

Helsinki Declaration on Climate Change and the Antarctic

Summary

The ATCM has agreed to hold a full-day joint session of the CEP and the ATCM on 2 June 2023 to consider the implementation of the recommendations in SCAR's *Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment (ACCE): A Decadal Synopsis* (ATCM XLIV *Final Report, paragraph 278*). Following discussion about the modalities of this day on the ATS on-line forum, it was suggested that it would be important to emphasize the necessity of urgent climate action in Antarctica by adopting a Joint Declaration. Finland has been happy to lead the intersessional discussions to formulate the Declaration and is keen to engage with all Parties to finalize the text to be agreed and adopted in the ATCM in Helsinki.

Background

In 2022, the ATCM XLIV welcomed SCAR's *Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment: A Decadal Synopsis and Recommendations for Action*, adopted *Resolution 4 (2022)* and *Decision 4 (2022)* on the subject and agreed to hold a full-day joint session of the CEP and the ATCM, with SCAR and COMNAP, to consider the implementation of the ACCE recommendations at ATCM XLV. The Meeting encouraged Parties, Observers and Experts to submit papers on the topic to ATCM XLV, and to bring experts to the meeting to support this work.

Finland is pleased to host the 45th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Helsinki from 29th May to 8th June 2023. Following the agreement that one day of this year's Meeting should be devoted to discussing matters related to climate change in Antarctica, Finland has been happy to lead intersessional discussions on the modalities of this special day. These discussions have included a proposal to develop a Helsinki Declaration on Climate Change and the Antarctic (the "Helsinki Declaration"). Finland is grateful to all those who have actively participated in the discussion so far.

Proposal

Finland suggests that the Consultative Parties adopt the Helsinki Declaration on Climate Change and the Antarctic at ATCM XLV.

In keeping with the way that previous ATCM declarations have been developed, Finland has provided a first draft for the Declaration and asked the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat to open a new topic for discussion on the ATS on-line forum. Based on the comments made so far, Finland

- proposes to continue the forum discussion on the Declaration
- encourages all Parties to engage actively in the discussion with the aim of developing the draft Declaration as far as possible so that it can serve as a basis for the discussion at the ATCM in Helsinki.

Finland is looking forward to a fruitful discussion on the ATS on-line forum and at this year's ATCM in Helsinki.
