Preparation of the 45th Meeting

Helsinki, 2023

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***Information paper submitted by Finland***

With reference to the Final Report of ATCM 42 in Prague 2019 para 119 which states

*“(119)...The Meeting encouraged all upcoming ATCM Host Countries to submit a progress report to the ATCM in the form of an IP a year in advance, and for upcoming Host Countries to provide regular progress reports to the Secretariat. It also agreed that this suggestion should be included in the Organisational Manual that the Secretariat routinely provided to upcoming Host Countries...”,*

Finland wishes to inform about its preparations for the 45th Meeting in Helsinki in 2023.

Finland regrets that, due to the outbreak of the global Covid-19 pandemic, it was obliged to cancel the ATCM XLIII in Helsinki in 2020. We are very grateful for receiving a new opportunity to host the ATCM in Finland in 2023. We would like to give special thanks to India for good cooperation and agreeing to us to host the meeting next year. Finland looks very much forward to the 45th ATCM as our first opportunity to bear our responsibilities as a Treaty partner. We are obviously able to take advantage of the planning and arrangements we already had in place for 2020 and therefore the preparations are proceeding well. We would also wish to express our appreciation for the good cooperation which has already been established with the German Host Country Secretariat which will further feed into our preparations in a fruitful manner.

The Meeting will take place in Helsinki from 29 May to 8 June 2023. We have chosen the [Scandic Marina Congress Center](https://www.marinacongresscenter.com/en) which is located right in the center of Helsinki, as the venue of the Meeting. A block reservation will be made at hotels nearby and further details will be provided in due course. The host country website will be opened later this year.

The structures of the Meeting (ATCM Chair, ATCM Deputy Secretary/Head of Host Country Secretariat, Head of Delegation) outlined in the Antarctic Treaty Secretariats’ Organisational Manual have been largely determined. The funding for the Meeting and for the personnel required is secured. The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs bears the overall responsibility for organising the Meeting although it will be supported by different service providers. Finland will pay special attention to sustainability in the arrangements of the meeting. We will stay in close contact with the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat and will give regular briefings on the further preparations for the Meeting.

Finland proposes to add a topical session to the agenda of the 45th ATCM to enhance and support harmonized implementation of the IMO Polar Code in waters around both Poles. More information on the session will follow in due time.

Finland would like to offer a review of its Antarctic and polar activities and present the Meeting location in a short film, which will be shown at the ATCM in Berlin under item 18 of the agenda after a short oral introduction on our Meeting preparations. The film will subsequently also be accessible to the public.

Finland is looking forward to the ATCM 2023 in Helsinki and we would like to take this opportunity to cordially invite you to the Meeting.