Report of   
Antarctic Parliamentarians Assembly   
2-3 December 2019: London

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**Information Paper submitted by the United Kingdom**

Summary

Report following an Antarctic Parliamentarians Assembly, marking the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Antarctic Treaty, which noted the ‘potentially catastrophic effects’ of climate change in Antarctica.

Detail

1. Parliamentarians from 13 Antarctic Treaty Parties gathered in London to consider what national legislatures could do to support the Antarctic Treaty System and to promote peace, science and environmental protection, particularly at a time of increasing effects from climate change on Antarctica.
2. A consensus statement was signed by all 19 parliamentary delegates at the Antarctic Parliamentarians Assembly. Additionally, several Parties were represented by representatives of their embassies in London as observers to the Assembly.
3. In particular, the parliamentarians “note with concern the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, which **highlights the profound effects of climate change on Antarctica’s ecosystems and the potentially catastrophic effects of Antarctic ice loss on global sea level**”.
4. The delegates agreed to work towards establishing the Antarctic Parliamentarians Assembly on a biennial basis, alternating between the Southern and Northern hemispheres.
5. A copy of the Assembly statement is attached as an Appendix to this paper.

Background

1. Within the UK Parliament, All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) are informal cross-party groups run by and for members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The APPG for the Polar Regions aims to inform parliamentarians on all matters relating to the Arctic and Antarctic regions.
2. Further information can be found on the Antarctic Parliamentarians Assembly website: [www.antarcticparliamentarians.com](http://www.antarcticparliamentarians.com)