

A COMPARISON OF STRATEGIES & POLICIES OF THE EIGHT ARCTIC STATES



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SUMMARY

















CANADA's Arctic strategy is focused on Indigenous peoples in connection to sovereignty, human/social development, Indigenous rights, and climate change. Canada uniquely sees sovereignty as founded in part on the presence of Inuit and First Nations. Economic development is a key theme, but should be approached in a sustainable manner. Northern economic development can be promoted with increased access to international markets and new transportation infrastructure. As climate change continues to reshape the Arctic landscape, there is a need for a whole-of-government approach to safety, security and defence — this will be achieved by increasing the presence of CAF.

SWEDEN uniquely views human/social development and Indigenous rights through a gender/feminist foreign policy lens. Indigenous women and young people in particular must have a voice in Arctic political processes. Like Russia and Finland, Sweden's strategy does not mention sovereignty. Economic development is important but sustainability is more so; Sweden aims to be a forerunner in the green transition. Additionally, Sweden's focus is on strengthening ties to likeminded countries and the EU to combat challenges resulting from China's global influence.

ICELAND fosters economic development in fishing, energy production, and tourism. Increased cooperation with West Nordic countries, and the Faroe Islands and Greenland in particular, will lay the groundwork for Iceland to compete for economic opportunities. Iceland focuses much less in their strategy on climate change and human/social development compared to other Arctic states.

Sovereignty is not mentioned in **FINLAND**'s Arctic strategy. When discussing trade and economic development, the focus is on international agreements/partnerships as well as the formation of new EU and bilateral agreements. Finland aims to create new economic opportunities in the Arctic, but in a sustainable manner. Finland is concerned with creating favorable working conditions for Arctic populations as well as supporting the rights of the Saami and protecting their cultural heritage. Finland views military conflict as improbable and instead aims to enhance situational awareness and focus on understanding the effects of climate change.

The **USA**'s Arctic policy is very focused on military presence and climate change. In the National Strategy for the Arctic Region, sovereignty is viewed through a military lens. Economic development and international trade is not mentioned. Alaska (and the Indigenous groups within Alaska) is identified as an important area for communication to develop, maintain, and exercise the capacity to execute Federal responsibilities in our Arctic waters, airspace, and coastal regions.

DENMARK's Arctic strategy sees sovereignty as a military presence. Increased economic development in tourism calls for increased maritime safety, such as search and rescue. Involvement in international trade calls for increased infrastructure. Unlike other Arctic states (Canada, Russia) Denmark's strategy does not focus on enhancing social/human development for northern communities. Climate change is seen as an increasing threat and Denmark plans to involve Indigenous peoples in negotiations towards a new international climate agreement by promoting the visibility of Indigenous peoples' situation and also ensuring that the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from 2007 are observed.

Similar to Denmark, **NORWAY** sees sovereignty as a military presence in the Arctic. In terms of security and defence, Norway aims to strengthen ties with their allies and notably condemns Russia's actions in Ukraine. Norway focuses on setting high environmental standards, improving preparedness, enhancing safety standards, and maintaining close cooperation with other countries, to promote economic development. Human development and Indigenous rights are seen through an economic lens — in order to safeguard Indigenous interests, dialogue between business actors is necessary. Likewise, cooperation with business is needed to encourage young people to choose educational paths that will improve society in the north.

RUSSIA's Arctic strategy sees the primary threats to the Arctic as climate change and a lack of infrastructure supporting northern communities. The focus is on modernizing primary health care and increasing the accessibility of high-quality general education. These goals are reinforced in relation to Indigenous peoples, and Russia commits to bringing these services to the traditional residences of Indigenous communities and nomadic groups. Russia aims to increase economic development and the composition of its armed forces in the Arctic Zone. Notably, Russia's strategy does not mention sovereignty.

SOVEREIGNTY

CANADA

SOVEREIGNTY IS PEOPLE-CENTERED AND BASED ON HISTORIC TITLE.

- Enduring, continually expressed, longstanding, well-established and based on historic title.
- Founded in part on the presence of Inuit and First Nations since time immemorial.
- The Canadian Armed Forces play a key role in demonstrating Canada's sovereignty across all of its territory.¹

NORWAY

SOVEREIGNTY MEANS HOLDING A MILITARY PRESENCE.



