

The Arctic Council



Foundation:

1996 Ottawa Declaration establishes the Arctic Council as a high-level intergovernmental forum to:

Promote cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common arctic issues, in particular sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.

Member States



- Canada
- Denmark
- Finland
- Iceland
- Norway
- Russian Federation
- Sweden
- United States of America

Permanent Participants

- Aleut International Association
 - Arctic Athabaskan Council
 - Gwich'in Council International
 - Inuit Circumpolar Council
 - Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)
 - Saami Council
- Supported by the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat in Norway



Permanent Participants at the 7th Ministerial Meeting in Nuuk, Greenland. May 12, 2011 (Copyright IPS)

Observer States



Photo: US Department of Interior

- France
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Spain
- UK
- China
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Singapore
- India

Observers: Intl' Organizations

- Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
- International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)
- Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO)
- North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE)
- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Observer NGOs

- Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS)
- Arctic Circumpolar Route (ARC)
- Association of World Reindeer Herders (AWRH)
- Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU)
- International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)
- International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)
- International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH)
- International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)
- Northern Forum (NF)
- University of the Arctic (UArctic)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Governance

- Foreign Ministers of Arctic Council Member States and the political leaders of the Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council meet every two years.
- Senior Arctic Officials, composed of representatives of the Member States Council meet twice a year, along with Permanent Participants
- The Chairmanship of the Council rotates among member states every two years. US becomes Chair in April 2015

Working Groups

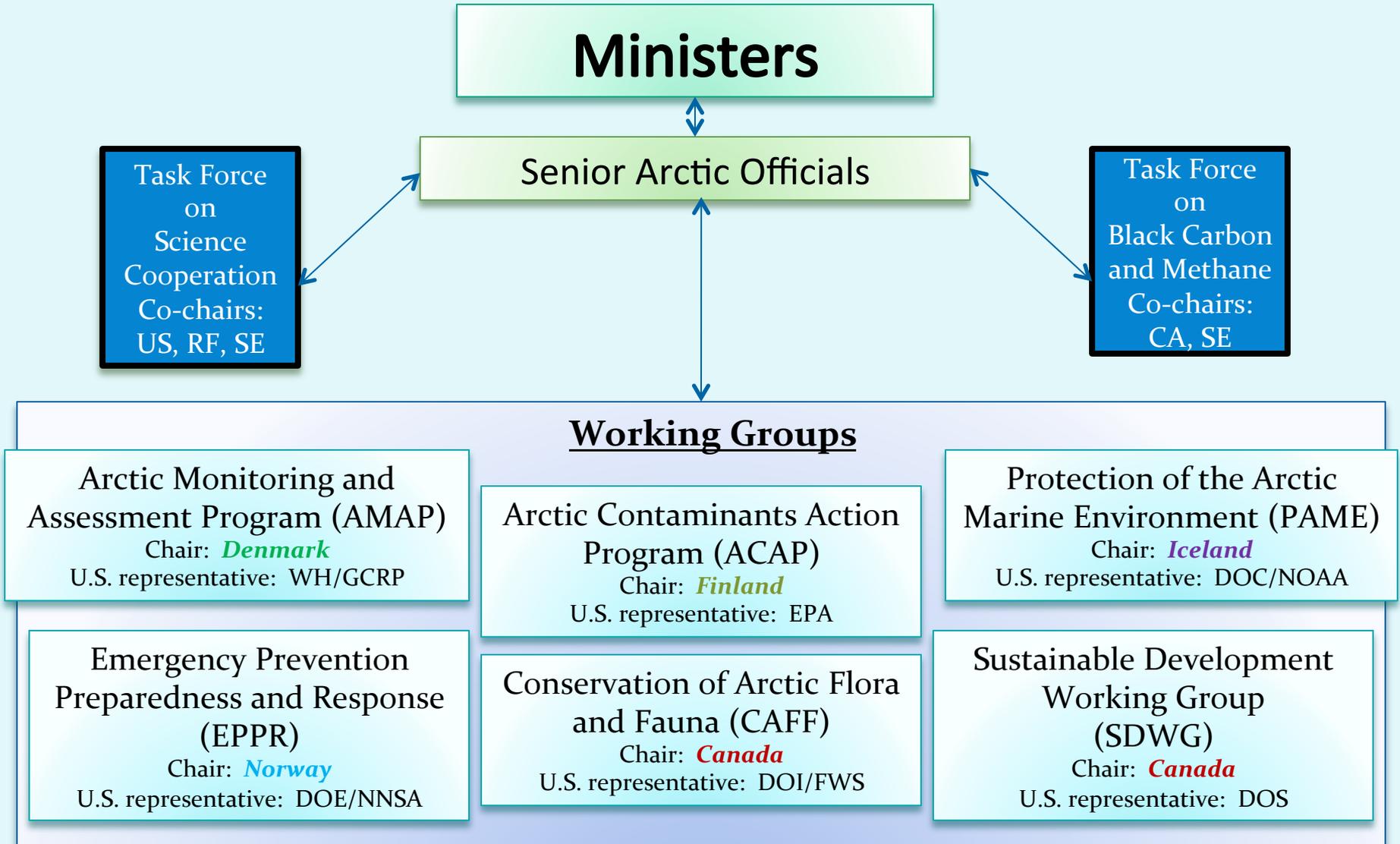
Implementation of Arctic Council objectives is carried out by six Working Groups:

- Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP)
- Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)
- Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
- Emergency, Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)
- Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)
- Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

Arctic Council Structure

2015 – 2017 Chairmanship: **USA**

Six indigenous groups (“Permanent Participants”) participate at all levels

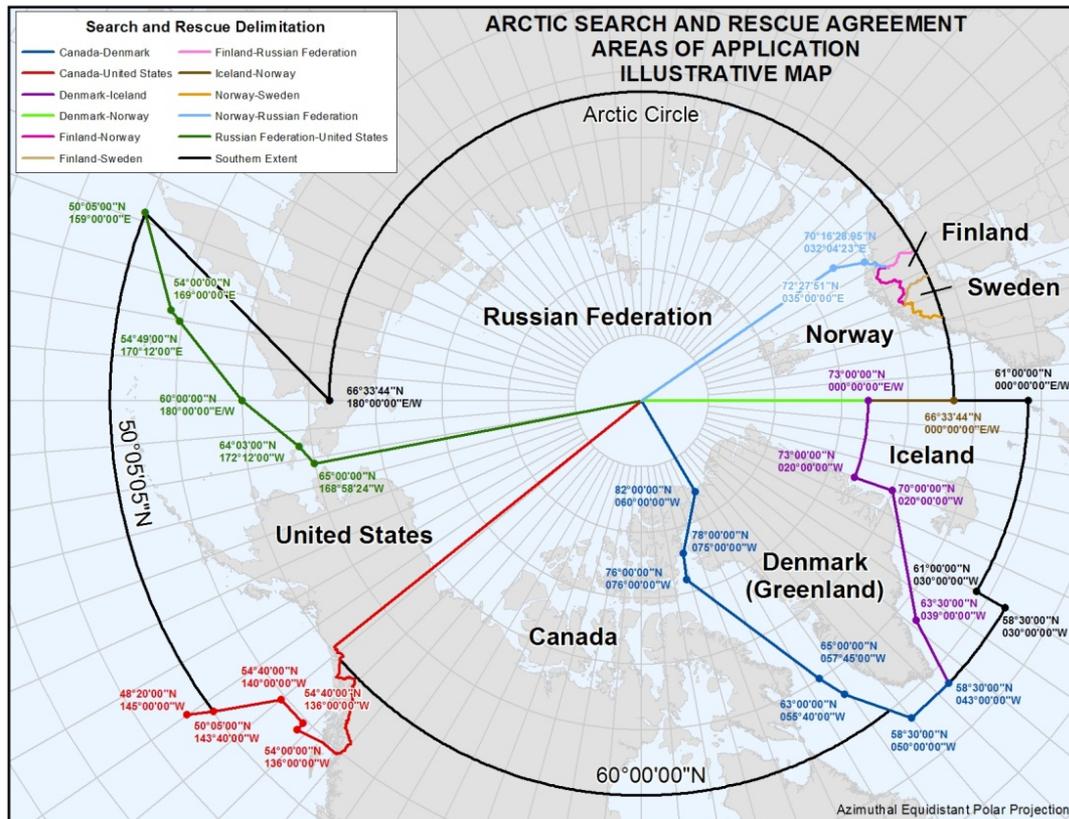


National & Homeland security



- **Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness & Response Agreement**
 - At the May 2013 Ministerial meeting the Arctic States signed an agreement facilitating cooperative marine oil pollution preparedness and response in the Arctic
- **Oil Pollution Prevention**
 - The 2013 Kiruna Declaration established a Task Force on Oil Spill Prevention that will consider cooperative actions to avert an oil emergency in the Arctic

Search and Rescue (SAR) Agreement



- SAR negotiations co-led by the US and Russia
- 2,801,911 sq. miles of aeronautical and maritime SAR coverage
- Based on 1979 IMO Maritime SAR Convention and the 1949 International Civil Aviation Convention (ICAO) – Annex 12
- Entered into force on January 19, 2013

Canadian Chairmanship



The Overarching Theme for the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council is: *Development for the People of the North*

- Responsible Arctic Resource Development
- Safe Arctic Shipping
- Sustainable Circumpolar Communities

Arctic Economic Council

- Created by an Arctic Council Task force during Canadian Chairmanship
- Purpose is to facilitate Arctic business-to business activities and responsible economic development
- Inaugural meeting on Sept. 2-3, 2014 in Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada
- 42 business representatives
- Six indigenous organizations

Arctic Economic Council

Sectors Include:

- Infrastructure and related matters including:
 - maritime transportation
 - communications and IT
 - aviation
- Energy, including oil, gas and renewable sources
- Mining
- Tourism
- Fishing
