

**AGREEMENT**

**ON COOPERATION ON AERONAUTICAL**

**AND MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE**

**IN THE ARCTIC**

*The Government of Canada, the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark, the Government of the Republic of Finland, the Government of Iceland, the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, the Government of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden, and the Government of the United States of America, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”,*

*Taking into account the relevant provisions*

## **Article 1**

### **Terms and Definitions**

1. For purposes of this Agreement, the terms and definitions contained in Chapter 1 of the Annex to the SAR Convention and in Chapter 1 of Annex 12 to the Chicago Convention shall apply.
2. For purposes of this Agreement, “territory of a Party” shall mean the land area of a State, its internal waters and its territorial sea, including the airspace above those areas.

## **Article 2**

### **Objective of this Agreement**

The objective of this Agreement is to strengthen aeronautical and maritime search and rescue cooperation and coordination in the Arctic.

## **Article 3**

### **Scope of Application of this Agreement**

1. The delimitations of the aeronautical and maritime search and rescue regions relevant to this Agreement are specified in paragraph 1 of the Annex to this Agreement. The area in which each Party shall apply this Agreement is set forth in paragraph 2 of the Annex to this Agreement.
2. The delimitation of search and rescue regions is not related to and shall not prejudice the delimitation of any boundary between States or their sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction.
3. Each Party shall promote the establishment, operation and maintenance of an adequate and effective search and rescue capability within its area as set forth in paragraph 2 of the Annex to this Agreement.

## **Article 4**

### **Competent Authorities of the Parties**

1. The Competent Authorities of the Parties are specified in Appendix I to this Agreement.
2. Each Party shall promptly inform the other Parties in writing through diplomatic channels of any changes regarding its Competent Authorities.

## Article 5

- (e) the Party to whom a request for assistance is submitted shall promptly decide on and inform the requesting Party whether or not it is in a position to render the assistance requested and shall promptly indicate the scope and the terms of the assistance that can be rendered;
- (f) the Parties shall ensure that assistance be provided to any person in distress. They shall do so regardless of the nationality or status of such a person or the circumstances in which that person is found; and
- (g) a Party shall promptly provide all relevant information regarding the search and rescue of any person to the consular or diplomatic authorities concerned.

## **Article 8**

### **Request to Enter the Territory of a Party for Purposes of Search and Rescue Operations**

1. A Party requesting permission to enter the territory of a Party or Parties for search and rescue purposes, including for refueling, shall send its request to a search and rescue agency and/or RCC of the relevant Party or Parties.
2. The Party receiving such a request shall immediately confirm such receipt. The receiving Party, through its RCCs, shall advise as soon as possible as to whether entry into its territory has been permitted and the conditions, if any, under which the mission may be undertaken.
3. The Party receiving such a request, as well as any Party through whose territory permission to transit is needed, shall apply, in accordance with its law and international obligations, the most expeditious border crossing procedure possible.

## **Article 9**

### **Cooperation Among the Parties**

1. The Parties shall enhance cooperation among themselves in matters relevant to this Agreement.
2. The Parties shall exchange information that may serve to improve the effectiveness of search and rescue operations. This may include, but is not limited to:
  - (a) o:

(e) information useful for training search and rescue personnel.

3. The Parties shall promote mutual search and rescue cooperation by giving due consideration to collaborative efforts including, but not limited to:

(a) exchange of experience;

(b) sharing of real-time meteorological and oceanographic observations,

- (c) possible participation of search and rescue experts as observers at national search and rescue exercises of any other Party;
- (d) preparation of proposals for the development of cooperation under this Agreement;
- (e) planning, development, and use of communication systems;
- (f) mechanisms to review and, where necessary, improve the application of international guidelines to issues concerning search and rescue in the Arctic; and
- (g) review of relevant guidance on Arctic meteorological services.

## **Article 11**

### **Joint Review of Search and Rescue Operations**

After a major joint search and rescue operation, the search and rescue agencies of the Parties may conduct a joint review of the operation led by the Party that coordinated the operation.

## **Article 12**

### **Funding**

1. Unless otherwise agreed, each Party shall bear its own costs deriving from its implementation of this Agreement.
2. Implementation of this Agreement shall be subject to the availability of relevant resources.

## **Article 13**

### **Annex**

The Annex to this Agreement forms an integral part of this Agreement. All references to this Agreement are understood to include the Annex.

