

OPENING STATEMENT FROM THE FAROE ISLANDS

Mister Chair, Distinguished Delegates and Observers - Ladies and Gentlemen

The Faroe Islands is a small nation surrounded by the large ocean, and few people in the world are as closely tied to the sea as the Faroe Islanders.

As a founding member of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission, the Faroe Islands are committed to rational management, conservation, and responsible use of the living resources of the sea.

Whaling has been ingrained in the life of our islands for centuries and whaling in the Faroe Islands is a community-based activity. Our unique form of whaling is largely non-commercial. Still, we also fully respect the rights of others to trade commercially in their marine mammal resources.

Our common goal is to ensure that the use of whales and seals is sustainable and that hunts are conducted responsibly - and base our decisions on the best available scientific advice.

We look forward to receiving the recommendation from the Scientific Committee on sustainable catches of pilot whale.

The NAMMCO Agreement was signed here in Nuuk in 1992 so the Organisation on regional cooperation on the conservation and management of whales and seals is now 34 years old. NAMMCO is a well-established organisation and constructive in its work.

On behalf of the Faroese delegation, I wish to express our gratitude to our Greenlandic hosts for their hospitality in convening this meeting. It is truly a pleasure and honour to come together here in Nuuk for this significant event. Furthermore, our sincere appreciation goes to the secretariat for their diligent and dedicated efforts in facilitating the work of our organisation.

Thank you.