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COOPERATION AGREEMENT  
on the International Arctic Hub (IAH)

between

**Naalakkersuisut – Ministry of Business, Energy, Research and Labour Market (ININ)**

Imaneq 1A  
3900 Nuuk  
GLN 5790001954017

and

**The Ministry of Higher Education and Science (UFM)**

Børsgade 4  
1015 Copenhagen K  
EAN no.: 5798000416604

hereinafter individually referred to as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties.”

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## 1. Background and Purpose

In both Greenland and Denmark, the idea of establishing an international research hub in Greenland has been discussed for several years. As a result of these Greenlandic-Danish deliberations, the Danish Finance Act for 2019 allocated DKK 3 million annually for the period 2019–2022, and the Greenlandic Finance Act allocated DKK 750,000 annually for the same period, for the joint implementation of the vision of an international research hub in Nuuk.

The purpose of the International Arctic Hub (IAH) is to establish a unique and unifying platform in Greenland for Greenlandic, Danish and international polar researchers and Arctic stakeholders. Greenland and Denmark have formulated several priority areas in a joint vision for IAH which together support the entire scientific ecosystem, from basic research to applied research, including dissemination, teaching and education.

The establishment of IAH also forms part of Denmark's foreign and security policy strategy for 2019–2020. Furthermore, IAH shall be regarded as an element in Greenland's and Denmark's efforts to support and facilitate increased international cooperation in the Arctic, cf. the Arctic Council's Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation, acceded to by Greenland, Denmark and the other Arctic states in 2017.

The Parties agree to contribute conscientiously to fulfilling the purpose of IAH, making the best possible use of the knowledge available to each Party.

## 2. Definitions and Abbreviations

In this Cooperation Agreement, the following definitions and abbreviations apply:

Agreement: This Cooperation Agreement, including its Appendices and any subsequent amendments and addenda.

ININ: Naalakkersuisut – **Ministry of Business, Energy, Research and Labour Market.**

IAH: The International Arctic Hub.

Cooperation: The Parties' cooperation concerning IAH as described in this Agreement.

UFM: The Ministry of Higher Education and Science.

Host Institution: Pinngortitaleriffik – Greenland Institute of Natural Resources (Appendix 3).

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### 3. Cooperation Activities

IAH's activities include:

- Research-supporting initiatives facilitating collaboration and dialogue between researchers and research groups in and around Greenland and the Arctic, including the establishment of new and lasting networks between Greenlandic, Danish and international research environments.
- Research communication and knowledge exchange between research and the public, as well as assistance to researchers regarding relevant public involvement in research projects and research communication in the Arctic.
- Strengthening local community support for research through relevant public involvement in the development and implementation of research in Greenlandic communities.
- Providing an overview of opportunities for conducting research in and around Greenland and communicating applicable rules and requirements governing such research.
- Supporting research-based education in and about the Arctic, including initiatives to ensure that current research is integrated into Greenlandic learning environments and that researchers are offered a platform to participate in educational activities at all levels in Greenland.
- Developing collaborative platforms between researchers and the business community, including knowledge exchange between relevant research environments, business and industry.
- Supporting access to relevant evidence- and experience-based knowledge in Arctic research for use by decision-makers at all levels, including public institutions and authorities, organizations, stakeholders and users of IAH.

Prior to signing this Agreement, the Parties prepared a joint vision for IAH (Appendix 1), which further describes IAH's primary priority areas.

### 4. Financing

As stated in Section 1, funds have been allocated in both the Danish Finance Act for 2019 and the Greenlandic Finance Act for 2019 for the joint implementation of the vision of an international research hub in Nuuk.

The appropriations cover the period 2019–2022. Continued funding for the subsequent budget years (2020–2022) is subject to approval by the appropriating authorities through the annual Finance Acts for the relevant years.

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IAH is expected, subject to the approval of the appropriating authorities, to continue to be financed through funds allocated for this purpose in the Danish and Greenlandic Finance Acts.

IAH may also receive additional funding, including contributions from private or public foundations.

The Parties undertake to make the expenditures and investments set out in the budget in Appendix 2 in accordance with the agreed allocation key and within the deadlines specified therein. Except as expressly provided otherwise, the Parties shall have no further financial obligations towards one another.

