

**For Immediate Release
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Ministers from 25 nations gather in Berlin to discuss Arctic Science

Washington, DC – As attention turns to the far North, delegations of senior scientists and ministers from over 25 countries, joined by Arctic Indigenous Peoples from across the Arctic, will convene in Berlin, Germany for the second “Arctic Science Ministerial” (ASM), (<https://www.arcticsscienceministerial.org/en/index.html>) meeting on October 25th and 26th. This meeting follows the inaugural ASM meeting [report](#) convened in the White House in September 2016. Scientific results since the last meeting will be presented in Berlin, and commitments towards new research objectives will be made.

The Berlin meeting, hosted by the European Commission, Finland, and Germany, will focus on three themes: (1) strengthening, integrating and sustaining Arctic observations, facilitating access to Arctic data, and sharing Arctic research infrastructure; (2) understanding regional and global dynamics of Arctic change; and (3) assessing vulnerability and building resilience of Arctic environments and societies. A key output from the meeting will be a joint statement of ministers, which is in negotiation.

The event will begin on October 25th with an Arctic Science [Forum](#), webcast live from 10 am to 6:30 pm CEST, (6 hours ahead of Washington DC time) at this [link](#). Over 300 scientists and Indigenous Peoples will discuss the three themes, and intended progress over the next few years.

The ministerial meeting, which will not be webcast, will be held on October 26th in the [Axica](#) Conference Center, adjacent to the US Embassy and the famed Brandenburg Gate. The US delegation to the meeting will be headed by Dr. France Córdova, Director of the National Science Foundation. She will be accompanied by the Honorable Frances Ulmer, Chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission ([USARC](#)) and Dr. Tim Gallaudet, the acting head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

About the ministerial, Ulmer said, “International collaboration in Arctic research is essential to better understand the dramatic changes taking place as well as their significance to the region and to the world. This meeting enables the international science community to strengthen and enhance joint projects.”

One recent example of international cooperation in Arctic science has been the implementation of the [Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation](#). The agreement facilitates access, which means entry and exit of scientists to Arctic geographic regions, access to equipment and materials, access to research infrastructure and facilities; and access to data. The US government’s official point of contact for this agreement is the USARC.

A second major example of cooperation is the oceanographic expedition called “[MOSAIC](#),” which involves freezing a German research vessel into the Arctic sea ice pack, letting it drift for a year, enabling a scientific party of researchers from at least 17 nations to make many types of observations of the Arctic environment.

The USARC’s mission is to develop and recommend US Arctic research policy to the President and Congress and to build cooperative links in Arctic research within the federal government, with Arctic residents, the State of Alaska, researchers, and international partners. Visit the USARC at www.arctic.gov and subscribe to our daily electronic newsletter, the “[Arctic Update](#),” which provides useful information about recent events, upcoming conferences, research initiatives, and news.

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