

A GUIDE TO THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

October 2015



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ABOUT THE PRESENTING ORGANIZATIONS

This document is not produced by, for, or with the endorsement of the Arctic Council. It should be considered a resource for those interested in the Arctic Council. It was created for a training workshop for the Permanent Participant organizations of the Arctic Council hosted by The Gordon Foundation and the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat in Vancouver, British Columbia in October 2015. The presenting organizations do not guarantee the accuracy of any of the information presented in this document.

THE GORDON FOUNDATION undertakes research, leadership development and public dialogue so that public policies in Canada reflect a commitment to collaborative stewardship of our freshwater resources and to a people-driven, equitable and evolving North. Our mission is to promote innovative public policies for the North and in fresh water management based on our values of independent thought, protecting the environment, and full participation of indigenous people in the decisions that affect their well-being. Over the past quarter century The Gordon Foundation has invested over \$27 million in a wide variety of northern community initiatives and freshwater protection initiatives.

THE ARCTIC COUNCIL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' SECRETARIAT is a support Secretariat for the International Indigenous Peoples' Organizations that have Permanent Participant status in the Arctic Council. IPS assists with creating opportunities for the Indigenous Peoples' Organizations to present their causes, and helps provide them with necessary information and materials. IPS work includes:

- Ensuring that Permanent Participants are sent documents and reports connected to the work of the Arctic Council and its Working Groups;
 - Helping Permanent Participants to present their views to the Arctic Council and its Working Groups;
 - Collecting and communicating information about the Arctic Council and its results to the Indigenous Peoples in the various parts of the Arctic; and
 - Providing co-ordination for the Indigenous Peoples' organizations to meet with each other, and to participate in the Arctic Council Working Groups.
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ABBREVIATIONS

AAC	Arctic Athabaskan Council
ACOPS	The Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea
ACS	Arctic Council Secretariat
AEPS	Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy
AIA	Aleut International Association
AINA	Arctic Institute of North America
AMAP	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme
AWRH	Association of World Reindeer Herders
CAFF	Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna
CCU	Circumpolar Conservation Union
EPPR	Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response
FTE	Full-time Equivalent
GCI	Gwich'in Council International
HOD	Head of Delegation
IASC	International Arctic Science Committee
IASSA	International Arctic Social Science Association
ICC	Inuit Circumpolar Council
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IPS	Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat
IUCH	International Union for Circumpolar Health
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWGIA	International Working Groups on Indigenous Affairs
NAMMCO	North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
NCM	Nordic Council of Ministers
NEFCO	Nordic Environment Finance Corporation
NF	Northern Forum
NOK	Norwegian Kroner
PAME	Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment
PP	Permanent Participants
RAIPON	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North
SAO	Senior Arctic Officials
SCPAR	The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
SDWG	Sustainable Development Working Groups
UArctic	University of the Arctic
UN-ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USD	U.S. Dollars
USSR	United of Soviet Socialist Republics
WWF	World Wildlife Federation

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide information – in plain language – on how the Arctic Council works. It is intended to be a resource for those involved with or interested in the Arctic Council. However, it is not a document prepared by or for, nor is it endorsed by, the Arctic Council. It is simply a resource for those interested in the Arctic Council.

This document will first describe the different players in the Arctic Council and then will discuss its form and procedures. Descriptions of the Arctic Council's Permanent Participants and Observers are found in the appendixes.

1.2 History

The Arctic Council was created in September 1996 by the Ottawa Declaration. The Arctic Council was preceded by the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (often referred to as “the Rovaniemi Process”). The Arctic Council originated in the opening up of relations between the West and the USSR as the Cold War was coming to a close.

For more information on the history of the Arctic Council see: John English, *Ice and Water: People, Politics and the Arctic Council* (Toronto, Penguin Canada: 2013).

1.3 Areas of Work

The Arctic Council's primary focus is on environmental and sustainable development issues. It does not deal with “matters related to military security.” Military issues were excluded from the Arctic Council's mandate explicitly in the Ottawa Declaration.

The Working Groups, Task Forces, and Expert Groups are where most of the Arctic Council's substantive project and assessment work takes place.

SECTION 2: WHO MAKES UP THE ARCTIC COUNCIL?

2.1 Members

There are eight members of the Arctic Council: Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States of America. Each of the members of the Arctic Council has its own political structures and domestic politics. These domestic considerations shape each country's stance on issues at the Arctic Council and informs how they arrive at their positions. Therefore, it is important to know a few things about each country to understand where they are coming from.

Factors to consider include, but are not limited to:

- What are the major domestic factors driving Arctic issues in each country?
 - What are each country's major Arctic focuses?
 - How does each country involve sub-national (e.g. state or territorial) governments?
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- How does each country structure its relationship with Indigenous peoples?
- How does each country structure its Arctic Council delegation?

No matter their status – Ambassador, Assistant Deputy Minister, Secretary, etc. – each Arctic State, according to the Ottawa Declaration, must designate a “Senior Arctic Official” to be the person who serves as the primary point of contact for Arctic Council activities. Senior Arctic Officials are responsible for:

- Receiving and discussing reports from Working Groups, Task Forces, etc.;
- Guiding and monitoring Arctic Council activities; and
- Reviewing and making recommendations on proposals.

2.2 Permanent Participants

The Arctic Council is a unique body, because it recognizes the important role of Indigenous people in the region and gives their representatives formal recognition and roles. This is uncommon in international arenas and, for many, this is an exciting and innovative feature of the Council.

There are currently six Permanent Participant organizations in the Arctic Council: Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC), Aleut International Association (AIA), Gwich'in Council International (GCI), Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), Saami Council, and the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON).

This role of Permanent Participant is recognized right in the Arctic Council's founding document – the Ottawa Declaration (1996):

2. ... The Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Saami Council and the Association of Indigenous Minorities of the North [today known as Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)] are Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council. Permanent Participant equally is open to other Arctic organizations of Indigenous peoples with majority Indigenous constituency representing:

- a) a single Indigenous People resident in more than one Arctic State; or
- b) more than one Arctic Indigenous people resident in a single Arctic state.

The determination that such an organization has met this criterion is to be made by decision of the Council. The number of Permanent Participants should at any time be less than the number of members.

The category of Permanent Participant is created to provide for active participation and full consultation with the Arctic Indigenous representatives within the Arctic Council

Therefore, the Ottawa Declaration tells us a few key things about the status of Permanent Participants:

1. To be considered for PP status an organization must represent Indigenous peoples in more than one Arctic state (e.g. AAC, AIA, GCI, ICC, and Saami Council) or multiple Indigenous peoples in a single state (e.g. RAIPON).
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2. There will never be more than 7 Permanent Participants. This means that there is the possibility of one more PP being added if they applied 90 days prior to a Ministerial.

