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ARCTIC COUNCIL

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What is the Arctic Council?

- Founded in 1996 with the Ottawa Declaration.
- The leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common circumpolar issues.
- Focus on sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.

Who takes part?

8 Member States

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

6 Permanent Participants

- Aleut International Association
- Arctic Athabaskan Council
- Gwich'in Council International
- Inuit Circumpolar Council
- Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North
- Saami Council

39 Observers

- Non-arctic states, intergovernmental and inter-parliamentary organizations, non-governmental organizations



What does it do?

- Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)
- Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
- 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)

How does it work?

- Working Groups' efforts and analysis form basis for Arctic Council assessments and recommendations.
- Decisions taken by consensus.
- Chairmanship rotates every two years among the eight Arctic States.
- Icelandic Chairmanship 2019-2021.



2019-2021 Chairmanship priority areas

- Arctic Marine Environment
- Climate and Green Energy Solutions
- People and Communities
- Stronger Arctic Council

Photo: Kári Fannar Lárusson



What doesn't it do?

- The Arctic Council is a forum, not an international organization.
- No programming budget.
- Does not implement its guidelines or recommendations.
- Mandate excludes military security.



One Health

- Arctic Human Health Working Group (AHHEG) created in 2010 under SDWG.
- One Health project initiated under US Chairmanship 2015-2017. Continued under Finnish and Icelandic Chairmanships.



Thank you for your
attention

www.arctic-council.org

www.mfa.is/arctic