

Statement

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Arctic Council must move beyond words to meaningful climate action: Greenpeace

24 April 2015 (Iqaluit, Nunavut) — Following the 2015 Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Iqaluit, Nunavut, where Canada passed the Council's chairship over to the United States, Greenpeace USA Arctic Campaigner Mary Sweeters said:

"While we are encouraged by US Secretary of State John Kerry's remarks regarding climate change and the urgent need for renewable energy, we have heard similar things before — if the Obama Administration goes ahead with approving Shell's plans to drill in the Alaskan Arctic this very summer, Kerry's words won't be worth the paper they're written on. As some of the Permanent Participants pointed out, what we need now is action, including strong emission reduction targets by each nation state before the COP meets in Paris in December.

"As Secretary Kerry stated in his Arctic Council address, prevention is the most critical measure to protect the Arctic from oil spills. The best and only way to guarantee an Arctic free of oil spills is to not allow drilling in the first place. If the Arctic Council is truly committed to protecting the unique Arctic environment, they must not allow any offshore oil drilling in sensitive Arctic waters.

"Further, we will be watching to ensure that the US chairship makes good on its promises to create a binding network of Marine Protected Areas in the Arctic Ocean, which remains the least protected ocean in the world."

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The following people are in Iqaluit and available for interviews:

Mary Sweeters, Arctic campaigner Greenpeace USA, 1 (867) 222 4071
mary.sweeters@greenpeace.org

Farrah Khan, Arctic campaigner, Greenpeace Canada, 1 (867) 222 4071
farrah.khan@greenpeace.org

Jessica Wilson, head of Arctic campaign, Greenpeace Canada, 1 (867) 222 4309
jessica.wilson@greenpeace.org