

Joint Declaration

of Pele Broberg, Minister for Industry, Trade, Foreign Affairs and Climate of Greenland, and Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development Cooperation of Iceland

The Minister for Industry, Trade, Foreign Affairs and Climate of Greenland, Pele Broberg, and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development Cooperation of Iceland, Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, met virtually in Nuuk and Reykjavik on 23 September 2021.

The Ministers welcomed the strong and productive cooperation between the countries, strengthened by the opening of the Consulate General of Iceland in Nuuk in 2013, and the Greenland Representation in Reykjavik in 2018.

The Ministers noted increased political and economic cooperation between the countries in recent years and the overwhelming interest of the general public in more extensive cooperation as expressed in recent opinion polls.

The Ministers recognized that the impacts of climate change have led to rapid changes in the Arctic that call for joint efforts between the two close neighbors, and stressed the role of Greenland and Iceland in addressing these challenges together.

The Ministers decided that the recent report of the Greenland Committee of the Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development Cooperation “Greenland and Iceland in the New Arctic” provides a solid foundation for identifying areas of increased and new cooperation.

The Ministers welcomed the increase in trade in goods and services between Greenland and Iceland in recent years as well as the imminent re-opening of direct flights between the countries, which is an important step towards rebuilding tourism in the region post-Covid.

The Ministers recognized the importance of joint management of shared fish stocks and cooperation on fisheries under the Joint Icelandic-Greenlandic Fisheries Commission. They welcomed increased collaboration in the field of fisheries and expressed their determination to continue to strengthen this bilateral relationship.

In order to create a foreseeable framework to reflect these changes, the Ministers decided to initiate a joint feasibility study on bilateral talks on comprehensive Cooperation Arrangements, including free trade, in order to identify areas of deeper cooperation.

This Declaration will be implemented with regular meetings at the level of ministers or senior officials.

This common exercise would respect sensitive areas of both parties and be done within the framework of the Act on Greenland Self-Government (Lov om Grønlands Selvstyre).

Signed virtually in Nuuk and Reykjavik in duplicate 23 September 2021 in the English language.

Pele Broberg

Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson