



## **Prague Declaration on the Occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty**

On the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the signing of the Antarctic Treaty on December 1, 1959, the Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty,

**Reaffirming** the 2009 ATCM XXXII Washington Ministerial Declaration on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty,

**Further reaffirming** the 2011 ATCM XXXIV Buenos Aires Declaration on Antarctic Cooperation on the Occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Antarctic Treaty,

**Recognising** the achievements of the application of the Antarctic Treaty in preserving and promoting peace and international cooperation in Antarctica,

**Valuing** the importance of international cooperation to ensure that all activities in Antarctica are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Antarctic Treaty system,

**Recognising** that the international cooperation under the Antarctic Treaty as initiated by the twelve original signatories, has kept an entire continent outside the fluctuations of world politics,

**Affirming** the openness of the Antarctic Treaty system to all States with an interest in Antarctica,

**Recognising** that it is in the interest of all humankind that Antarctica continue to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes,

**Mindful** that freedom of scientific investigation in Antarctica and peaceful international cooperation are cornerstones of the Antarctic Treaty,

**Reaffirming** the commitment of the Consultative Parties to the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems, and the designation of Antarctica as a natural reserve, devoted to peace and science,

**Reaffirming** the 2016 ATCM XXXIX Santiago Declaration on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty,

**Recognising** that concrete results from scientific research in, from and about Antarctica over the past sixty years have expanded the boundaries of human knowledge of natural processes taking place not only in Antarctica but also globally, including our knowledge of



the impacts of global environmental change and the contribution of human activity to this change,

**Mindful** of the need to ensure that all human activity in Antarctica is conducted in a manner that effectively promotes the continued protection of the Antarctic environment and minimises or mitigates its impacts,

Hereby:

1. Reaffirm their strong commitment to the objectives and purposes of the Antarctic Treaty, its Protocol on Environmental Protection and other instruments of the Antarctic Treaty system;
2. Reaffirm the importance of the contribution made by the Treaty, and by Article IV in particular, to ensuring the continuance of international harmony in Antarctica;
3. Confirm that the Antarctic Treaty system ensures the effective and enduring international governance of Antarctica, providing for Antarctica's use only for peaceful purposes, free from measures of a military nature, guaranteeing freedom of scientific investigation and cooperation to that end, and designating Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science;
4. State their intention to approve all Measures adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in accordance with the Antarctic Treaty;
5. Highlight the importance of, and the need to further refine and enhance, the exchange of information between Parties;
6. Underline the ability of the Antarctic Treaty system to evolve and adapt to addressing current and future challenges, including those at a planetary scale, and the importance of drawing on the best scientific and technical advice available when addressing these challenges;
7. Pledge to further strengthen their efforts to preserve and protect the Antarctic terrestrial and marine environments and to continue to identify and effectively address newly emerging Antarctic environmental challenges;
8. Appreciate the significant contribution of the Committee for Environmental Protection as a fundamental source of the best possible advice on environmental stewardship to inform decisions of the ATCM;



9. Reaffirm their commitment under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty to the prohibition of any activity relating to mineral resources, other than scientific research;
10. Underline the importance and contribution of all scientific investigation in, from and about Antarctica to the better understanding of our world; humankind's place in and effects on it; and the implications of climate change and other environmental changes;
11. Reaffirm their commitment to limit adverse impacts on the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems;
12. Reinforce the value of the engagement of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) in providing scientific advice; and the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP) in providing advice and assistance on issues relating to Antarctic operations to Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings;
13. Reaffirm the importance of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) within the Antarctic Treaty system, and commit to continue to cooperate closely with CCAMLR, including on matters related to conservation of Antarctic marine living resources;
14. Reaffirm their intention to actively seek ways to address challenges and impacts arising from current and future tourism and non-governmental activities;
15. Renew their commitment to promote co-operative scientific, technical and educational programmes and outreach activities;
16. Pledge to support and strengthen further scientific and logistical cooperation among national Antarctic programmes;
17. Encourage States that are not Parties to the Antarctic Treaty and are committed to its objectives and purposes to accede to it; and
18. Encourage those States that are Party to the Antarctic Treaty but not yet Party to its Protocol on Environmental Protection, including its Annexes, as well as other instruments of the Antarctic Treaty system in accordance with their provisions, to accede to them.

Adopted at Prague, the Czech Republic, July 8, 2019