



The Arctic Council U.S. Chairmanship Update (2015-2017)

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The Arctic Region



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative. August 21, 2015 - U1282 STATE (HIJ)



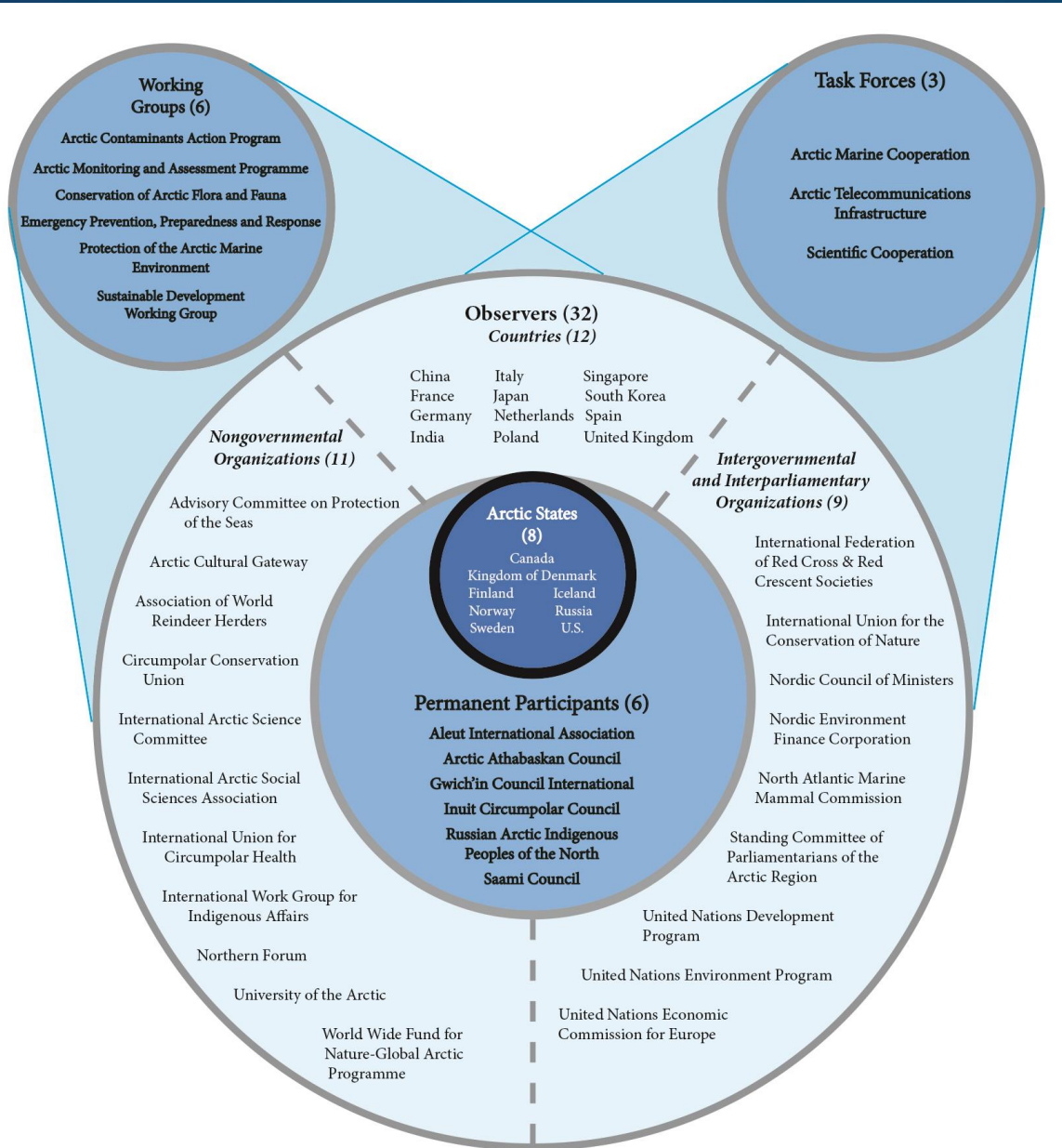
History and Mandate of the Council

- The Ottawa Declaration (1996) formally established the Arctic Council as a high level intergovernmental forum to promote cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues.
- Particular emphasis on sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.
- Military security issues are specifically excluded from the Council's mandate.





Structure of the Council





Observers in the Council

12 Current State Observers

Germany (1998)	Poland (1998)
United Kingdom (1998)	The Netherlands (1998)
France (2000)	Spain (2006)
Italy (2013)	India (2013)
China (2013)	South Korea (2013)
Japan (2013)	Singapore (2013)

20 Current Inter-Governmental, Inter-Parliamentary and Non-Governmental Observers

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (1998)	International Arctic Science Committee (1998)
United Nations Environment Program (1998)	Northern Forum (1998)
Nordic Council of Ministers (1998)	World Wide Fund for Nature-Global Arctic Program (1998)
Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (1998)	International Union for Circumpolar Health (1998)
International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (2000)	Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (2000)
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (2000)	Association of World Reindeer Herders (2000)
North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (2000)	Circumpolar Conservation Union (2000)
United Nations Development Program (2002)	International Arctic Social Sciences Association (2000)
Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (2004)	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (2002)
	University of the Arctic (2002)
	Arctic Cultural Gateway (2004)