- Human resources investments and capacity building

Arctic Economic Council

Five overarching themes:

- Establishing strong market connections between Arctic states;
- Encouraging public-private partnerships for infrastructure investments;
- Creating stable and predictable regulatory frameworks;
- Facilitating knowledge and data exchange between industry and academia; and,
- Traditional indigenous knowledge, stewardship and focus on small businesses

Arctic Economic Council

US representation

Gail Schubert, Bering Straits Native Corporation

Lori Davey, Fairweather LLC

Bruce Harland, Crowley

Permanent Participant Representation

Tara Sweeney, Inuit Circumpolar Conference-Alaska

Thomas Mack, Aleut International Association

Jeanine Elias, Arctic Athabaskan Council

Promoting International Scientific Cooperation

- **Task Force on Science Cooperation**

- Co-Chairs: United States, Russian Federation, and Sweden
- Improve access to the Arctic, scientific exchanges, data sharing, and research protocols. **NSF's K. Falkner is head of US delegation.**

- **Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks**

- Chair: Arctic Council (U.S. – USGCRP)
- Vice-Chair: Intl' Arctic Science Committee (CA – U. of Alberta)



US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council

- The United States will assume the chairmanship of the Arctic Council from Canada in Spring 2015
- It will chair the Council for two years through Spring 2017



Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at Kiruna Ministerial Meeting, May 2013

US Chairmanship Theme

“One Arctic: Shared Opportunities, Challenges, and Responsibilities”

Three areas of emphasis:

- Addressing climate change
- Arctic Ocean stewardship
- Improving economic and living conditions in the Arctic



Arctic Council Secretariat

- Main responsibilities of the Secretariat, in Tromsø, NO:
 - Facilitate/support overall work of the Arctic Council on behalf of the Chairmanship
 - Logistics and coordination of Arctic Council meetings
 - Facilitate Working group coordination and communication
 - Outreach, communication and information sharing
 - Other support for the Arctic Council Chairmanship