## 5. Structure and Organization of the Cooperation

This Agreement does not establish a legal entity with the Parties as participants, and the Parties may not bind each other vis-à-vis third parties.

The work of IAH shall be organized through a Board and a Secretariat as described below.

### 5.1 The Board

The Parties shall jointly establish a Board for IAH. The Board has overall responsibility for IAH and shall ensure that IAH's purpose is fulfilled and that the administration of IAH's funds is carried out in accordance with the budget set out in Appendix 2.

The Parties shall participate on the Board as full members. In addition, each Party shall appoint three additional members. The Board shall thus consist of eight members in total. The Parties are responsible for appointing the individual Board members, who shall serve in their personal capacity.

In appointing Board members, the Parties shall seek to ensure representation of relevant scientific disciplines within Arctic research, as well as other actors relevant to the Arctic regions, including representatives of the business community. The Parties shall also seek to ensure balanced gender representation.

The positions of Chair and Vice-Chair shall alternate every three years between Denmark and Greenland. Denmark shall hold the Chair from 2020 to 2022. Greenland shall thereafter hold the Chair for the period 2023–2025.

Board members, including the Chair, are appointed for a term of three years. Members may be reappointed. No alternates may be appointed.

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The Parties shall inform each other as early as possible of any intended replacement of a Board member.

The Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure within the framework of this Agreement. The rules of procedure shall be approved by the Parties.

The Board shall have a quorum when at least half of its members are present, either physically or via telecommunication. Decisions should, where possible, be made by consensus. Where consensus cannot be achieved, decisions shall be adopted by simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have the casting vote.

## 5.2 The Secretariat

The Board shall establish a Secretariat for IAH. The Secretariat shall operate under the authority of the Board and shall support IAH's activities, including the strategy formulated by the Board.

The Secretariat shall be physically located in connection with the Host Institution. The Parties shall enter into an agreement with the Host Institution concerning the establishment and operation of the Secretariat, cf. Appendix 3. The agreement shall be concluded for a period of four years, subject to the annual Finance Acts, and may be renegotiated as necessary.

All costs relating to the Secretariat, including remuneration of staff, shall be covered within the framework of IAH's budget set out in Appendix 2.

The Secretariat shall be headed by a Head of Secretariat appointed by the Board. The Head of Secretariat shall participate in Board meetings as an observer without voting rights.

The Head of Secretariat shall appoint the remaining Secretariat staff. The Host Institution shall be responsible for the practical and formal employment of the secretariat staff, including the Head of the Secretariat, including the conclusion of employment contracts, payment of salaries, etc.

The Board and the Secretariat shall enter into a performance agreement, which shall be followed up on annually, including which objectives have been achieved, which objectives are to be achieved in the following budget year, etc.

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## 6. Impartiality

The Parties, the Board members and the Secretariat are subject to the rules on disqualification set out in the Danish Public Administration Act and the Greenlandic legislation on administrative procedure.

The Parties, Board members and the Secretariat shall inform each other of any conflict of interest.

Before consideration of a matter is commenced, any Board member or member of the Secretariat shall notify the Board if circumstances exist that may give rise to doubt as to his or her impartiality. The Board shall decide on the question of disqualification, and the person concerned shall not participate in the consideration or decision of the matter.

## 7. Confidentiality

The Parties, the Board and the Secretariat shall maintain confidentiality regarding information obtained in connection with their participation in the Cooperation where such information is confidential by its nature or otherwise subject to confidentiality under applicable administrative legislation.

## 8. Breach

In the event of a Party's breach of its obligations under this Agreement, the general principles of Danish law shall apply.

## 9. Liability

The Parties shall be liable in accordance with the general principles of Danish law.

## 10. Intellectual Property Rights

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect ownership of intellectual property rights belonging to the Parties or to third parties participating in activities under IAH, including researchers, universities and other research institutions.

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The Parties shall be entitled to use general knowledge acquired as part of the Cooperation in other contexts.

## 11. Data Processing

All processing of personal data carried out as part of the cooperation shall take place in accordance with:

- 1) the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, etc.);
- 2) the Danish Data Protection Act (Act No. 502 of 23 May 2018 on supplementary provisions to the General Data Protection Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data); and
- 3) the Order on the Entry into Force for Greenland of the Act on Processing of Personal Data (Act No. 1238 of 14 October 2016 on Processing of Personal Data).

