

Forum for the 21st century

Economic section

Issues of Arctic

The Russian Federation would like to appreciate the effort of Forum for 21st century to initiate and organize the conference to discuss the matters of Arctic and express thank for being invited for the negotiations. As we are strongly interested in this agenda we express our high priority and willingness to try to find acceptable and satisfactory solution for all states present, mainly due to growing importance of the Arctic in today global world as well as due to our deep national concern.

Research, Climate and Environmental Change

National safety and environmental standards are for Russian Federation highly important. A matter fact that the severe depletion of biological resources throughout the Arctic, particularly in Russian´ European North, is leading to overconsumption and potential hazard caused to the Arctic´s living resources by a greater human presence requires thinking about international and multilateral agreement to be sign. In those terms we recently decided to redraw the boundaries of national Arctic park to accommodate the drilling plans of Rosneft and its Western partners, as well as to construct offshore nuclear-powered stations to exploit its seabed resources, while we are force to admit that our concern in economic potential of this area is higher than the importance of environmental issues under which is Arctic suffering.

Population and Indigenous people

We recognize significant problems in economic development and social life of the indigenous people, emerging as inability of adapt to the current economic situation, spread of diseases and pathologies, high infant mortality rate and many other problems. Our priority is to create favorable conditions for the sustainable development of indigenous peoples with the target to reach the average nationwide life quality level. We would like to present our specific target to reduce infant mortality by at least 50% compared with 2007, by 2025. In our high concern is also development of infrastructure regarding the cooperation with investors from Asian-Pacific countries as crucial point. Reflecting rising demand on tourism in Arctic and possibility to create delivery cargo route from Asia to Europe we consider developing the

Northern Sea Route highly important and we regard it as a potential alternative to Suez Canal as well.

Geopolitical division and resource management

According to our national strategic documents The National Security Strategy of Russian Federation through 2020, including strategic perspective for Arctic as well, and The Principle of State Policy of Russian Federation in the Arctic until 2020 and Beyond we would like to devote our attention to energy security. We are strongly focused on access to energy reserves, recalling proposals of draft of Forum for the 21st century, including on the continental shelf in the Barents Sea. Due to maintaining our strategy, problems resulting from the competitive struggle for dwindling resources worldwide can not be excluded and lead to be solved with use of military force. In this point we would like to call attention on possible military threat in terms of trying to find a reasonable solution of beneficial dividing existing natural resources in Arctic. In order to pursue our foreign policy objectives and protecting national security interests, mainly mentioning our territorial claim on Lomonosov Ridge, we would like to express our commitment to respect the principles of current international law.

Law of the sea and Arctic waterways

Russian Federation is already working on establishing a new law to guide a future use of the Northern Sea Route which will include creation of a special administration to oversee the passage of maritime traffic and to provide ships with the vital navigational and hydrographical information, as well as rescue service when needed along the entire route from Kola Peninsula in the West to Kamchatka in the East. In those terms we would like to present our proposal to cooperate with other states negotiating in this issue to develop one common strategy how to administrate the Arctic waterways, in order to proceed this cooperation mutually beneficial and effective as well. But despite these facts we still would like to remain sovereignty over the territories we already possess in the terms of administration.