



## **Declaration on Antarctic Cooperation on the Occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Antarctic Treaty**

On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the entry into force of the Antarctic Treaty on June 23, 1961, the Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty,

**Noting** that 2011 is also the year of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening for signature of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty,

**Reaffirming** the Washington Ministerial Declaration of 6 April 2009 on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Antarctic Treaty (ATCM XXXII),

**Highlighting** that the Consultative and Non-Consultative Parties have been consistently applying the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty, including Article IV, both individually and collectively, thus consolidating the culture of Antarctic international cooperation in peace and harmony enshrined in the Treaty,

**Affirming** that the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and its Annexes are playing a significant role in protecting the Antarctic environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems,

**Appreciating** the dynamic and pragmatic evolution of the Antarctic Treaty system that is focused on achieving concrete results, especially in the fields of scientific research and environmental protection,



**Noting** that the abovementioned international cooperation has contributed to furthering the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

**Acknowledging** that this cooperation has contributed to the preservation of peace and the prevention of conflicts in the region,

**Recognizing** that over the past 50 years the Antarctic Treaty has successfully met its objective that Antarctica “be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and not become the scene or object of international discord”,

Hereby:

**Reaffirm** their continued commitment to upholding the Antarctic Treaty and all the other elements of the Antarctic Treaty system that have evolved since the Treaty’s entry into force,

**Reaffirm also** their intention to continue their strong and effective cooperation under the Antarctic Treaty and all the other elements of the Antarctic Treaty system by:

- Continuously enhancing scientific research and exchanging and making freely available scientific observations and data from Antarctica as provided for in Article III of the Antarctic Treaty;
- Enhancing logistical and scientific cooperation among national Antarctic programmes while minimizing environmental impact;
- Approving, in a timely manner, all Measures adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in accordance with the Antarctic Treaty;



- Proactively addressing future environmental, scientific, management and operational challenges including, where necessary, by further enhancing the Treaty system's regulatory framework;
- Pursuing a coherent approach within the Antarctic Treaty system;
- Continuing to identify and address emerging environmental challenges and strengthening the protection of the Antarctic environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems, particularly in relation to global climate change and human activities in the region, including tourism;
- Further refining and enhancing the exchange of information between Parties;
- Interacting with international governmental and non-governmental organisations that have an interest in the Antarctic Treaty area;
- Enhancing understanding in the wider community - including academia, decision makers and the general public - of the significance of international cooperation under the Antarctic Treaty system, its operation and the global importance of scientific research in Antarctica; and

Appeal to States that are Antarctic Treaty Parties but not yet Party to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, to become Party to the Protocol.

Buenos Aires, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011