

Preface

The December 2013 annual convention of the board of economic issues of the *Forum for 21st Century* has decided to focus on the development in the Arctic. This region has caused increased interest of the international community interrelating with abundance of natural resources, technological progress helping overcome the unfavourable natural conditions, and global climate change which will enable larger economic and transport utilization. Global threats such as environmental pollution, sea level rising, and endangering of flora and fauna, attract attention of increasing number of states, negotiating the territorial dividing of the North Polar Region. The Arctic area has the potential to become the centre of the developed world in few decades to come.

Forum for 21st Century regards this geopolitical issue of major significance, and therefore appeals the member states of the *Arctic Council* and permanent observers to join the negotiations concerning the utilization of the region. Their united efforts are going to resolve peace and security in the Arctic area, since the progress made by the first two round of negotiations has taken a positive course of cooperation and willingness to compromise in many important issues. Therefore we would like to express our gratitude to the negotiating parties, namely Canada, the European Union, Kingdom of Norway, Russian Federation, and the United States of America, which are states with dominant influence in the administration of the territory, and the People's Republic of China with the observer status, and welcome them at the third round of negotiations.

Proposals

The necessity of formal binding act of the Arctic issue is growing on importance together with global climate changes. Due to the recent environmental trend the new economic possibilities are emerging. Not only countries directly bordering the Arctic Ocean have the interest in economic utilization of the North Polar Region. *Forum for 21st Century* takes patronage over the political disputes among the members and permanent observers of the Arctic Council, and other interested parties to resolve the following issues:

1. Political division

The division of the area is one of the most crucial issues concerning the Arctic. The *Forum for 21st Century* believes that it is appropriate to set the criteria for dividing of the North Polar Region according to the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS). The property of the aquatory shall not be of public holding, but in the possession of the Arctic states up to the extent according to the *UNCLOS*. Concerning the matter, we support every *Arctic Council* member's accession to the *Law of the Sea Convention*.

We suggest building of the *Arctic Research Centre for the Incessant Cooperation* (ARCTIC), which would be active under the *Arctic Council* and would employ experts, specialists, and scientists from every Arctic state, and interested parties. *ARCTIC* shall help determine the outlines of aquatorial borders, therefore it will take patronage over the research of the continental shelves to ensure every countries right to their extended aquatories and discontinue boundary disputes among *Arctic Council* members.

The aquatories beyond the borders of the Arctic states shall be subjected to the status of the *Antarctic Treaty*.

2. Security dimension

According to the *Political division*, each Arctic nation exercising its authority over factual divided part of the Arctic area shall prevent military actions to enhance the regional security. In accordance with the international law and the *UNCLOS*, any military action, as a military occupation, is not permitted in the common Arctic area, the only actions taken shall be exercised within state borders. Hence, in the common aquatories only the activity of the UN armed forces is permitted, through their visible presence in the region. All military activities shall be monitored by the *ARCTIC*.

The *Forum for the 21st Century* suggests relating to the *Antarctic Treaty*, which provides only use of military personnel or equipment for scientific research or for any other peaceful purpose. Any confrontation in the North Polar Region shall be avoided and we endorse the idea of maintaining and preserving the region as an area free of conflict, assuring friendly cooperation.

3. Natural resources

The already existing *Antarctic Treaty* may be applied to the Arctic area, as well. Each Arctic state shall exercise its authority over factual divided part, though any voluntary cooperation between the parties shall not be prohibited. The new industries in the region, including hydropower, mining, tourism, and exploration and exploitation of other minerals, particularly off-shore fossil fuels, natural gas and other energy resources shall be regulated under the highest international standards, in accordance with queries agreed in the *Environmental issues*. The *ARCTIC* shall be responsible for the exploration of natural resources in the Arctic area.

4. Transport

Existing international law provides a set of rules governing the rights, freedoms and uses of the world's oceans and airspace, including the Arctic. However, *Forum for 21st Century* accentuates the issue of safety, health, environmental, and emergency preparedness and transparency. High international safety standards must be established as for the scientific and commercial purposes, including the land-based and the cruise-liner tourism, and shipping purposes. Therefore we will support agreeing upon limitations of the transport utilization of the Arctic area, which shall be researched by the *ARCTIC*.

5. Environmental issues

Forum for the 21st Century believes that the environmental issues are of high importance. The protection, safety, and perseverance of the sea environment shall be ensured with commitment to the *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act*. The *ARCTIC* shall monitor the changes in the sea, the impact of the global warming on polar region, and possible effect of the management and the utilization of the mineral resources. *ARCTIC* shall establish an adequate framework with strict standards to enable an environmentally responsible utilization of the Arctic area.

In case of not abiding by this standards and environmental pollution, the harm shall be eliminated by the originator in time proportionate to the extent of damage. If this will be

neglected, the sanctions shall be imposed on the originator of the damage by the *International Court of Justice in Hague*.

6. Protection of autochthonous inhabitants

We call upon all parties involved to ensure people respecting all indigenous heritage, spiritual sites, churches, cemeteries and other sites with spiritual, historical or cultural significance, and that they do not remove any artefacts. These shall be protected under the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *Nuuk declaration*. Also, we stress the establishment of the *Tribal Consultation Policy* that shall emphasise respect, trust and shared responsibility in protection of the natural resource base used by indigenous people for their economic activity, as well as their traditions, and even of reindeer herding areas. Health, education, culture, sport, child, and youth work and volunteer activities shall all together be the key components with the purpose of fostering the mutual understanding, stability, and development in the Arctic.

The *Forum for the 21st Century* suggests building of *International Fund for Protection of Autochthonous Inhabitants* (IFPAIN) that shall help the autochthonous people ensure their rights and protection of their natural environment, which shall interrelate with the economic progress of the Arctic area.

7. Establishment of legal binding agreement

Forum for the 21st Century suggests establishing one legal agreement consisting of frameworks listed in issues above. Since it is important to establish a new organization that shall consist of professionals who take patronage over the most significant issues of the political division, security and environmental queries, we appeal on cooperation among the Arctic states and interested parties.

Conclusion

The issue concerning the Arctic area consists of many queries that are interrelated and have to be solved simultaneously. Hence, the board of economic issues of the *Forum for the 21st Century* requires full attentiveness of all engaged parties. Therefore we gladly invite members of this panel, Canada, the European Union, Kingdom of Norway, the People's Republic of China, Russian Federation, and the United States of America, to the negotiations that are taken over patronage by the *Forum for the 21st Century* and thank them in advance for their efforts to resolve the significant issues of the Arctic area.