2.3 The Arctic Council Secretariat

The Arctic Council Secretariat was established in 2011 and is located in Tromsø, Norway. It is considered a “legal personality” in Norway. The Secretariat has a professional staff led by a Director. The Director reports to the Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials and through him/her to all of the SAOs. The Director is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Secretariat and serves for a four-year term that can be renewed.

The Secretariat carries out its work through funding from all the Arctic States, with Norway agreeing to contribute 42.5% of the Secretariat’s budget.

Figure 1: The Roles of the Arctic Council Secretariat.

Area	Tasks
Administrative and organizational support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arranging and servicing meetings as required. • Sending reports to and from Arctic States, Permanent Participants, Working Groups and Task Forces, other subsidiary bodies and Observers. • Assisting the Chair in drafting meeting documents, including final reports. • Providing services to Permanent Participants and Working Groups without a secretariat. • Providing administrative services concerning general correspondence and archiving of records.
Communication and outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating the Arctic Council website, including web pages of those Working Groups without a secretariat. • Facilitating and improving the quality and availability of information on the Arctic Council. • Recording, maintaining, and posting, as appropriate, the records of the Arctic Council. • Facilitating the exchange of information among the Arctic States, Permanent Participants and Observers. • Developing strategic communication and outreach plans and other documents under the direct supervision of the Chair, in support of the Arctic Council.
Finance and human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing budgets, recruiting staff, contracting for services and related activities, and liaising with the host country.
Other Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other services and functions as may be required and directed by the Arctic Council and its Chair.
Translation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizing that English is the working language of the Arctic Council, translating important Arctic Council documents and communications and outreach material to and from the Russian language, where budget exists.

2.4 Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat

2.4.1 OVERVIEW

The Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat, like the concept of "Permanent Participants", dates back to the earlier Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy. In 1993, Denmark and Greenland offered to set up a secretariat to help coordinate work amongst the different Indigenous organizations involved in the Strategy. The decision was made to continue the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat under the Arctic Council. The Ottawa Declaration very simply says:

(8) The Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat established under AEPS [Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy] is to continue under the framework of the Arctic Council.

2.4.2 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' SECRETARIAT TASKS

The chart below illustrates the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat's main tasks.

Figure 2: The Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat Roles.

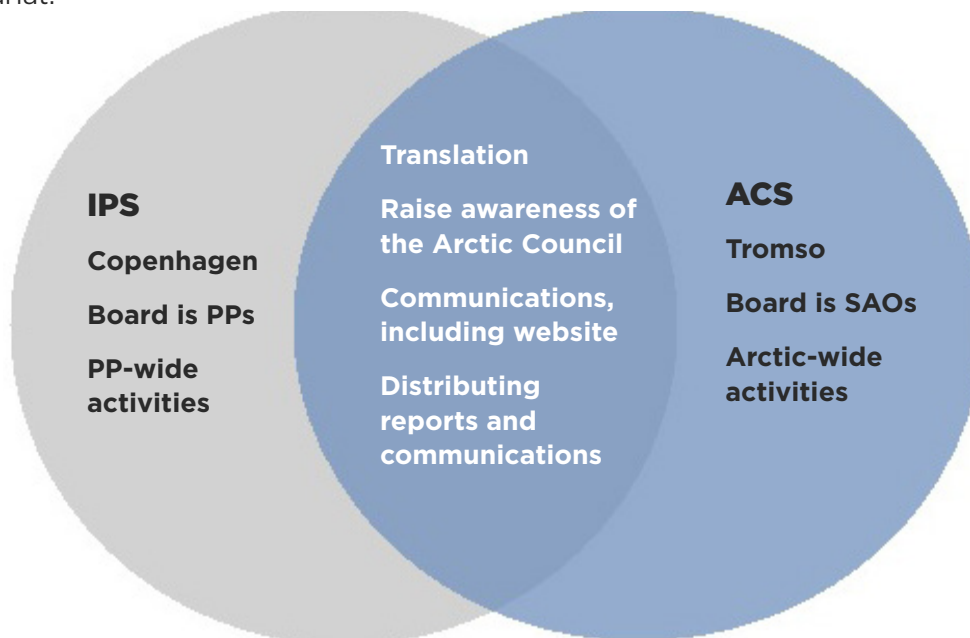
Facilitate Permanent Participant work in the Arctic Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the PP participation in the work of the Arctic Council. • Assist and provide Secretariat support functions to the Permanent Participants. • Facilitate and assist the Permanent Participants to prepare and submit proposals relevant to the work of the Arctic Council. • Facilitate the presentation of the perspectives of Indigenous peoples in the Council's Working Groups and in meeting of Senior Arctic Officials and Ministers.
Enhance Capacity of the Permanent Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the capacity of the Permanent Participants to pursue the objectives of the Arctic Council. • Assist the Permanent Participants to develop their internal capacity to participate and intervene in the Arctic Council. • Assist the Permanent Participants in the furtherance of their activities in relation to participation and full consultation with the Arctic Council. • Assist Permanent Participants in how to best make contributions to the Council's work. • Support the Permanent Participants in carrying out actions for the sustainable development of Indigenous peoples.

Facilitate Communication and Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate dialogue and communications among the Permanent Participants and among Permanent Participants and other Arctic Council related bodies. • Provide opportunities for co-operative and co-ordinated activities among the Permanent Participants and IPS. • Facilitate meetings and communication between the Permanent Participants. • Facilitate the translation of the communications between the Permanent Participants as far as possible. • Gather and disseminate information on and provide and list sources of different forms of knowledge. • Contribute to raising public awareness of Arctic Council issues through a regularly updated website and regularly produced newsletters and other publications.
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2.4.3 WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IPS AND ACS?

Both the Arctic Council Secretariat and Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat have functions that are similar. However, they are not the same. The Arctic Council Secretariat focuses on Arctic Council-wide activities and is primarily there for coordinating between all of the Arctic States, taking direction from the Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials. The Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat is much more focused on supporting the PPs and therefore reports to a board primarily composed of PP representatives.

Figure 3: Comparing the Roles of the Arctic Council Secretariat and Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat.



2.4.4 IPS GOVERNANCE

The Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat is overseen by a board of nine members. Board members are made up of a representative from each of the six Permanent Participants, plus a representative of the current chair of the Arctic Council (e.g. USA), the host country of IPS (currently Denmark), and a representative from the previous Arctic Council chairmanship (e.g. Canada). The board meets at least once a year in person, but generally meets in conjunction with the SAO meetings.

Decisions of the board are taken by consensus. There must be at least four board members present to have quorum. If a board member misses a meeting, s/he has 30 days upon being notified of a decision to object to it. As during Arctic Council Ministerial meetings, decisions will only take place at an IPS Board meeting on items formally on the agenda.