## 12. Assignment

A Party may not assign its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other Party.

The Host Institution may not transfer the hosting function to another institution without the prior written consent of the Parties.

## 13. Entry into Force, Termination and Amendment

This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in effect until terminated by one of the Parties or until the Cooperation is no longer funded.

Each Party may terminate the Agreement by giving six months' written notice to the other Party.

Each Party shall bear its own costs in connection with termination, regardless of which Party terminates the Agreement.

Amendments to the Agreement shall be made in writing, attached as Appendices and signed by the Parties.

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## 14. Interpretation

The Appendices form an integral part of this Agreement. In the event of any inconsistency between the main text and the Appendices, the main text shall prevail.

## 15. Disputes

This Agreement shall be governed by Danish law.

Any dispute arising in connection with this Agreement shall first be sought resolved through negotiations between the Parties. If necessary, the matter shall be escalated to senior management level within the Parties' respective organizations.

## 16. Signatures

**For the Ministry of Higher Education and Science**

Place:

Date:

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**For the Department of Business, Energy, Research and Labour Market**

Place: Nuuk

Date: 13 February 2020

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## Appendix 1

### Vision Paper for the Implementation of a Danish–Greenlandic International Arctic Hub in Nuuk, Greenland

The purpose of an International Arctic Hub (IAH) is to establish a unique and unifying platform in Greenland for Danish, Greenlandic and international polar researchers, as well as Arctic stakeholders. In the form of a secretariat physically located in Nuuk in association with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources and the University of Greenland, IAH facilitates and coordinates local and international research collaboration. IAH has six focus areas, which are interdependent but together support the entire scientific ecosystem from basic research to applied research, including communication, teaching and education. Citizen involvement and the use of local knowledge are likewise central focus areas for IAH.

The six focus areas are:

research

education

international collaboration

communication and citizen involvement

industry collaboration, and

administrative collaboration

## Research

Research is the core area of IAH and forms the foundation of its activities. Research is understood in a broad sense and includes basic research, strategic research and applied research. The field of interest for IAH comprises all research areas relevant to the Arctic region and its population. In addition, large parts of Arctic research are linked to global research interests concerning climate change and its impact on global weather systems. IAH supports Arctic research by facilitating collaboration through research-support initiatives that require cooperation and dialogue between researchers and research groups. It is essential that research-support activities within the framework of IAH are conceived across disciplines and have a dedicated focus on citizen involvement and the use of local knowledge. In particular, IAH contributes to facilitating access to and the opportunity to conduct research in and around Greenland by providing an overview of and insight into the rules and requirements applicable to research at any given time.

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## Education

Research-based education in and about the Arctic is a cornerstone in the development of a sustainable Greenland. The existing cooperation between Danish and Greenlandic educational institutions is to be further strengthened and developed for the benefit of both Danish and Greenlandic institutions. IAH supports interaction between researchers conducting research in and around Greenland, so that current and recent research becomes a natural and integrated part of learning environments in Greenland. IAH works to ensure that researchers are offered a platform to participate in learning activities for students at all educational levels in Greenland.

## International Collaboration

Research is international by its nature, and this is particularly evident in regions such as the Arctic, where extreme conditions and vast geographical distances place special demands on resources, logistics and knowledge. It is crucial that Danish and Greenlandic research resources are utilized optimally and have the best possible conditions for engaging with leading international research environments. IAH will work purposefully to facilitate the framework for international dialogue on the development of the most valuable research relationships, so that new and lasting networks are established between Danish, Greenlandic and international research communities. Similarly, IAH will facilitate the integration of existing and future research infrastructure into a shared framework that continuously strengthens their utilization and coherence.

## Communication and Citizen Involvement

Research must create value for Greenlandic society and its citizens. To strengthen local community support for research, it is essential that citizens have the opportunity to gain insight into and understanding of the work carried out by researchers in and around Greenland. Likewise, it is important that citizens are involved in the development and implementation of research locally, where relevant. IAH strengthens and facilitates knowledge transfer between research and the population and supports future generations of researchers with knowledge of how research in the Arctic can be organised with a view to citizen involvement in research projects and the communication of research.

