



STATEMENT

Reaffirming the declaration of 2022 between the Prime Minister of Greenland and the Prime Minister of Iceland

Greenland and Iceland are the closest of neighbours and have for a long time enjoyed deep and rich relations on an equal footing at government level and between our peoples. Our countries share the same principles of self-determination and we promote fairness, respect, and international cooperation. We are close partners within the framework of Nordic, West-Nordic and Arctic cooperation. And we share the same ambitions for a sustainable and constructive economic development of our unique region.

In the Arctic and the North-Atlantic region, the distances are greater and the environmental and climate conditions are particularly challenging. Awareness and understanding of these natural characteristics are essential to both meet challenges and harness the potential. In this respect, our nations have a successful story to tell.

Today, the geopolitical significance of our region is increasing, driven by climate change, maritime activities and resource development. In this context it is crucial to safeguard international law and adapt our cooperation to these realities and to protect economic security. This must also be weighed against a background that is marked by tension, increasingly challenging trade environment and heightened competition for access to resources. In a rapidly changing geopolitical environment, closer cooperation among the nations that live in the area and those nations that share our principles is essential.

Few nations are as dependent on international trade as those that live in the vast and sparsely populated Arctic and North-Atlantic. Our essential interests are maintaining and strengthening our trade networks while taking measures to better protect our critical infrastructure, communications, transport links and value chains. The geographical proximity between our two countries and the similarities we share in our demographic and socio-economic development underscore a common understanding of our role in the region and the importance of strengthening trade and economic cooperation.

We agree that there are ample opportunities to further strengthen trade between Greenland and Iceland. We are therefore committed to accelerate the work of the Joint Working Group mandated to assess the feasibility of an equitable trade agreement between our countries, with a view to developing an appropriate framework for such an agreement. This Joint Working Group aim to present its recommendations to the Prime Ministers with the overall objective of starting the process towards an equitable trade agreement.

The relationship between Greenland and Iceland rests on solid foundations. The two nations have for a long time stood close together and cooperated closely in the fields of politics, culture, science, trade and the environment. Our nations have the cooperation declaration from 2022 signed by our predecessors, which constitutes the overall framework for our successful cooperation. We welcome the excellent progress that has been made in implementing the priority areas in our bilateral declaration and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the strengthening and the expansion of our relations in the areas of trade, fisheries, economic cooperation, climate change and biodiversity, gender equality, education and research, and cultural cooperation. We commit our governments to enhance the work in these areas and to regular meetings at Ministerial and High-official levels.

Jens Frederik Nielsen

Prime Minister of Greenland

Kristrún M. Frostadóttir

Prime Minister of Iceland