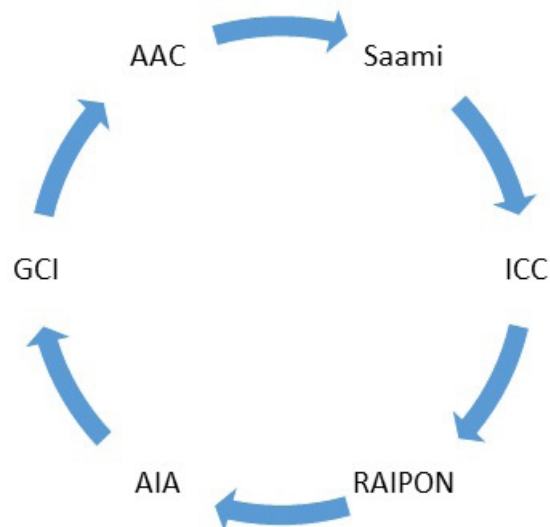
The board has the responsibility to:

1. Approve operating budgets;
2. Approve annual work plans; and
3. Set terms and conditions for the employment of the Executive Secretary, including decisions on hiring and firing.

All documents being considered at the IPS Board-level must be translated into Russian.

Like the Arctic Council as a whole, the IPS chair rotates between the PP organizations every two years. The order of chairmanships is: Saami Council- ICC - RAIPON - AIA -GCI-AAC. If necessary, a Permanent Participant organization can defer taking the chair by two years, in which case it passes to the next organization in the cycle.

Figure 4: The Order of Rotation for IPS Chair.



The chair has the following roles and responsibilities:

- Can appoint a vice-chair who is a member of board to serve in her absence;
- Coordinate the agenda;
- Propose a date and location for a board meeting at least 60 days in advance, circulate a draft agenda 30 days in advance and incorporate any additional agenda items proposed by board members at least 14 days in advance;
- Approve expenses of Secretariat staff; and
- Enter into agreements with the support of the rest of the board.

The IPS Board also has an Executive Committee consisting of the chair and two or more people. The role of the Executive Committee is to “direct the work of IPS within the work plans and budgets approved by the Board.” The committee reports to the full board.

2.4.5 FUNDING

The IPS has received its core funding from Denmark since the establishment of the body. The IPS has also over the years received more ad hoc funding from various Arctic Member States, private foundations, and other sources. The funds have been earmarked to specific projects or events.

The board must ensure that it approves the budget within the rules set by the funding bodies of the Indigenous Peoples’ Secretariat (e.g. Government of Denmark). However, the chair of the board can enter into agreements on behalf of IPS for funding, support, accounting services, etc. The chair must also approve any expenditures of IPS staff between 10,000 DDK and 40,000 DDK.

According to the Indigenous Peoples’ Secretariat Procedural Guidelines: “...IPS should aspire to include financial contributions from foundations, corporations, and other non-governmental organizations.” The Permanent Participants through IPS are currently working on a project to establish a “permanent fund” to support their work.

2.4.6 IPS STAFF

As mentioned above, the IPS Board determines the terms and conditions of the employment of the executive secretary, deciding to hire or fire as necessary.

The executive secretary is responsible for:

- Coordinating the development and carrying out of work plans and other tasks;
 - Coordinating the development of budgets and funding proposals;
 - Coordinating regular reporting and accounting to the chair, the Executive Committee and the board on work plans, budgets and expenditure matters, and funding matters and IPS activities generally;
 - Coordinating the preparation of reports, recommendations, and other documents for review or decision by the chair, the executive committee or board;
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- Disseminating correspondence and information to the PPs and other board members as appropriate;
 - Coordinating or carrying out IPS communications;
 - Managing and directing other IPS staff; and
 - Coordinating or carrying out such other matters as directed by the chair, the executive committee or board.

2.5 Working Groups

2.5.1 OVERVIEW

The Arctic Council has six Working Groups. These are:

1. Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)
2. Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
3. Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
4. Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)
5. Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)
6. Sustainable Development Working Groups (SDWG)

2.5.2 HOW ARE WORKING GROUPS STRUCTURED?

Each Working Group:

- has a specific mandate under which it operates
- has a Chair, and
- is supported by a Secretariat.

Some Working Groups may have a management board or steering committee.

The table below illustrates each of these features for each of the six Working Groups.

Figure 5: Arctic Council Working Groups Features.

Name		Mandate	Secretariat
Arctic Containments Action Program	ACAP	Prevent adverse effects, reduce and ultimately eliminate Arctic environmental pollution.	Provided by Arctic Council Secretariat.

Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program	AMAP	Providing reliable and sufficient information on the status of, and threats to, the Arctic environment, and providing scientific advice on actions to be taken in order to support Arctic governments in their efforts to take remedial and preventive actions relating to contaminants.	AMAP Secretariat was established in 1991 and is located in Oslo, Norway. The Secretariat is funded by the Norwegian government with support from the other Arctic States and has employees in the Netherlands, Denmark, U.S. and Russia. There are seven annual full-time positions in the Secretariat: four in Oslo, one in Rotterdam, and two in Copenhagen. There is also one 0.25 FTE in Moscow.
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna	CAFF	Address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, and to communicate its findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic, helping to promote practices that ensure the sustainability of the Arctic's living resources.	CAFF was established under the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy. The CAFF International Secretariat is located in Akureyri, Iceland. The Secretariat is funded by contributions from each Arctic Council state, with Iceland providing approximately half of the funds. The Secretariat has five staff: one executive secretary, one executive assistant; one data manager; one project officer and one communications officer. The CAFF International Secretariat assists the CAFF Chair, Management Board to implement the CAFF work plan, and provides necessary support functions to the CAFF program. The CAFF Chair rotates every two years.
Emergency Preparedness, Prevention, Response	EPPR	Deals with prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies in the Arctic.	Provided by the Arctic Council Secretariat.
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment	PAME	Address policy and other measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine and coastal environment from both land and sea-based activities.	PAME was founded in 1993 via the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS). A ministerial agreement from 1997 provides the framework for state contributions to the operation of the PAME Secretariat. PAME co-operates closely with CAFF to share fixed secretariat overhead costs. The PAME International Secretariat is located in Akureyri, Iceland. The Secretariat has three staff: one executive secretary, one executive assistant and one project officer.

Sustainable Development Working Group	SDWG	Propose and adopt steps to be taken by the Arctic States to advance sustainable development in the Arctic.	The SDWG Secretariat has been funded and hosted by Canada since its inception in 2002, with some contributions from other Arctic States. The budget only covers Secretariat services for the SDWG. Projects and activities are primarily funded by voluntary contributions from Arctic States. The duties of the secretariat are to help co-ordinate the work program, facilitate information exchange, arrange meetings of the Working Groups, support reporting on and implementation of the program, and undertake other duties assigned by the SDWG.
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2.5.3 WHO COMES TO WORKING GROUPS MEETINGS?

