

ARCTIC MAYORS' FORUM (AMF) FOUNDATION DOCUMENT

1. OUR MOTIVATION

The current Arctic governance system offers no formalized and structured procedure for local communities to be involved on a continuous basis in Arctic policy decision-making processes. Mayors and elected leaders from northern local governments within the eight Arctic nations saw a need to create a common platform for cooperation; to exchange experiences, to define shared challenges and opportunities to promote and advocate the interests of local peoples and communities in the Arctic nations.

2. OUR MISSION

The mission is to ensure local government participation of mayors and elected community leaders in all levels of Arctic governance to safeguard that the values, goals and interests of the Arctic peoples are voiced and considered in achieving good lives, sustainable development and resilient communities in the Arctic.

The mission will be achieved through providing a collaborative platform for cooperation and coordination between the members of the Arctic Mayors' Forum and with other national, regional and international institutions.

3. OUR GOALS

In no prioritized order:

- **Identify, coordinate and communicate common issues**, strengths, advances, challenges, concerns and positions.
- **Provide a forum for debate** and an open channel of communication for member communities.
- **Cooperate and share best practices** on preparedness to the changes taking place in the region, having both advantageous and adverse effects on Arctic local communities.
- **Influence policy and legislation** in all areas having an impact on Arctic municipalities at relevant international institutions, in particular the Arctic Council, and through national governments.
- **Become an observer in the Arctic Council**

4. CENTRAL THEMES

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be considered an overriding framework for the AMFs work with a particular focus on:

- Economy

- Infrastructure
- Culture
- Climate Adaptation and the Environment
- Knowledge, Intelligence and Education Excellence
- Technology and Digitalization
- Good governance and external affairs (diplomacy)
- Gender equality
- Well-being and equity
- Security and sovereignty

5. MEMBERSHIP

Full membership will be open to mayors and democratically elected leaders of local governments located in the member states of the Arctic Council.

Full members have the right to participate in any of the AFM bodies and activities

List of founding members in annex.

6. INTERIM ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Arctic Mayors' Forum is a network of mayors and elected community leaders from local governments located in the member states of the Arctic Council. The Arctic Mayors' Forum will work towards a formalized international non-governmental organisation.

The Arctic Mayors' Forum has the following organs:

1. General Assembly

The **General Assembly** (GA) is a biennial gathering of all members to elect a new executive organ and discuss and decide policies, priorities and operations of the Forum. The cycle will follow the Arctic Council (AC) presidency (2019 – 2021 etc.)

Upon proposal from the Executive Committee, the GA will discuss and decide policy priorities and strategies of the AMF.

2. Executive Committee

The **Executive Committee** shall manage the operations of the Forum in the period between the general assemblies. The Executive Committee shall consist of 9 members with one representative respectively from USA, Canada, Russia, Greenland, Faroe Island, Iceland, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

3. Secretariat

The AMFs Secretariat shall consist of 3 representatives ("troika"); a representative from the country holding the current presidency of the AC, the country holding next presidency as well as a third representative. The secretariat shall be appointed by the GA and it shall:

- I. Ensure follow-up from the AG and the Executive Committee decisions
- II. Organize the AMF meetings
- III. Handle communication: Public and media relations
- IV. Facilitate and disseminate internal communication
- V. Coordinate working groups

Long term: The Forum SHOULD consider creation of a standing secretariat with a position of an Executive Secretary.

4. Working groups and projects

Working groups (WG) shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The WGs shall work according to a mandate/terms of reference.

Projects can be initiated and lead from one AMF member who can involve other AMF members to join. Projects under the AMF umbrella should have strategic approach and be categorized under priority themes of the AMF.

Results from the WGs and projects should:

- Generate results and benefits that can be used in different contexts and capacities.
- Knowledge- and science-based assessments to influence policy.

7. ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUT

1. Create policy statements and documents. Declaration, resolutions and policy position statements to influence the Arctic Council, international institutions and national governments
2. Disseminate and share information on AMF's activities and reports to influence regional, national and international policies that affect peoples.
3. Create online tools (intranet), website, social media for internal interaction (AMF) and external actors e.g. the inhabitants of Arctic municipalities
4. Results of AMF projects should be published as assessments, reports, guidelines and/or best practices lessons learned amongst the membership.
5. Active participation on important Arctic arenas e.g Arctic Circle Assembly, Arctic Frontiers, Rovaniemi Arctic Spirit, International Arctic Forum, Arctic Futures Symposium in Brussels, Arctic Circe/Arctic Frontiers events abroad etc.
6. Link up to business or thematic conferences e.g. the Arctic Shipping Forum, the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) organizes Arctic Science Summit Weeks (ASSW)
7. Arctic mayors can represent Arctic Mayors' Forum at international events.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The AMF relies on membership dues and any other funds obtained from government through contribution agreements and/or third-party funding to undertake its work including covering its administrative costs. Members will have to pay for their participation and activities in the AMF.

Short term:

- I. In-kind, interim, shared and rotating administrative support.
- II. Project financing - local, national or international

Long-term:

- I. Membership fee
- II. Secretariat to handle the AMF's matters full-time on a continuous basis

Signed in Akureyri 10th of October 2019



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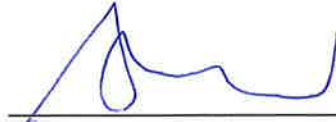


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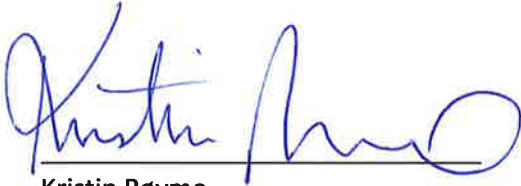


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