

A White Paper issued by the Government of the People's Republic of China on its Arctic Policy: January 2018

Global warming in recent years has accelerated the melting of ice and snow in the Arctic region. As economic globalization and regional integration further develops and deepens, the Arctic is gaining global significance for its rising strategic, economic values and those relating to scientific research, environmental protection, sea passages, and natural resources. The Arctic situation now goes beyond its original inter-Arctic States or regional nature, having a vital bearing on the interests of States outside the region and the interests of the international community as a whole, as well as on the survival, the development, and the shared future for mankind. It is an issue with global implications and international impacts.

As a champion for the development of a community with a shared future for mankind, China is an active participant, builder and contributor in Arctic affairs who has spared no efforts to contribute its wisdom to the development of the Arctic region. The Chinese government has thus issued a white paper, to expound its basic positions on Arctic affairs, to elaborate on its policy goals, basic principles and major policies and positions regarding its engagement in Arctic affairs, to guide relevant Chinese government departments and institutions in Arctic-related activities and cooperation, to encourage relevant parties to get better involved in Arctic governance, and to work with the international community to safeguard and promote peace and stability in, and the sustainable development of the Arctic region.

A thorough reading of the white paper, which is divided into the following parts: (I) The Arctic Situation and Recent Changes; (II) China and the Arctic; (III) China's Policy Goals and Basic Principles on the Arctic; (IV) China's Policies and Positions on Participating in Arctic Affairs; (1) Deepening and Exploration and understanding of the Arctic; (2) Protecting the eco-environment of the Arctic and addressing climate change; (3) Utilizing Arctic Resources in a Lawful and Rational Manner; (4) Participating Actively in Arctic governance and international cooperation and (5) Promoting peace and stability in the Arctic - reveals that the issue is closely related to the UNCLOS and other provisions on international law, and that the future of the Arctic concerns the interests of the Arctic States, the wellbeing of non-Arctic States and that of the humanity as a whole. The governance of the Arctic requires the participation and contribution of all stakeholders. On the basis of the principles of "respect, cooperation, win-win result and sustainability", China, as a responsible major country, is ready to cooperate

with all relevant parties to seize the historic opportunity in the development of the Arctic, to address the challenges brought by the changes in the region, jointly understand, protect, develop and participate in the governance of the Arctic, and advance Arctic-related cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, so as to build a community with a shared future for mankind and contribute to peace, stability and sustainable development in the Arctic.