

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. We would like to state our high appreciation as well to the proposal of remaining the national research organizations under our sovereignty.

Furthermore we would like to support the creation of a Research Fund, which would be financed by all involved concerned parties, mainly due to our high interest in effective research activities in the Arctic. Hereby we state our commitment of the financial contributions to the Fund while we can not accept calculation of contribution according to the national GDP of the concerned states at the moment. However if all concerned states express their positive attitude towards this proposal we are opened to make a compromise and negotiate the level of contributing quota.

Recalling next point, 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. In matter of fact we regard postponing this issue to separate forum as the most satisfactory solution due to current situation of our national economy. We would like to suspend this point of negotiation for two years at least and we would like to propose to create special forum devoted to environmental issues solving the reduction of air pollution in the Arctic.

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 existing Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council, designed with the purpose to form appropriate condition for Indigenous people of Arctic and we accept as well the suggestion of the Forum to increase the efficiency of meetings as it was proposed.

Russian Federation understands importance of national responsibility the development and well-being of indigenous people mainly due to high percentage of those people with Russian nationality and hereby we are expressing our concern of adequate national policy for maintenance this question.

We state our assistance to solve educational issue as well. We would like to devote attention to importance of broadening their educational opportunities for Indigenous people of the Arctic which could increase quality of their life and their future perspectives. In those terms we express our commitment to contribute to this issue by establishing more and adequate educational institutions and we are going to send qualified teachers and professors to accomplish this target properly.

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 strong unconcern to create international standards for resource exploitation in Arctic, mandatory for all states involved, primarily due to strategic position of energy sector in Russian economy and its essential importance for national prosperity. Even though we understand possible environmental threats of climate change we stand for remaining national standards in the terms of exploitation and we are proposing to postpone the solution of this matter to another negotiation dedicated to environmental

issues. We are prepared to negotiate this topic only under condition of providing adequate time period for harmonization common global exploitation standards with our national standards in the terms of developing satisfactory technology rewarding proposed standards.

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, we would like to accept the proposal of the Forum in the terms of division of the territory. Hereby we would like to express our high appreciation to respect our claim to divide the Arctic on the basis of spherical triangles according to principle of geographical contiguity. Additionally we regard perseverance of contemporary division of the territory only among five Arctic states as the most satisfactory and tolerable solution from our point of view, primarily due to future protection and enrichment of the Arctic region.

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 and hereby create working opportunities and future increase of employment of Indigenous people. In this point we clearly observe the importance to maintain and respect environmental standards in the terms of developing tourism policy.

In the terms of 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 are going to agree with the concept of free navigation only under condition of strict elimination of the navigation of armed vessel. We express our positive attitude to allow open navigation and over flight for commercial and peace purposes exclusively. We would like strengthen our condition to maintain independent national supervision of those areas. If some of the involved parties will suggest certain proposal of possible common international administration system acceptable in the terms of our national

concern and respecting existing rules of international maritime law we are prepared to open negotiation on this topic.

We are going to express our support for the creation of the monitoring body for overseeing the navigation in the Arctic Sea only under condition of certainty of strict and exclusive usage for security purpose. In those terms we would like to call the request of precise and concrete determination of competences and responsibilities of future established body and involved stakeholders as well in order to avoid potential discrepancies in the interpretation of rules of international law. In case of other possible utilization of this monitoring body, we are forced to deny this proposal.

The Head of Representatives of Russian Federation