16 Pending Observer Applications

Turkey • Greece • Switzerland • Mongolia • Oceania • Association of Oil and Gas Producers • OSPAR (the Oslo-Paris Commission) • Greenpeace • International Hydrographic Organization • Association of Polar Early Career Scientists • World Meteorological Organization • Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research • International Chamber of Shipping • International Council for the Exploration of the Sea • West Nordic Council • National Geographic Society



Federal Government Leadership: AC Working Groups and Task Forces

Arctic Contaminants Action Program
Environmental Protection Agency

Emergency Prevention, Preparedness & Response
National Nuclear Security Administration

Arctic Monitoring & Assessment Program
Global Change Research Program

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna
Fish and Wildlife Service

Sustainable Development Working Group
Department of State

Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation
Department of State/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

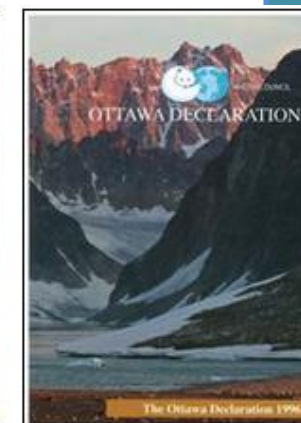
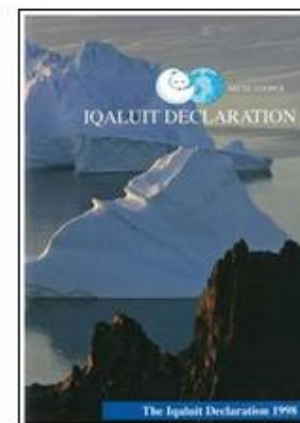
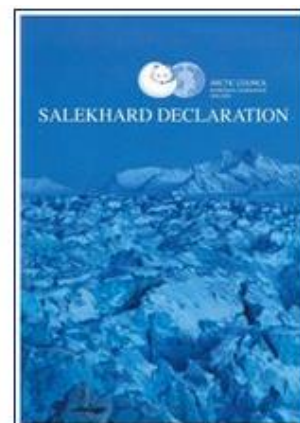
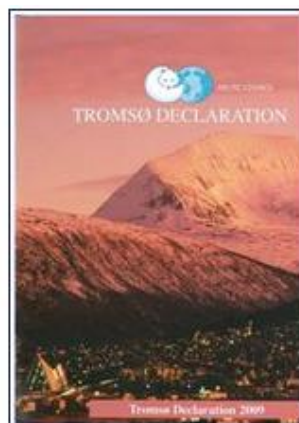
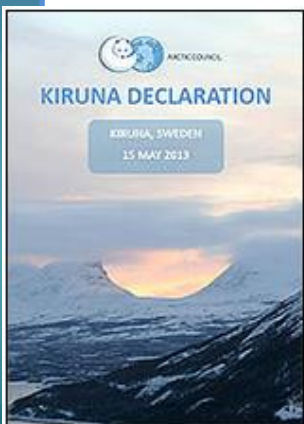
Task Force on Telecommunications Infrastructure in the Arctic
Department of State/National Telecommunications & Information Administration/Federal Communications Commission

Task Force on Scientific Cooperation
National Science Foundation



Evolution of the Council

- Growth in importance as leading body for Arctic policy
- Two international agreements and another expected:
 - Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic, 2011
 - Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution, Preparedness and Response in the Arctic, 2013





U.S. Chairmanship

*One Arctic: Shared Opportunities,
Challenges and Responsibilities*





U.S. Chairmanship Team



Chair of the Arctic Council
Secretary of State John Kerry



Coordinator of the Chairmanship
Special Representative for the Arctic Robert Papp



Special Advisor on Arctic Science and Policy
Fran Ulmer



Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials
Ambassador David Balton



U.S. Senior Arctic Official
Julie Gourley



Chairmanship Goals

1. Introduce new long-term priorities into the Arctic Council;
2. Continue strengthening the Arctic Council as an intergovernmental forum;
3. Raise Arctic and climate change awareness within the United States and across the world;





Chairmanship Thematic Pillars

ARCTIC COMMUNITIES

- Renewable Energy
- Water Sanitation and Health
- Water Resources Vulnerability Index
- Freshwater Security
- Telecommunications Infrastructure
- Suicide Prevention and Mental Wellness

ARCTIC OCEAN

- Search & Rescue Exercises
- Marine Environmental Protection
- Marine Protected Areas Network
- Arctic Ocean Cooperation
- Arctic Ocean Acidification

ARCTIC CLIMATE

- Short-lived Climate Pollutants
- Arctic Climate Adaptation and Resilience
- Pan-Arctic Digital Elevation Model
- Climate Indicator System



Strengthening the Arctic Council





Raising Awareness of the Arctic

- Support of Arctic-focused exchange programs, such as the Arctic Fulbright Initiative, that increase international scientific collaboration and mutual understanding;
- Organizing social media campaigns, special events, media engagements and other public outreach initiatives;
- Strengthen existing networks and creating new ones among civil society, government, private sector and other partners.





Next Steps

- 2017 Fairbanks Ministerial: hand-over to Finland





www.arctic-council.org

www.state.gov/arctic

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Navy's ICEX

