The Arctic Council

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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

Arctic States (8)
- Canada
- Kingdom of Denmark
- Finland
- Iceland
- Norway
- Russia
- Sweden
- U.S.

Observers (32)
- China
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- Netherlands
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

Nongovernmental Organizations (11)
- Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas
- Arctic Cultural Gateway
- Association of World Reindeer Herders
- Circumpolar Conservation Union
- International Arctic Science Committee
- International Arctic Social Sciences Association
- International Union for Circumpolar Health
- International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs
- Northern Forum
- University of the Arctic World Wide Fund for Nature-GLOBAL Arctic Programme

Permanent Participants (6)
- Aleut International Association
- Arctic Athabaskan Council
- Gwich’in Council International
- Inuit Circumpolar Council
- Russian Arctic Indigenous Peoples of the North Saami Council

Intergovernmental and Interparliamentary Organizations (9)
- International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- Nordic Council of Ministers
- Nordic Environment Finance Corporation
- North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
- Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

Task Forces (3)
- Arctic Marine Cooperation
- Arctic Telecommunications Infrastructure
- Scientific Cooperation

Working Groups (6)
- Arctic Contaminants Action Program
- Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme
- Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna
- Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response
- Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment
- Sustainable Development Working Group
Observers in the Council

### 12 Current State Observers

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

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

- Nordic Council of Ministers (1998)
- Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (1998)
- International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (2000)
- United Nations Development Program (2002)
- International Arctic Science Committee (1998)
- Northern Forum (1998)
- International Union for Circumpolar Health (1998)
- Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (2000)
- Association of World Reindeer Herders (2000)
- Circumpolar Conservation Union (2000)
- International Arctic Social Sciences Association (2000)
- University of the Arctic (2002)
- Arctic Cultural Gateway (2004)

### 16 Pending Observer Applications

- Turkey
- Greece
- Switzerland
- Mongolia
- Oceana
- 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Name</th>
<th>Department/Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Contaminants Action Program</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Monitoring &amp; Assessment Program</td>
<td>Global Change Research Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation of Arctic Flora &amp; Fauna</td>
<td>Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Prevention, Preparedness &amp; Response</td>
<td>National Nuclear Security Administration</td>
</tr>
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<td>Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment</td>
<td>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Development Working Group</td>
<td>Department of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation</td>
<td>Department of State/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task Force on Telecommunications Infrastructure in the Arctic</td>
<td>Department of State/National Telecommunications &amp; Information Administration/Federal Communications Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task Force on Scientific Cooperation</td>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Navy’s IC鑫