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## Industry Collaboration

With research and education as fundamental pillars in the development of a sustainable and competitive society, knowledge transfer and interaction with the business community serve as important tools for translating knowledge into goods, services and products that create value, growth and welfare locally and globally. IAH stimulates interaction between researchers who are based in Greenland or who stay in Greenland for shorter or longer periods and the local business community. This includes informing industry about new knowledge. Similarly, IAH ensures that knowledge requested by business and industry is conveyed to relevant research communities by facilitating collaboration platforms and dialogue between researchers and the business community.

## Administrative Collaboration

Society expects that public funds are used with a focus on high impact and value creation. It is therefore important that decision-makers at all levels have access to relevant evidence- and experience-based knowledge that can strengthen the robustness of important societal decisions. IAH provides a current overview of existing knowledge and knowledge needs (so-called “gap analyses”) within Arctic research. Likewise, IAH builds insight into the barriers and opportunities that affect the framework conditions for research, education, communication, citizen involvement and industry collaboration in the Arctic, for the benefit of public institutions and authorities, organizations, stakeholders and users of IAH.

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## Appendix 2: Budget for the International Arctic Hub (IAH)

The table below presents the overall budget for FL § 19.55.05.34 International Arctic Hub. In addition to the Danish contribution, a contribution from the Government of Greenland is included in the budget. Unspent funds shall be carried forward to the subsequent budget year and reported annually to the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science prior to the disbursement of the following year's appropriation.

	<b>Amount (DKK)</b>
Salary (Head of Secretariat) <sup>1</sup>	600,000
Salary (Staff) <sup>2</sup>	900,000
Overhead to the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources (20% of administrative costs) <sup>3</sup>	300,000
Operating expenses for the Secretariat <sup>4</sup>	200,000
Operating funds for activities <sup>5</sup>	1,000,000
Operating funds for activities (Greenlandic contribution)	750,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,750,000</b>

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> The actual salary expenses will depend on the specific candidate appointed as Head of Secretariat.

<sup>2</sup> The actual salary expenses will depend on the composition of staff (AC, HK and student staff) and the number of full-time equivalents employed.

<sup>3</sup> The Greenland Institute of Natural Resources acts as the grant holder and is responsible for payment of salaries and for providing office facilities, including workspaces, offices, PCs, etc. The IAH Secretariat shall have access to the Institute's facilities (canteen arrangement, vehicles, meeting rooms, etc.). A separate grant letter shall be issued to the Institute.

<sup>4</sup> Covers travel expenses, representation, etc. for the Secretariat staff and management.

<sup>5</sup> Covers expenses for activities involving external participants/users of IAH, such as workshops, seminars and travel, as well as Secretariat expenses for communication (web and publications), etc. A separate operating account shall be established at the Institute of Natural Resources for use by the IAH Secretariat.

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## Appendix 3

Agreement on the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources as Host Institution for the International Arctic Hub (IAH)

Under the Greenlandic and Danish Finance Acts, appropriations of DKK 750,000 and DKK 3.0 million respectively have been allocated in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 for the implementation of IAH.

It has been agreed between the Department of Business, Energy and Research in Greenland (ININ) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Science in Denmark (UFM) that the grant for IAH shall be placed with Pinngortitaleriffik / the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources (GN). It is further agreed that GN shall act as host institution for the IAH secretariat in this regard.

The hosting arrangement includes administration of the grant to IAH, including the following elements:

- The IAH secretariat shall be physically located in association with GN.
- GN shall administer the grant in cooperation with the Head of the Secretariat, including administrative payment of salaries to the Head of the Secretariat and the other secretariat staff.
- GN shall, in cooperation with the Head of the Secretariat, submit reports and accounts to the Department of Business, Energy and Research (ININ) and the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science (SFU) regarding the use of the grant.
- In accordance with the budget set out in Appendix 2.

The agreement between ININ, UFM and GN is concluded subject to the annual Finance Acts. The agreement may be renegotiated as needed. In the event of termination of the hosting arrangement, notice shall be given by both parties at least one year prior to termination. Any selection of a new host institution shall require agreement between the parties.