

THE ECONOMIC SECTION

Statement of USA on the 2nd 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.

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:

Research, Climate and Environmental Change

- i. The United States promotes the sharing of Arctic research platforms with other countries in support of collaborative research that advances fundamental understanding of the Arctic region in general and potential Arctic change in particular. It has made significant investments in the infrastructure needed to collect environmental data in the Arctic region, including the establishment of portions of an Arctic circumpolar observing network through a partnership among United States agencies, academic collaborators, and Arctic residents. The United States would like to suggest expanding the base of Arctic knowledge by integrating multi-sourced information, analyzing voluminous data more efficiently, and detecting unique patterns and trends in coordination with partners.
- ii. The United States takes a firm position that the matter of new legally binding international agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions should not be discussed during these negotiations. It considers that greenhouse gas emissions are part of individual countries' environmental politics and suggest that countries draft their own emissions reduction plans

Population and indigenous people

- i. Climate change and other factors are significantly affecting the lives of Arctic inhabitants, particularly indigenous communities. The United States affirms the importance to Arctic communities of adapting to climate change, given their particular vulnerabilities.
- ii. The United States has already taken action in this matter. It engages in Arctic community outreach by providing water-safety training in schools, developing relationships with local indigenous populations, and providing medical, dental, optometry, and veterinary services. Indigenous native communities inhabiting Alaska have many diverse organizations organized around ethnicity, geography,

subsistence, and other factors. The United States would also like to develop an integrated Arctic indigenous languages research plan that will conduct regular assessments to understand and extent and diversity of languages and their viability for future generations. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 created 13 regional corporations and over 200 village corporations as revenue-producing mechanisms for Tribes, granting rights to land and resources. Twelve native associations were also created to address non-profit social services. Additionally, there are native political federations, associations, and councils, such as the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, to address priorities for native communities.

Geopolitical division and resource management

- i. Sustainable development in the Arctic region poses particular challenges. The United States seeks to promote economic and energy security. It also seeks to ensure that energy development throughout the Arctic occurs in an environmentally sound manner, taking into account the interests of indigenous and local communities, as well as open and transparent market principles. The United States suggest developing international standards for Arctic exploration and oil and gas development, and share innovative technology and best management practices for Arctic regions.
- ii. What happens in one part of the Arctic region can have significant implications for the interests of other Arctic states and the international community as a whole. The United States will seek to strengthen partnerships through existing multilateral fora and legal frameworks dedicated to common Arctic issues. The United States will also pursue new arrangements for cooperating on issues of mutual interest or concern and addressing unique and unprecedented challenges, as appropriate. Arctic nations have varied commercial, cultural, environmental, safety, and security concerns in the Arctic region. Nevertheless, our common interests make these nations ideal partners in the region. The United States seeks new opportunities to advance its interests by proactive engagement with other Arctic nations through bilateral and multilateral efforts using of a wide array of existing multilateral mechanisms that have responsibilities relating to the Arctic region. .

The geopolitical circumstances of the Arctic region differ sufficiently from those of the Antarctic region such that an "Arctic Treaty" of broad scope -- along the lines of the Antarctic Treaty -- is not appropriate or necessary.

To sum up, the United States prefers maintaining of the current 5 Arctic-state division, but on the other hand it is open to collaborate with other states and entities to advance common objectives in the Arctic region in a manner that protects Arctic states' national interests and resources.

Law of the Sea and Arctic waterways

- i. Freedom of the seas is a top national priority for the United States. The Northwest Passage is a strait used for international navigation, and the Northern Sea Route includes straits used for international navigation; the regime of transit passage applies to passage through those straits. The United States has a national interest in preserving all of the rights, freedoms, and uses of the sea and airspace recognized under international law. Existing international law provides a comprehensive set of rules governing the rights, freedoms, and uses of the world's oceans and airspace, including the Arctic. The emergence of viable Arctic shipping lanes, such as the

Northern Sea Route and the Northwest Passage, has the benefit of fueling economic growth but would also require enhanced regulation and standardization of shipping vessels and vast improvements in regional infrastructure.

- ii. Devastation of roads causes many remote coastal communities to be cut off from the main population centres. This may influence intercommunity trade, connections with world markets, development of tourism, and therefore endangers indigenous formal economy. With lack of appropriate transport connections it is also less likely for businesses to create jobs in the Arctic. That's why the USA proposes to concentrate first on road maintenance.

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.