

THE ECONOMIC SECTION

Statement of USA on the 1st draft

The United States of America would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Forum of 21st century for an invitation to be a part of international community which deals with the questions of Arctic Region and it is very thankful to demonstrate their willingness and full support towards finding mutually suitable solution for all parties involved.

Its spirit is naturally drawn to this region, for the economic opportunities it presents and in recognition of the need to protect and conserve this unique, valuable, and changing environment. The United States is an Arctic Nation with broad and fundamental interests in the Arctic Region, where it seeks to meet its national security needs, protect the environment, responsibly manage resources, account for indigenous communities, support scientific research, and strengthen international cooperation on a wide range of issues.

Since March 30, 1867 when the United States purchased Alaska from the Russian Empire, the United States of America has been one of the eight Arctic nations and has been a member of Arctic Council since its inception in 1996. The current Arctic policy of the United States has its beginnings in December 1971, when President Nixon created National Security Decision Memorandum 144 to address the United States' stance toward the Arctic. The memo suggested focus on minimizing adverse risks to the environment, promoting international cooperation in the Arctic and providing for the protection of security interests in the region. In 1984, the United States Congress passed the "Arctic and Policy Act of 1984" to provide for the national defence of the region, enhance commercial fishing endeavours, and fund environmental and climate research in the region. The Arctic Council was the face of United States Arctic Policy until the latest National Security Presidential Directive (NSPD-66) was signed by President Bush on January 9, 2009. With the diminishment of Arctic sea ice, the increase in human activities in the region, and territorial considerations of the unclaimed Arctic has provided a new sense of urgency to the Arctic issue. On May 10, 2013, the Obama White House released the National Strategy for the Arctic Region, emphasizing three areas:

1. Advancing U.S. security interests

- enhancing regional infrastructure and strategic capabilities;
- improving "Arctic domain awareness," including sharing maritime information;
- "preserving freedom of the sea" and navigational safety;
- "responsibly developing" Arctic oil and gas resources to ensure energy security

2. Pursuing responsible Arctic region stewardship and protecting fragile environment

- assessing and monitoring ecosystems and environmental challenges;
- adopting an Integrated Arctic Management approach to natural resource management;

- increasing national and international scientific research efforts and use of traditional knowledge; and
- charting and mapping the Arctic ocean, waterways, and coastal areas.

3. Strengthening international cooperation

- cooperating with other Arctic states based on common interests and shared values;
- utilizing the Arctic Council as a forum to "advance U.S. interests";
- supporting the ratification of the Law of the Sea Convention; and
- cooperating with other interested parties, such as non-Arctic states or the International Maritime Organization

As the United States addresses these opportunities and challenges, it will be guided by its central interests in the Arctic region, which include providing for the security of the United States; protecting the free flow of resources and commerce; protecting the environment; addressing the needs of indigenous communities; and enabling scientific research.

Position of the United States of America to the proposals in the first draft of the negotiation paper regarding the Arctic Policy issues for purpose of the conference:

Climate and environmental change

- Intensify efforts to observe and understand climate change and its impacts on ecosystems, infrastructure, economies, and culture
- Synthesize research results and translate them into actionable information
- Move from knowledge to action, as successfully demonstrated by the Canadian ArcticNet program

Natural resources

- Support greater mapping of Arctic lands and charting of waters. The United States must quantitatively assess mineral, energy, and living resources and learn more about the environmental, societal, and economic impacts of developing them
- Prepare thoroughly for responding to oil spills. Challenging response conditions and unique characteristics of Arctic environments require specialized research
- Develop international standards for Arctic exploration and oil and gas development, and share innovative technology and best management practices of Arctic regions

Indigenous people

- Develop an integrated Arctic indigenous languages research plan that : 1. Conducts regular assessments to understand and extent and diversity of languages and their viability for future generations, 2. Documents procedures to ensure that languages and place names used by Arctic people are recorded and preserved, 3. Promotes interregional

and international activities geared and enhancing language use and exchanges, and 4. Defines policy options and processes for language monitoring and preservation.

Law of the Sea and Arctic waterways

- Accession to the Convention would protect U.S. rights, freedoms, and uses of the sea and airspace throughout the Arctic region, and strengthen its arguments for freedom of navigation and overflight through the Northwest Passage and the Northern Sea Route. The United States is the only Arctic state that is not party to the Convention. Only by joining the Convention can it maximize legal certainty and best secure international recognition of its sovereign rights with respect to the U.S. extended continental shelf in the Arctic. In instances where the maritime zones of coastal nations overlap, Arctic states have already begun the process of negotiating and concluding maritime boundary agreements, consistent with the Law of the Sea Convention and other relevant 10 international law. The United States supports peaceful management and resolution of disputes, in a manner free from coercion.
- It will continue to make progress in charting and mapping the Arctic region's ocean and waterways, so long obscured by perennial ice, and mapping its coastal and interior lands according to reliable, modern standards. Given the vast expanse of territory and water to be charted and mapped, it will need to prioritize and synchronize charting efforts to make more effective use of resources and attain faster progress. In so doing, it will make navigation safer and contribute to the identification of ecologically sensitive areas and reserves of natural resources.

The United States seeks a collaborative and innovative approach to manage a rapidly changing region. It must advance U.S. national security interests, pursue responsible stewardship, and strengthen international collaboration and cooperation, as it works to meet the challenges of rapid climate-driven environmental change. To address these challenges and opportunities, it will align Federal activities in accordance with this strategy; partner with the State of Alaska, local, and tribal entities; and work with other Arctic nations to develop complementary approaches to shared challenges. It will proactively coordinate regional development. Its economic development and environmental stewardship must go hand-in-hand. The unique Arctic environment will require a commitment by the United States to make judicious, coordinated infrastructure investment decisions, informed by science. To meet this challenge, it will need bold, innovative thinking that embraces and generates new and creative public-private and multinational cooperative models.