Working Groups usually have two types of meetings: management meetings that oversee all of their work, and expert meetings that work on particular projects and other activities. Some Working Groups have management boards, while others carry out those functions during regular meetings.

Permanent Participants attend both management [board] meetings and expert meetings. Depending on the Working Group, PPs may be represented at management [board] meetings by their staff or political person, or by someone with general expertise in the subject matter of that Working Group. As a consequence of capacity limitations, Permanent Participants often send the same person to both management [board] meetings and expert meetings.

Arctic States appoint a representative to management [board] meetings that who has expertise in the mandate of that working group. Arctic States appoint people with subject matter expertise to expert meetings. These are usually people with more detailed knowledge than those going to management [board] meetings. For example: Arctic States would appoint a representative with general knowledge in biodiversity to the CAFF management [board] meeting, and experts with detailed knowledge of biodiversity monitoring, status, and trends to an expert meeting on the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment. This ensures that the representatives of the Arctic States are familiar with, or even experts on, the specific issues being discussed. Ideally, it also means that they are able to integrate what is happening at the Arctic Council into what is going on domestically in their country.

Invited experts and Observers may also attend Working Group meetings. However "... the different roles of Arctic States, Permanent Participants and Observers should be reflected in the practical arrangements at all meetings". This means, for example, that Arctic States and Permanent Participants should sit at the table and Observers should sit behind them or be placed further down the table.

While all Working Groups must abide by the Arctic Council's Rules of Procedure, they can establish their own operating guidelines.

2.6 Observers

2.6.1 OVERVIEW

The relationship with Observers in the Arctic Council is well-defined by the documentation of the Arctic Council. This section will lay out the general concept and then will then detail some more of the specific technicalities of Observer status at the Arctic Council. The main point of reference is the Observer Manual for Subsidiary Bodies, which was agreed to at the Kiruna Ministerial in 2013.

Both states and organizations, are eligible to apply for Observer status.

One thing requires clarification before proceeding: there is no chance that any Observers will become Member States of the Arctic Council. Membership is exclusive to the eight Arctic States. The roles and responsibilities of Observers are considerably less than those of the Member States.

Observers are included within the Arctic Council framework, because of their expertise and investments in science or other fields related to the Arctic. As a result, the majority of the Observers' engagement in the Council is at the Working Groups level.

According to the Ottawa Declaration:

3. Observer status in the Arctic Council is open to:

- (a) non-Arctic states;
- (b) inter-governmental and inter-parliamentary organizations, global and regional; and
- (c) non-governmental organizations

that the Council determines can contribute to its work.

Currently there are 12 non-Arctic countries, nine intergovernmental and inter-parliamentary organizations, and 11 non-governmental organizations that are Observers. Additional information about them is available in Appendix B.

2.6.2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Every four years, Observers must reaffirm their interest in continuing to be Observers. As long as there is consensus amongst the Arctic States, they will continue to be an Observer.

The criteria used to determine if a new Observer should be accepted include:

- Do they accept and support the objectives of the Arctic Council?
 - Do they recognize Arctic States' sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdictions?
 - Do they recognize that there is an extensive legal framework in the Arctic Ocean that includes a solid foundation for responsible management of the Arctic Ocean?
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- Do they respect the values, interests, culture, and traditions of Arctic indigenous peoples and other Arctic people?
- Have they demonstrated a political willingness, as well as financial ability, to contribute to the work of the Permanent Participants and other Arctic indigenous peoples?
- Have they demonstrated their Arctic interests and expertise relevant to the work of the Arctic Council?
- Have they demonstrated a concrete interest and ability to support the work of the Arctic Council, including through partnerships and Member States and Permanent Participants bringing Arctic concerns to global decision-making bodies?

2.6.3 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The major input used to assess this criteria is the application put forward by the Observers. Observers are asked to put together a written memorandum that includes the following information:

- How will you contribute to the work of the Arctic Council?
- How will you conform to the criteria for Observers (listed above)?

Organizations seeking observer status (as opposed to states) must also answer:

- What is the purpose of your organization?
- What kinds of activities does your organization pursue?
- How is your organization governed?
- What is your total number of members?

They must also include a copy of their annual report.

Observers need to submit their information 120 days before a Ministerial Meeting.

If any Observer is seen as doing something that is against the spirit of the Arctic Council, their Observer status can be suspended.

2.6.4 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Observers bear all of the costs of their participation in the Arctic Council. They can also contribute to Arctic Council projects. Unless SAOs otherwise agree, the total amount from all Observers shouldn't exceed the total funding from the Arctic States. Observers can also propose projects through an Arctic State or Permanent Participant.

At the discretion of the chair, an Observer can make a statement, present written statements, provide a viewpoint, or submit relevant documents. However, the chair must also ensure that Arctic States and Permanent Participants get an opportunity to speak before Observers are recognized.

The relationship between the Observers and the PPs is guided by the principle that the

Observers are “encouraged” to support the work of the PPs and that they “should” recognize their “unique and critical role”. In this regard, some Observers, for example, have suggested that they would be willing to contribute towards a permanent funding mechanism for the PPs.

2.6.5 CONFIDENTIALITY

While Observers are welcome to “observe” the meetings, they cannot publicly discuss what happens at the meetings. Similarly, Observers have access to Arctic Council documents, unless they are restricted to Arctic States and Permanent Participants. In practice, such documents may be found in password-protected sites and the passwords provided only to organizations with authorization to view them.

2.6.6 OBSERVER DELEGATIONS

Observers need to be given 30 days’ notice of meetings to which they are invited. 120 days before a Ministerial, the Chair will circulate a list of new Observer applicants for Observer status. Chairs of the Working Groups have the right to set a maximum size for Observer delegations to their meetings.

SECTION 3: PROCEDURES AND STRUCTURES

3.1 Rotating Chairmanship

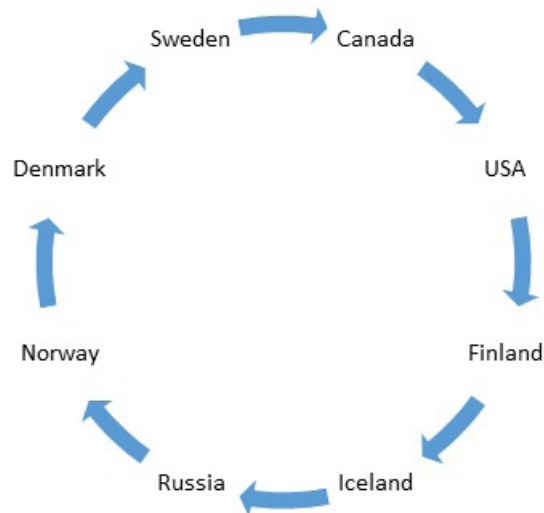
The Arctic Council has a rotating chairmanship. Each Arctic state serves as the chair for a two-year period. The “Chair of the Arctic Council,” usually a foreign affairs minister, is the head political person responsible for the chairmanship. The Host Country is responsible for appointing a “Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials.” As mentioned above, each country has a Senior Arctic Official, usually a senior civil servant, who is responsible for the intersessional work of their particular Arctic state during a chairmanship.