## **Article 14**

### **Amendments**

1. This Agreement may be amended by written agreement of all the Parties.
2. An amendment shall enter into force 120 days after the date on which the depositary has received the last written notification through diplomatic channels that the Parties have completed the internal procedures required for its entry into force.





2. This Agreement shall enter into force 30 days after the date of receipt by the depositary of the last written notification through diplomatic channels that the Parties have completed the internal procedures required for its entry into force.

3. Any Party may at any time withdraw from this Agreement by sending written notification thereof to the depositary through diplomatic channels at least six months in advance, specifying the effective date of its withdrawal. Withdrawal from this Agreement shall not affect its application among the remaining Parties.

## **Article 20**

### **Depositary**

The Government of Canada shall be the depositary for this Agreement.

**DONE**

## **ANNEX**

### **Scope of Application of this Agreement**

1. The search and rescue regions relevant to this Agreement are delimited as follows:<sup>1</sup>

#### **Canada – Denmark**

### **Denmark – Iceland**

The aeronautical and maritime search and rescue regions of Denmark and Iceland shall be delimited by a continuous line connecting the following coordinates:

58°30'00"N, 043°00'00"W;

63°30'00"N, 039°00'00"W;

70°00'00"N, 020°00'00"W;

73°00'00"N, 020°00'00"W; and

73°00'00"N, 000°00'00"E/W.

### **Norway – Russian Federation**

The aeronautical and maritime search and rescue regions of Norway and the Russian Federation shall be delimited by the land border between Norway and the Russian Federation and then by a continuous line connecting the following coordinates:

69°47'41.42"N, 030°49'03.55"E;  
69°58'45.49"N, 031°06'15.58"E;  
70°05'58.84"N, 031°26'41.28"E;  
70°07'15.20"N, 031°30'19.43"E;  
70°11'51.68"N, 031°46'33.57"E;  
70°16'28.95"N, 032°04'23.00"E;  
72°27'51.00"N, 035°00'00.00"E; and  
Thence to the North Pole.

### **Russian Federation – United States of America**

The aeronautical and maritime search and rescue regions of the Russian Federation and the United States of America shall be delimited by a continuous line connecting the following coordinates:

50°05'00"N, 159°00'00"E;  
54°00'00"N, 169°00'00"E;  
54°49'00"N, 170°12'00"E;  
60°00'00"N, 180°00'00"E/W;  
64°03'00"N, 172°12'00"W;  
65°00'00"N, 168°58'24"W; and  
Thence north to the North Pole.

2. Each Party shall apply this Agreement in the following areas as encompassed by a continuous line, respectively:

### **Canada**

From the North Pole south to 82°00'00"N, 060°00'00"W;  
78°00'00"N, 075°00'00"W;  
76°00'00"N, 076°00'00"W;  
65°00'00"N, 057°45'00"W;  
63°00'00"N, 055°40'00"W;  
To the point where it intersects 60°00'00"N latitude;  
West along 60°00'00"N latitude until it intersects with land border between Canada and the United States of America;  
North along the land border to the Beaufort Sea; and  
Thence north to the North Pole.

**Denmark**

From the North Pole south to 82°00'00"N, 060°00'00"W;  
78°00'00"N, 075°00'00"W;  
76°00'00"N, 076°00'00"W;  
65°00'00"N, 057°45'00"W;  
63°00'00"N, 055°40'00"W;  
58°30'00"N, 050°00'00"W;  
58°30'00"N, 043°00'00"W;  
63°30'00"N, 039°00'00"W;  
70°00'00"N, 020°00'00"W;  
73°00'00"N, 020°00'00"W;  
73°00'00"N, 000°00'00"E/W; and  
Thence north to the North Pole.

**Finland**

From the tripoint at which the land borders of Finland, Norway and Sweden meet, south along the land border between Finland and Sweden to the point at

h the Arctic Circle intersects

Federation to

at which the land borders of Finland, Norway and

**Iceland**

## **Norway**

From the North Pole south to 66°33'44"N, 000°00'00"E/W;

East along the Arctic Circle to the point at which the Arctic Circle intersects the land border between Sweden and Norway;

North along the land border between Sweden and Norway to the tripoint at which the land borders of Sweden, Norway and Finland meet;

East along the land border between Finland and Norway to the tripoint at which the land borders of Finland, Norway and the Russian Federation meet;

North along the land border to the Barents Sea;

69°47'41.42"N, 030°49'03.55"E;

69°58'45.49"N, 031°06'15.58"E;

70°05'58.84"N, 031°26'41.28"E;

70°07'15.20"N, 031°30'19.43"E;

70°11'51.68"N, 031°46'33.57"E;

70°16'28.95"N, 032°04'23.00"E;

72°27'51.00"N, 035°00'00.00"E; and

Thence north to the North Pole.

