii. We also support the development of knowledge of the indigenous people of the Arctic and broadening their educational opportunities, by setting up educational institutions and sending qualified teachers and professors. Canadian participating schools are already sending teachers and students to promote knowledge in the Arctic within the program ArcticNet.

### **Geopolitical division and resource management**

- i. For Canada, developing the Arctic is a strategic choice in order to create a strong resource-based industry for our national economy. We need to incorporate detailed environmental standards into the economic development of the territories' resources due to the sensitive flora and fauna. This sensitivity of the environment coupled with a short growing season, can result in a very long recovery time in the case of an environmental disaster. Our resource development refers to the extraction of potential oil, gas and minerals in the Arctic. The minimum provisions for environmental integrity in the development of sea-based resources are set by The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas but specific standards which will take into consideration the fragile Arctic environment are needed. There is a room for the Arctic Council, which can play a very important role in compiling the research and policy recommendations on environmental standards that are necessary for activities, including methods of mining, standard for mining the minerals and contingency plans in the case of a disaster, such as an oil spill.
- ii. Canada welcomes the negotiations with the aim to conclude the international agreement concerning the boundary issues in accordance with international law. Canada is anxious to avoid the model of legal regulations of the Antarctic accordingly to the strong and long standing historical, cultural and social connections with the Arctic region and therefore we are calling for international ensuring our territorial claims. We support the sector principle of the division of the Arctic. We emphasize the importance of negotiation concerning this exclusive issue.

In 1925 Canada became the first country to extend our maritime boundaries northward to the Pole. As defined by the UNCLOS, states have ten years from the date of ratification to make claims to an extended continental shelf. Canada ratified UNCLOS on 7 November 2003 and has through 2013 to file its claim to an extended continental shelf. Valid extended continental shelf claims do not and cannot extend a

state's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) since the EEZ is determined solely by drawing a 200-nautical-mile line using territorial sea baselines as their starting point.

### **Law of the Sea and Arctic waterways**

- i. Canada expresses its agreement that the Arctic tourism strategy that should support the development of the region and creation of the new working opportunities for indigenous people, with regard of the environment and wellbeing of the people.
- ii. Shipping activity in the Arctic is on the rise, including tourism and exploration activities, necessitating the need for reliable communication and monitoring. That question is highly active from the economic point of view.

As recommended in the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipment Assessment published on behalf of the Arctic Council, increasing shipping activities in the Arctic necessitate access to reliable communication and monitoring systems. It also provides guidance on enhancing Arctic marine safety, protecting Arctic peoples and environment, and building Arctic marine infrastructure. This and other AMSA recommendations are currently being followed up within the Arctic Council. Nowadays International Maritime Organization is developing a draft mandatory International Code of safety for ships operating in polar waters and Canada strongly supports that initiative.

Canada also assumed responsibility for providing navigational warning and meteorological services to facilitate the safe management of marine traffic. Through this initiative, Canada will deliver services that help mitigate the risks associated with increased Arctic shipping. These services will also enhance environmental protection of the Arctic marine environment, support Northern residents in their maritime activities, and provide necessary services for coastal and marine-based resource development.

Canada welcomes the discussion proposed by the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with enthusiasm. Cooperation, diplomacy and respect for international law have always been Canada's preferred approach in the Arctic. At the same time, we will never waver in our commitment to protect our North.