During a chairmanship period the host country has responsibilities for:

- Hosting and organizing meetings;
- Communicating on Arctic issues with other international fora (e.g. International Maritime Organization) when agreed to in advance by the Arctic Council members; and
- Providing some secretariat functions in coordination with the Arctic Council Secretariat.

Every two years, the chairmanship rotates. The order of rotation is: Canada-USA-Finland-Iceland-Russia-Norway-Denmark-Sweden.

Figure 6: Order of Rotation for the Arctic Council Chairmanship



3.2 DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES

According to the Ottawa Declaration, “Decisions of the Arctic Council are to be by consensus of the Members.” Decisions can be made in writing, including by email, except for the types of decisions (usually those with high political sensitivity) that must be taken at the Ministerial.

3.3 ARCTIC COUNCIL MEETING STRUCTURE

The structures of the Working Groups, Task Forces, and Expert Groups are dealt with in their respective sections. This section will deal with the Ministerial and Senior Arctic Officials’ meetings.

According to the Ottawa Declaration, Ministerial meetings should take place on a biennial basis (every other year) and Senior Arctic Officials’ meetings should take place at least twice a year. Heads of Delegation for the Arctic States can meet privately if they so decide.

There are a number of technical considerations for the structure of the Arctic Council meetings:

- Under normal circumstances, only items on the agenda are subject to discussion for decision making at meetings.
- The draft agenda must be sent out 90 days in advance of the meeting. If a PP or a state wants to propose additional items for the agenda, it must do so at least 60 days in advance. The final agenda will then be distributed 30 days in advance of the meeting.
- The Chair must propose a date for the Ministerial at least six months in advance.
- Seven days before the meeting, delegations must provide, in writing, the names of the people in their delegation. In practise, many meetings are done using online registration, which serves to meet this requirement.

3.4 PROPOSING PROJECTS TO THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Permanent Participants and Arctic States can propose projects for the Senior Arctic Officials or to Working Groups. To do so, a proposal must be sent to the Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials 90 days in advance of the Senior Arctic Officials meeting, or 60-90 days before the Working Groups meeting at which the proposal is supposed to be considered.

Proposals should be tailored to the specific project, but they should generally include answers to the following questions:

- What issue do you propose the project address?
- Why should Arctic States consider and approve this proposal?
- Which area of the Arctic Council should undertake this work? How do you recommend they carry out, coordinate, or facilitate the project?
- How much will the project cost?
- How can the project be financed?
- What is the work plan?
- When should the project start and when should it conclude?
- How does the proposed project relate to other Arctic Council work or work going on in other international organizations?
- How will Permanent Participants be involved in the project?
- What is the impact on the environment?
- Any other information that is important to understand the project and/or proposal.

3.5 FINANCING

In proposing projects to the Arctic Council, financing is a large consideration, as it is for all organizations. However, unlike many international organizations, the Arctic Council does not have “defined contributions.” This means that states are not assigned a percentage or a dollar figure that they must contribute to the Arctic Council. Instead, it is up to each Arctic state to decide voluntarily whether they will contribute, and if so, how much they will contribute to any Arctic Council project or activity. The language in the Ottawa Declaration is vague; it simply states that “the Arctic Council should regularly review the priorities and financing of its programs and associated structures.”

Some commentators have proposed that, as the Arctic Council’s workload continues to increase, the Arctic States should consider defined contributions in order to increase the predictability of funding and share the burden evenly across all members. Others believe that this is unnecessary and that the practice of volunteer contributions ensures that projects are of direct relevance to the Member States.

Others have suggested that the Observers could contribute financially towards the work of the Council, particularly through investing in a fund for Permanent Participants.

3.6 LANGUAGE OF WORK

English is the working language of the Council. Translation into Russian is provided as much as is possible by the Arctic Council Secretariat and Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat. Both the chair and host countries usually aim to provide a professional translator for the Senior Arctic Official meetings they are hosting. This is rarely possible at Working Group meetings. Speakers can speak in a language other than English, but in such cases they are encouraged to arrange for an interpreter.

APPENDIX A: DESCRIPTION OF PERMANENT PARTICIPANT ORGANIZATIONS

There are six Permanent Participant organizations in the Arctic Council. Each is unique in its geographical area, size of membership, organizational structure, and relationship with the Member States. This section provides a general overview of each organization.

Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC)

Admitted to Arctic Council in 2000

AAC “is an international treaty organization established to defend the rights and further the interests internationally of American and Canadian Athabaskan member First Nation governments...” AAC also, “seeks to foster greater understanding of the shared heritage of Athabaskan peoples of Arctic North America”.

AAC represents 76 communities in Alaska, Yukon, and Northwest Territories, which in total include approximately 45,000 people.

Its head office is in Whitehorse, Yukon and it has one full-time staff person. AAC’s Canadian membership is represented by the Council of Yukon First Nations and Dene Nation. Its Alaskan members are represented by 16 Alaska Native Tribal Councils. It is a registered charity in Canada.

Aleut International Association (AIA)

Admitted to the Arctic Council in 1998

AIA was formed by the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association – one of the 13 regional not-for-profit Alaskan Native corporations created as a result of the Alaska Native Settlement Claims Act (1971) – and the Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North of the Aleut District of the Kamchatka Region of the Russian Federation (AIPNADKR).

The Aleut international Association is an Alaska Native not-for-profit corporation (501(c)3) and is governed by a board of directors comprised of four Alaskans and four Russian Aleuts. The board is led by a president. It has one full-time staff member based in Anchorage.

Gwich’in Council International (GCI)

Admitted to the Arctic Council in 2000

The Gwich’in Council International aims to “...ensure that all Gwich’in Nations in the Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Alaska are represented at the Arctic Council, as well as to play an active and significant role in the development of policies that relate to the Circumpolar Arctic”.

GCI represents approximately 9,000 people in six Alaskan Gwich’in villages. It is organized into two representative bodies in Canada: Gwich’in Tribal Council and Vuntut Gwich’in First Nation.

