

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.

According mentioned facts we would like to express our full support to create an international long-term research group of experts in order to explore Arctic area to provide information on systematic base worldwide to all concerned parties. We already would like to ensure the Forum about commitment of our national contribution to this issue in the terms of proving our best scientific experts to accomplish layout target appropriately and properly.

For the meantime we are forced to admit that proposed creation of a legally binding international agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions could effect as retarder for recovery of our economy which is still suffering under aftermath form crisis. Hereby we state our interlocutory unconcern in this point of negotiation and we would like to draw attention to economic potential of this area as a fundamental point of our national concern. However we would like to express our future interest to sign an international agreement on mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions under requirement that all negotiating parties will approve positive attitude towards this issue.

Population and Indigenous people

As we recognize significant problems in economic development and social life of the indigenous people we would like to emphasize our priority to create favorable conditions for the sustainable development of indigenous peoples with the target to reach the average nationwide life quality level. In those terms we would like to declare and confirm our full support and adequate contribution to ground the Fund, designed with the purpose to form appropriate condition for Indigenous people of Arctic and we state our assistance to solve educational issue as well. We would like to devote attention of all contributors on the possibility of availing potentially gained financial sources from the Fund to establish proposed educational institution and employ qualified teachers and professors in order to boarder educational opportunities of Indigenous people of Arctic.

Geopolitical division and resource management

According to our high focus on access to energy reserves, recalling proposals of draft of Forum for the 21st century, including on the continental shelf in the Barents Sea, we would like express our unconcern to create international standards for resource exploitation in Arctic, mandatory for all states involved, mainly due to strategic position of energy sector in Russian economy and its essential importance for national prosperity. Eventhough we understand possible environmental threats of climate change we stand for remaining national standards in the terms of exploitation.

In order to pursue our foreign policy objectives and protecting national security interests, mainly mentioning our territorial claim on Lomonosov Ridge, which is according experimental expedition regarded as continental crust of Eurasian continent, and it is therefore part of the Russian Federation's adjacent continental shelf. Hereby we call upon to accept our claim to divide the Arctic on the basis of spherical triangles according to principle of geographical contiguity. Additionally we express our proposal to preserve contemporary division only among Arctic state and we would like to underline our strong concern in preventing from involvement of the current non-arctic states.

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. Recalling already mentioned issue we regard common Arctic tourism strategy as significant manner to support the development of the region and bordering working opportunities for the Indigenous people of Arctic. At this point we consider building Northern Sea Route as an essential aspect of developing prospering tourism in the Arctic.

In the terms international concern of free navigation and over flight above the Arctic Sea we would like to strengthen our claim to preserve the sovereignty over the territories we already possess and we would like to preserve autonomous administration of those areas. Referring to previous statement we regard creation of common international body to oversee the passage of maritime traffic as irrelevant and redundant.

The Head of Representatives of Russian Federation