## **Russian Federation**

From the North Pole south to 72°27'51.00"N, 035°00'00.00"E;

70°16'28.95"N, 032°04'23.00"E;

70°11'51.68"N, 031°46'33.57"E;

70°07'15.20"N, 031°30'19.43"E;

70°05'58.84"N, 031°26'41.28"E;

69°58'45.49"N, 031°06'15.58"E;

69°47'41.42"N, 030°49'03.55"E south to the point at which that meridian meets the land border between the Russian Federation and Norway;

South along the land border between the Russian Federation and Norway to the tripoint at which the land borders of the Russian Federation, Finland and Norway meet;

South along the land border between the Russian Federation and Finland to the point at which that border intersects the Arctic Circle;

East along the Arctic Circle until the Arctic Circle intersects the 180°00'00"E/W meridian;

50°05'00"N, 159°00'00"E;

54°00'00"N, 169°00'00"E;

54°49'00"N, 170°12'00"E;

60°00'00"N, 180°00'00"E/W;

## **Sweden**

From the tripoint at which the land borders of Sweden, Norway and Finland meet;

South along the land border between Sweden and Norway to the point at which that border intersects the Arctic Circle;

East along the Arctic Circle to the point at which the Arctic Circle intersects the land border between Sweden and Finland; and

Thence North along the land border between Sweden and Finland to the tripoint at which the land borders of Sweden, Norway and Finland meet.

## **United States of America**

From the North Pole south to 65°00'00"N, 168°58'24"W;

64°03'00"N, 172°12'00"W;

60°00'00"N, 180°00'00"E/W;

54°49'00"N, 170°12'00"E;

54°00'00"N, 169°00'00"E;

50°05'00"N, 159°00'00"E;

50°05'00"N, 143°40'00"W;

54°40'00"N, 140°00'00"W;

54°40'00"N, 136°00'00"W;

54°00'00"N, 136°00'00"W;

54°13'00"N, 134°57'00"W;

54°39'27"N, 132°41'00"W;

54°42'30"N, 130°36'30"W;

the Beaufort Sea; and

## **APPENDIX I**

### **Competent Authorities**

The Competent Authorities of the Parties are:

**Canada** – Minister of National Defence;

**Denmark** – Danish Maritime Authority;

**Finland** –Ministry of the Interior; Finnish Transport Safety Agency;

**Iceland** –Ministry of the Interior;

**Norway** –Ministry of Justice and the Police;

**Russian Federation** – Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation; Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergency and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters;

**Sweden** – Swedish Maritime Administration; and

**United States of America** – United States Coast Guard.



## **APPENDIX II**

### **Search and Rescue Agencies**

The search and rescue agencies of the Parties are:

**Canada** – Canadian Forces; Canadian Coast Guard;

**Denmark** – Danish Maritime Authority, Danish Transport Authority, Ministry of Fisheries – Faroe Islands;

**Finland** – Finnish Border Guard;

**Iceland** – Icelandic Coast Guard;

**Norway** – Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, Northern Norway (JRCC NN Bodø);

**Russian Federation** – Federal Air Transport Agency; Federal Agency for Marine and River Transport;

**Sweden** – Swedish Maritime Administration; and

**United States of America** – United States Coast Guard; United States Department of Defense.

## APPENDIX III

### Rescue Coordination Centers

The rescue coordination centers of the Parties are:

**Canada** – Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, Trenton;

**Denmark** – Maritime Rescue Coordination Center Grønnedal (MRCC Grønnedal);  
Rescue Coordination Center Søndrestrøm/Kangerlussuaq (RCC Søndrestrøm); Maritime  
Rescue and Coordination Center Torshavn (MRCC Torshavn);

**Finland** – Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre Turku (MRCC Turku); Aeronautical  
Rescue Coordination Centre Finland (ARCC Finland);

**Iceland** – Joint Rescue Coordination Center Iceland (JRCC Iceland);

**Norway** – Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, Northern Norway (JRCC NN Bodø);

**Russian Federation**