

## **DECLARATION OF INTENT**

**between**

**The Russian Academy of Sciences and**

**The Research Council of Norway**

**regarding cooperation in the area of science and technology**

The Russian Academy of Sciences and the Research Council of Norway (hereafter referred to as the Parties)

Recognising that international cooperation in the area of science and technology will strengthen the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding between both countries,

Realising that science and technology collaboration will provide a vital contribution to the development of the economies of both countries,

Affirming that the Parties wish to begin cooperative efforts on science and technology in keeping with a new political, economic and social framework,

Affirming that the Parties seek to engage in balanced cooperation based on equality fairness and reciprocal benefits,

have agreed to the following:

### **Article I. Objective**

1. The objective of this Declaration of Intent (hereafter referred to as the Declaration) is to enhance the Parties' potential in the area of science and technology, thereby facilitating the further development of broad-based cooperation between the Parties and promoting the application of new technologies developed by the Parties.

### **Article II. Principles of cooperation**

Cooperation between the Parties in the area of science and technology is to be based on the execution of R&D projects. The project contracts shall reflect the following principles:

1. Cooperation within the framework of this Declaration shall be carried out in compliance with the Parties' national statutory framework, procedures and international commitments.

2. Distribution of responsibility and utilisation of research results shall be achieved through balanced collaboration in accordance with the Parties' abilities, interests and specific project contracts.

3. Researchers from the Parties' countries shall, in so far as possible, have access to and an opportunity to work with projects and in institutions in each others countries. As part of this exchange access to information related to solutions in the field of energy as stipulated in the project contracts shall be available.

4. Agreement shall be reached on a balanced, equitable distribution of intellectual property rights that arise from collaborative efforts.

5. There shall be reciprocal transparency regarding strategies, plans and programmes in order to foster a common understanding of research questions and create a basis for coordinated activity within the framework of the collaborative effort.

6. Research findings and information related to the collaboration shall be disseminated to the widest possible audience, taking into consideration the guidelines, provisions and laws in the Parties' countries.

### **Article III. Forms of cooperation**

1. The Parties shall be proactive with regard to their cooperation, and shall facilitate contact between universities, research centres, institutes, companies in the private sector and other organisations in the areas covered under this Declaration, as well as to promoting the establishment of joint research projects, implementation of bilateral seminars and meetings, and strengthening of researcher training and training of technical specialists. In addition exchange of scientific and technological information and other forms of cooperation shall be promoted according to separate agreement.

2. The Parties, or their appointed representatives, may agree to engage in cooperation in the area of science and technology. Such an agreement must be in written form. A list of potential areas of cooperation of mutual interest is given in the Attachment to this Declaration. The framework for proposed projects in the areas of cooperation shall be agreed upon in writing in the form of specific contracts.

### **Article IV. Joint coordination committee**

1. The Parties shall establish a joint coordination committee for science and technology (hereafter known as the "Joint Coordination Committee") to follow up and monitor the performance of the collaboration within the framework of this Declaration.

2. The Joint Coordination Committee shall initiate measures needed to effectively implement this Declaration. Each of the Parties shall appoint three members to the Joint Coordination Committee. The committee meetings may be supplemented with resource persons. The place and time of the meetings shall be decided on an ongoing basis.

3. The Parties shall appoint persons to assume the day-to-day responsibility for administering the Declaration. These persons shall report to the Joint Coordination Committee as agreed upon, and shall be responsible for the practical organisation of the meetings of the Joint Coordination Committee.

4. The Joint Coordination Committee shall keep the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Research Council of Norway informed about the development of the collaboration within the framework of this Declaration.

### **Article V. Intellectual property rights**

1. Scientific or technological research findings and information generated by projects based on this Declaration shall be administered in accordance with the provisions and guidelines set out by the Parties. It is desirable that as much as possible of the findings and information will be made openly available to the scientific and technological community.

2. Provisions regarding the protection of intellectual property rights shall be regulated by the individual project contract.

### **Article VI. Implementation of activity**

1. All activities carried out within the framework of this Declaration, including the exchange of technical information, equipment and specialists, training of scientists and technical specialists and performance of joint research, shall be carried out in compliance with the national statutory framework in the Parties' countries and their international commitments, provided that personnel is available and funding has been allocated. Research projects shall be performed in accordance with the Parties' applicable rules for project implementation. Each Party or participating organisation shall cover the costs of its participation in the implementation of the collaboration under this Declaration unless otherwise agreed in writing.

2. Activities carried out under this Declaration may be proposed by one of the Parties or by representatives appointed by the Parties. The activities shall derive from documentation in the form of project descriptions or other written documentation that serves as the basis for the start-up of the activity concerned.

3. It is not the purpose of this Declaration to make corrections or amendments to ongoing agreements, including agreements in the area of science and technology.

4. The Parties or their appointed representatives may, by mutual consent and in compliance with their countries' international commitments and national statutory framework, invite scientific and technical specialists and organisations from third countries or international organisations, unless otherwise stipulated in written form, to participate in projects and programmes implemented within the framework of this Declaration. This is contingent upon appropriate examination of and agreement regarding the financial impacts of such participation.

### **Article VII. Period of validity**

1. This Declaration is valid from the day of its signing until its termination by one of the Parties. A minimum one-year notification period is required for such termination.

2. This Declaration may be amended at any point in time provided the Parties agree to this in writing.

3. Termination of this Declaration will not affect the conclusion of ongoing activities within the framework of the collaboration.

This Declaration was prepared in June 2009 in two copies, each copy in Russian and English. Both versions are equally valid. In the event of any disputes that need to be resolved, the English-language version shall apply.

For the Russian Academy of Sciences

Nikolay Laverov  
Academician

For the Research Council of Norway

Arvid Hallén  
Man. Director

**Potential areas of cooperation in basic and applied sciences for the study of the Earth's northern and Arctic regions**

1. Geological studies
2. Geophysical studies
3. Studies of climate change
4. Studies of the state of natural complexes and design of environmental protection measures
5. Design and implementation of innovative methods for analysing the natural environment
6. Design and implementation of technologies for cohesive use of natural resources
7. Sustainable development
8. Other research areas mutually agreed upon