

*UArctic Congress opening panel “Arctic Agenda 2030: a challenge?”
Conclusion
Helsinki, September 2018*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

As we come to the end of our discussions, I would like to place particular emphasis on one point: the fact that although action is complex, although it is slow, although it demands concessions, although it is sometimes uncertain, it is possible as of now.

We have the means to progress towards more effective protection of the Arctic.

Diplomatic means, as the UN is addressing the environmental issues at stake, the climate and biodiversity.

Political means, in particular in the context of the Arctic Council, since the bordering countries, as this Congress bears witness, are increasingly committed to dealing with these issues responsibly.

Technical means with, for example, marine protected areas, whose development will be a fantastic tool to protect the Arctic more efficiently.

Economic means, if we truly engage in the energy transition which is the only solution to address climate challenge.

And above all human means, because increasingly frequently, here and elsewhere, our contemporaries have seen the value and role of Arctic resources and are ready to protect them.

By 2030, it is therefore my hope that we will be capable of coordinating these various levels and putting these levers into full action.

If we do this, we will definitely have helped to ensure the future of this region!

Thank you.