GCI is a not-for-profit organization with an office in Whitehorse, Yukon. It has one full-time staff member. The Secretariat rotates between the Gwich'in Tribal Council in Inuvik, NWT and the Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation in Old Crow, Yukon.

Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)

A Permanent Participant since establishment of the Arctic Council in 1996

ICC aims to “speak with a united voice on issues of common concern” and “combine [Inuit] energies and talents towards protecting and promoting their way of life.” ICC goals are to:

- strengthen unity among Inuit of the circumpolar region;
- promote Inuit rights and interests on an international level;
- develop and encourage long-term policies that safeguard the Arctic environment; and
- seek full and active partnership in the political, economic, and social developments of the circumpolar regions.

ICC represents approximately 150,000 Inuit in Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Russia at both the Arctic Council and the United Nations.

Every four years, ICC holds a general assembly to elect a new chair and executive council. The ICC international office is housed with the chair and each member country maintains a national office under the political guidance of the president. The legal status of each national office varies by jurisdiction.

Saami Council

A Permanent Participant since establishment of the Arctic Council in 1996

The Saami Council aims to:

- promote Saami rights and interest in the four countries where the Saami are living;
- consolidate the feeling of affinity among the Saami people;
- attain recognition for the Saami as a nation, and
- maintain the economic, social, and cultural rights of the Saami in the legislation of the four states.

Saami Council represents Saami in Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia. Saami Council membership is comprised of nine regional Saami associations.

Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)

A Permanent Participant since establishment of the Arctic Council in 1996

The Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North represents approximately 250,000 Russian Indigenous peoples from 41 different groups. It is a registered public political movement in Russia.

APPENDIX B: DESCRIPTION OF OBSERVERS

A) TWELVE NON-ARCTIC COUNTRIES

France

In February 2013, France released its French Arctic Initiative 2015-2020. France's primary interest in the Arctic is scientific. It has over 500 researchers engaged in Arctic science and maintains a base in Spitsbergen, Norway. France focuses its Arctic initiatives around nine key themes:

- Permafrost
- Biodiversity and ecosystems
- Climate: atmosphere-ice-ocean
- Geodynamics and natural resources
- Human activities and their impacts
- Governance and geopolitics
- Arctic societies and knowledge systems
- Observations
- Modeling

Germany

In 2013, Germany released Guidelines of the German Arctic Policy. According to the document, Germany:

- Views the Arctic as being of increasing geopolitical, geo-economic, and geo-ecological importance internationally;
- Sees economic opportunity in the Arctic region, while reinforcing that high environmental standards are necessary;
- Supports protected areas to maintain Arctic biodiversity;
- Contributes towards Arctic research and technology, including through its jointly owned (with France) research station on Spitsbergen;
- Campaigns for freedom of navigation in the Arctic Ocean (Northeast, Northwest and Transpolar Passages) in accordance with high safety and environmental standards;
- Believes that the Arctic should be used for peaceful purposes only;
- Remains committed to international and regional conventions, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the MARPOL Convention, the Conventions for the Protection of the Marine Environment and on Biological Diversity, and the Spitsbergen Treaty;

- Recognizes the special situation of Indigenous peoples in the Arctic and campaigns for the protection of their right to a free and self-determined life in their homeland;
- Favours multilateral co-operation on Arctic issues, first and foremost in the Arctic Council, and has suggested it may be useful to extend Observer countries' participation rights on a case-by-case basis, if an Observer can substantially contribute to resolving an issue; and
- Supports an active EU Arctic policy.

The Netherlands

The Netherlands has published Policy Framework: The Netherlands and the Polar Regions, 2011-2015, which outlines its Arctic interests. The document states that the Netherlands wishes to:

- Contribute to the multilateral Arctic administrative structure, such as UNCLOS. The Netherlands is not advocating for a comprehensive treaty, along the lines of the Antarctic Treaty, for the entire Arctic region.
- Concentrate on:
 - the diligent implementation of existing treaties and the development of strict, binding supplementary international norms and agreements – based on the precautionary principle – for enhanced protection of the Arctic environment; and
 - sustainable management of and supplementary international agreements on fishing, shipping and extractive industries.
- Remain active as an Observer to the Arctic Council, participating among other things in the Council's Working Groups. The Netherlands regards the Arctic Council as the best circumpolar policy form for achieving overarching Arctic stewardship objectives.
- Support a larger role for the European Union in the Arctic, leading to synergy and economies of scale. The Netherlands supports the EU becoming an Observer at the Arctic Council.
- Affirm that it believes that the far North is of enduring strategic significance.
- Work to ensure that the exploitation of oil and gas takes place under very strict environmental and security standards. They feel that the advisability of such activities should be assessed in the light of the special vulnerability of the Arctic environment and the position of indigenous peoples.
- Support, in response to demand, research and development on safeguarding the sustainability of Arctic shipping and offshore technology, as well as Arctic civil engineering and hydraulic engineering technology, building on existing expertise within the Dutch business community and knowledge institutes.
- Contribute proportionally to creating a network of protected marine areas in the North Pole region and to develop joint stewardship of the marine environment aimed at ecosystem conservation.

- Support IMO initiatives to tighten environmental standards for Arctic shipping.
- Commit to protecting and preserving Arctic biodiversity.
- Oppose the start of fishing activities in the North Pole region in areas for which no conservation and management regimes exist.

Poland

Poland does not have a comprehensive strategy towards the Arctic region. According to the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland has “neither direct political or economic interests in the Arctic, the state’s multi-faceted involvement in international co-operation in that region may improve national security, as well as enhance Poland’s international standing, especially in the EU, European and transatlantic dimensions.” Poland’s involvement in the Arctic is mainly through its researchers and in particular the Stansilaw Sieldlecki Polish Polar Research Station in Spitsbergen.

Spain

Spain’s major interest in the Arctic Council is through the scientific research conducted by the Council’s Working Groups. Spain maintains assets for polar research, such as ships, and is particularly active in Antarctica, where it has a research station.

United Kingdom

In 2013, the United Kingdom released *Adapting to Change: UK policy towards the Arctic*. The document outlines the United Kingdom’s vision for the Arctic as:

Work towards an Arctic that is safe and secure; well governed in conjunction with indigenous peoples and in line with international law; where policies are developed on the basis of sound science with full regard to the environment; and where only responsible development takes place.

This vision is supported by three principles:

- Respect
 - For the sovereign rights of the Arctic States to exercise jurisdiction over their territory;
 - For the views and interests of people who live and work in the Arctic and call it home; and
 - For the environment, its fragility and its central importance to the global climate.
- Leadership
- Cooperation

The United Kingdom aims to have the Arctic Council, “further engage non-Arctic countries in Arctic matters of global importance.” The U.K. policy also states that it will “respect the views, interests, culture and traditions of Arctic indigenous peoples and promote the participation

of Indigenous peoples in decision-making,” as well as “support the right of Permanent Participants to be heard at the decision-making level of the Arctic Council.”

