Welcome to the county of Nordland and to the city of Bodø! This is the second Barents summer games, and it is with great pleasure I wish you welcome.

I am responsible for the department of culture, environment and public health, including sports, in the Nordland county government. The international people-to-people work in the Barents is of great importance to us.

The northern parts of our 4 countries are meeting here in the spirit of friendship, and for the love of sports.

We will work to develop the quality of sports in our region together. We will increase the exchange of athletes, trainers, leaders and referees. And hereby we intend building tolerance and cultural understanding among the inhabitants of the region.

So look around you here at this meeting, and during competitions and at meals, and on the road travelling – these are your friends and competitors and distant family of the Barents region!

I strongly encourage you to do your best in your sport here, make friends, be curious, learn the language and the culture of your neighbour!

I wish you all the best for these days in Bodø and Nordland!