The United Kingdom’s interest in the Arctic is wide-reaching, including:

- Scientific
- Collaborative with Arctic peoples
- Climate change
- Biodiversity
- Responsible development
- Energy security
- Shipping
- Tourism
- Fisheries

China

China has not released an official Arctic strategy. Of all of the Observers, there is perhaps the most speculated about China’s interests in the Arctic. However, when official Chinese sources are relied upon, it can be seen that China characterizes itself as a “near Arctic state,” and is concerned about the climate, ecological, environmental, and agricultural impacts of a changing Arctic. Currently, China’s primary method for engaging in Arctic affairs is through scientific research.

Italy

Italy’s interest in the Arctic Council lies primarily in the research carried out by the Arctic Council’s Working Groups. Italy maintains a research station in Spitsbergen, as well as observatories in Greenland.

Japan

Japan, while having no formal Arctic strategy, has indicated that it has three main areas of interest in the Arctic: environmental (protecting and understanding the Arctic ecosystem); economic (freedom of navigation and access to natural resources); and security (stable use of the Arctic Ocean). Japan has participated in Arctic Council meetings since 2010 and maintains two Arctic research stations on Svalbard.

South Korea

South Korea’s interest is driven by its global interest in climate change and shipping. Korea maintains the Dasan Arctic Research Station in Spitzbergen, as well as research icebreaker. Korea is a notable shipbuilding and maritime country and plays an active role in the International Maritime Organization.

Singapore

Singapore does not have a comprehensive Arctic strategy, but its interests in the Arctic have been well-articulated in a number of public statements made by its representatives. Singapore is a low-lying island state that is concerned about sea level rise caused by climate change, and thus takes an active interest in Arctic science. As an active maritime country, it is also active in the discussions around the International Maritime Organization Polar Code.

Singapore has expressed an interest in working collaboratively with the Permanent Participants and has established the Singapore-Arctic Council Permanent Participants Cooperation Programme to facilitate Arctic Indigenous peoples visiting Singapore for scholarships and study trips.

India

The Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs characterizes its interest in the Arctic, as “scientific, environmental, commercial, as well as strategic.” Primarily, India has focused its resources on Arctic research and, within the Arctic Council, its scientific Working Groups. The aims of India’s Arctic research are to:

- Study the hypothesized tele-connections between the Arctic climate and the Indian monsoon.
- Characterize sea ice in Arctic using satellite data to estimate the effect of global warming in the northern polar region.
- Conduct research on the dynamics of Arctic glaciers focusing on the effect of glaciers on sea-level change.
- Carry out a comprehensive assessment of the flora and fauna of the Arctic vis-à-vis their response to anthropogenic activities. In addition, it is proposed to undertake a comparative study of the life forms from both of the Polar regions.

B) INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATIONS

There are nine intergovernmental and inter-parliamentary organizations that serve as Observers to the Arctic Council. This section provides some background on these organizations, as well as their interest in the Arctic Council.

International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world’s largest humanitarian organization, providing assistance without discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class, or political opinions.

Founded in 1919, the IFRC comprises 189 member Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, a secretariat in Geneva, and more than 60 delegations strategically located to support activities around the world. There are more societies in formation. The Red Crescent

is used in place of the Red Cross in many Islamic countries.

The IFRC vision is, “To inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.”

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges.

IUCN’s work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food, and development. IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world, and brings governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws, and best practice.

IUCN is the world’s oldest and largest global environmental organisation, with more than 1,200 government and NGO members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN’s work is supported by over 1,000 staff in 45 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO, and private sectors around the world.

Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)

First and foremost, the Nordic Council’s politicians are driven by the desire to make the Nordic region one that people want to live and work in. This is also the primary objective of the ideas and proposals for co-operation that are borne out of the Nordic Council.

Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO)

NEFCO is an international financial institution established by the five Nordic countries. NEFCO finances green growth investments and projects primarily in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, as well as climate projects across the world. NEFCO’s main focus is to generate positive environmental effects of interest to the Nordic region.

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)

NAMMCO is an international regional body for co-operation on the conservation, management, and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic.

The parties of NAMMCO — Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway — are committed to sustainable and responsible utilization of all living marine resources, including marine mammals.

Through the regional co-operation under NAMMCO, they aim to strengthen and further develop effective conservation and management measures for marine mammals. Taking into

account the rights and needs of coastal communities to make a sustainable living from what the sea can provide, NAMMCO advocates that such measures should be based on the best available scientific evidence and take into account the complexity and vulnerability of the marine ecosystem.

The NAMMCO Agreement focuses on consolidating and advancing scientific knowledge of the North Atlantic marine ecosystem as a whole, and to understanding better the role of marine mammals in this system.

Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR)

The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR) is a parliamentary body comprising delegations appointed by the national parliaments of the Arctic States (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, U.S.) and the European Parliament. The conference also includes Permanent Participants representing Indigenous peoples, as well as Observers. The conference meets every two years.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE)

UNECE's major aim is to promote pan-European economic integration. To do so, it brings together 56 countries located in the European Union, non-EU western and eastern Europe, south-east Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and North America. All these countries dialogue and co-operate under the aegis of UNECE on economic and sectoral issues. However, all interested United Nations member states may participate in the work of UNECE. Over 70 international professional organizations and other non-governmental organizations take part in UNECE activities.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

UNDP works in more than 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. UNDP helps countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities, and build resilience in order to sustain development results.

World leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. UNDP's network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach these Goals, and to strengthen post-2015 frameworks for development, disaster risk reduction, and climate change as they help shape global sustainable development for the next 15 years.

UNDP focuses on helping countries build and share solutions in three main areas:

- Sustainable development
- Democratic governance and peacebuilding
- Climate and disaster resilience

In all UNDP activities, they encourage the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women, minorities and the poorest and most vulnerable.

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

UNEP work encompasses:

- Assessing global, regional and national environmental conditions and trends
- Developing international and national environmental instruments
- Strengthening institutions for the wise management of the environment

Special Note – The European Union

In addition to the organizations listed above, the European Union (EU) has submitted an application for Observer status. However, its application did not get a simple “yes” or “no.” Instead, the Arctic Council “receive[d] the application of the EU for Observer status affirmatively” but deferred the decision until the EU addresses some of the Arctic States’ concerns. In the meantime, there is an understanding that the EU can observe while the Arctic Council is making its decision.

C) NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)

There are also nine non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that act as Observers at the Arctic Council. Similar to above, this section provides some background on these organizations and their interests in the Arctic.

Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS)

The Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) was established in 1952 by Lord Callaghan as one of the world’s first environmental NGOs. ACOPS originally concentrated on encouraging international agreements to reduce marine oil pollution. Since then, ACOPS has expanded its interests to include land-based sources for marine pollution, as well as other aspects of degradation of the coastal and marine environment.

Arctic Institute of North America (AINA)

The Arctic Institute of North America was created in Canada by an Act of Parliament in 1945 as a non-profit tax-exempt research and educational organization. Originally based at McGill University in Montreal, the institute moved to the University of Calgary in 1976. In 1979 the Institute became part of the University of Calgary as a university research institute.

AINA’s mandate is to advance the study of the North American and circumpolar Arctic through the natural and social sciences, the arts and humanities, and to acquire, preserve and disseminate information on physical, environmental, and social conditions in the North.

Association of World Reindeer Herders (AWRH)

The International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (ICR) was established by the Norwegian Government in 2005, as a contribution to the unique international co-operation of circumpolar reindeer herding peoples. ICR is an independent professional unit, with its own board and budget. Its core funding is provided by the Norwegian Government through annual grants from the budget of the Ministry of Reform and Government Administration.

ICR is to be a knowledge base for providing, exchanging and developing information and knowledge between different reindeer peoples, national authorities, and research- and academic communities at the national and international levels. The Centre will thus contribute to adding value, to improving information and to enhancing understanding for world reindeer husbandry and reindeer peoples, their traditional knowledge and their future development.

ICR's purpose is to

- contribute in maintaining and developing a sustainable reindeer husbandry in the north
- strengthen the co-operation between the reindeer herding peoples
- document and take care of the traditional knowledge of reindeer herders and contribute to knowledge development
- communicate knowledge about circumpolar reindeer husbandry to target groups

Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU)

The Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU) works to protect the ecological and cultural integrity of the Arctic by promoting understanding and co-operation among Arctic Indigenous peoples, environmental organizations, and other diverse interests, by raising public awareness of the importance of the Arctic, and by advocating policies and institutions that will protect the environment, promote sustainability, and respect the human rights of Arctic communities and peoples.

International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)

The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) is a non-governmental, international scientific organization. The IASC mission is to encourage and facilitate co-operation in all aspects of Arctic research, in all countries engaged in Arctic research and in all areas of the Arctic region. Overall, IASC promotes and supports leading-edge multi-disciplinary research in order to foster a greater scientific understanding of the Arctic region and its role in the earth system.

To achieve this mission IASC:

- Initiates, coordinates, and promotes scientific activities at a circum-arctic or international level;
- Provides mechanisms and instruments to support science development;

- Provides objective and independent scientific advice on issues of science in the Arctic and communicates scientific information to the public;
- Seeks to ensure that scientific data and information from the Arctic are safeguarded, freely exchangeable, and accessible;
- Promotes international access to all geographic areas and the sharing of knowledge, logistics, and other resources;
- Provides for the freedom and ethical conduct of science;
- Promotes and involves the next generation of scientists working in the Arctic; and
- Promotes bipolar co-operation through interaction with relevant science organizations.

International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)

The Arctic is defined as all Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of the world. The social sciences encompass disciplines relating to behavioral, psychological, cultural, anthropological, archaeological, linguistic, historical, social, legal, economic, environmental, and political subjects, as well as health, education, the arts and humanities, and related subjects.

The objectives are:

- to promote and stimulate international co-operation and to increase the participation of social scientists in national and international Arctic research
- to promote communication and coordination with other research organizations
- to promote the active collection, exchange, dissemination, and achieving of scientific information in the Arctic social sciences
- to promote mutual respect, communication, and collaboration between social scientists and northern people
- to facilitate culturally, developmentally, and linguistically appropriate education in the North
- To follow the IASSA statement of ethical principles for the conduct of research in the Arctic

International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH)

The International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH) is an international non-governmental organization, with members, adhering bodies, and affiliates throughout the circumpolar regions. There has been a long-standing need for the exchange of medical knowledge, as well as the results of recent research and demonstrated solutions to problems for the benefit of humankind. Arctic communities, with the general and specific medical and health problems found in this region, obviously share this need with the rest of the world. The health problems and needs of northern peoples has become the focus of the only organization of its kind dedicated to the health problems of the circumpolar regions — the International Union for Circumpolar Health.

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)

IWGIA is an international human rights organization staffed by specialists and advisers on Indigenous affairs.

IWGIA supports Indigenous peoples' struggle for human rights, self-determination, right to territory, control of land and resources, cultural integrity, and the right to development.

IWGIA was founded in 1968 by anthropologists alarmed about the ongoing genocide on indigenous peoples taking place in the Amazon. The aim was to establish a network of concerned researchers and human right activists to document the situation of Indigenous peoples and advocate for an improvement of their rights. Today Indigenous peoples from all over the world are involved in IWGIA's global network.

Northern Forum (NF)

The Northern Forum is a non-profit, international organization composed of sub-national or regional governments from eight northern countries.

Northern regions share characteristics that set them apart from other areas of the world, including:

- Economies based upon the extraction of natural resources
- Lack of internal capital resources
- Limited infrastructural development
- Harsh climates and vulnerable ecosystems
- Diverse and relatively strong indigenous cultures
- Sparse populations

Such complex factors create unique challenges for regional governors and other executives.

From throughout the North, the Northern Forum brings these leaders together to address common political, environmental and economic issues.

The Northern Forum developed from a Northern Regions Conference held in 1990 in Anchorage, Alaska, attended by more than 600 delegates from 10 countries. The Forum was formally established in November 1991.

University of the Arctic (UArctic)

The University of the Arctic (UArctic) is a co-operative network of universities, colleges, research institutes, and other organizations concerned with education and research in and about the North.

UArctic builds and strengthens collective resources and collaborative infrastructure that enables member institutions to better serve their constituents and their regions. Through co-operation in education, research and outreach we enhance human capacity in the North, promote viable communities and sustainable economies, and forge global partnerships.

World Wide Fund for Nature-Global Arctic Program (WWF)

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of our planet's natural environment, and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

In order to achieve this mission, WWF focuses its efforts on two broad areas: biodiversity and footprint.

The first, is to ensure that the earth's web of life - biodiversity - stays healthy and vibrant for generations to come. We are strategically focusing on conserving critical places and critical species that are particularly important for the conservation of our earth's rich biodiversity.

The second is to reduce the negative impacts of human activity - our ecological footprint. We are working to ensure that the natural resources required for life - land, water, air - are managed sustainably and equitably.



WALTER & DUNCAN
GORDON FOUNDATION

Suite 400, 11 Church Street
Toronto, ON M5E 1W1

Phone 416-601-4776

Fax 416-601-1689

Email [info\(at\)gordonfn.org](mailto:info(at)gordonfn.org)

Web gordonfoundation.ca/