- The Norwegian armed forces are engaged in upholding Norwegian sovereignty, ensuring adequate preparedness at all times, and exercising authority in areas under Norwegian jurisdiction, at sea, in the air and on land.²
- The Norwegian armed forces are responsible for exercising sovereignty in Norwegian waters. The Norwegian coast guard has an important role to play in this work.³

ICELAND

THE ARCTIC COUNCIL CAN BE STRENGTHENED TO DEAL WITH ISSUES OF SOVEREIGNTY AND FROM EXCLUDING MEMBER STATES FROM IMPORTANT DECISIONS.

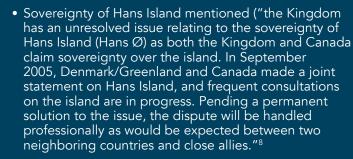


- One mention of sovereignty in relation to the rejection of Norway's claim of a 200 nautical mile zone around Svalbard on the basis of conditional sovereignty over the island.⁴
- The role of the Arctic Council as the most important forum for international cooperation on Arctic issues needs to be enhanced.⁵
- Individual Member States must be prevented from joining forces to exclude other Member States from important decisions, which would undermine the Arctic Council and other Arctic States, including Iceland.⁶

DENMARK

SOVEREIGNTY MEANS HOLDING A MILITARY PRESENCE





 While the Kingdom's area in the Arctic is covered by the NATO treaty Article 5 regarding collective defence, the enforcement of sovereignty is fundamentally a responsibility of the Realm's central authorities.⁹

UNITED STATES

SOVEREIGNTY IS PRESENTED
THROUGH MILITARY TERMS,
SPECIFICALLY THAT TROOPS MUSTS BE
PREPARED TO DEFEND THE HOMELAND.

- The Arctic as the U.S. homeland: The United States is an Arctic nation with sovereign territory and maritime claims in the region. Its interests include defending U.S. sovereignty and the homeland, including through early warning and missile defence; protecting U.S. critical infrastructure; and achieving domain awareness to protect U.S. security interests in the region.¹⁰
- Defend the Homeland: The NDS affirms defence of the homeland as the first priority for DoD.
 The Department must be prepared to defend U.S. sovereignty in the Arctic. The Arctic is also strategic terrain because it constitutes the northern approaches to the United States; DoD must defend the homeland against threats emanating from these approaches.¹¹

COUNTRIES WHOSE ARCTIC POLICIES HAVE LITTLE TO NO MENTION OF SOVEREIGNTY:







SECURITY & DEFENCE

CANADA

INCREASED COMMERCIAL AND TOURISM INTERESTS MEANS THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR A WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO SAFETY, SECURITY, AND DEFENCE. CANADIAN RANGERS AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE.

- Increased commercial and tourism interests bring increased safety and security challenges that include search and rescue and humancreated disasters.
- Need for a whole-of-government approach to safety, security and defence.
- Canadian Rangers identified as an important presence in the region, and support was expressed for enhancing and expanding the Rangers' training and effectiveness.
- Canada will enhance the Canadian Armed Forces' presence in the region over the long term by setting out the capability investments that will give the Canadian Armed Forces the tools they need to help local people in times of need and to operate effectively in the region.
- As the region becomes increasingly accessible due to the effects of climate change and improvements in cold-weather technologies, the region is emerging as an area of international strategic, military and economic importance, with both Arctic and non-Arctic states expressing a variety of interests in the region's potential.¹²

DENMARK

OVERALL, DENMARK WILL FOCUS MORE ON THE TASKS OF THE DANISH ARMED FORCES IN THE ARCTIC

 The long-term political agreement on defence (Danish Defence agreement 2010-2014) involves a stronger focus on the tasks of the Danish Armed Forces in the Arctic.¹³

FINLAND

WHILE FINLAND STATES THAT MILITARY CONFLICT IS IMPROBABLE, IT IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING SHARED SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AMONG COUNTRIES AND IN MARITIME SITUATION AWARENESS.

- A military conflict in the Arctic is improbable the Arctic States have declared that any disputes will be settled peacefully and in accordance with international law.¹⁴
- One area conducive to security in the region is the development of shared situation awareness among the countries and authorities. This is of key importance to preparedness and interagency cooperation in the Arctic environment.¹⁵
- Enhancing maritime situation awareness is one
 of the priorities of the Arctic Security Forces
 Roundtable, which is represented by the armed
 forces and maritime safety agencies of the Arctic
 area nations (including the UK, the Netherlands
 and Germany).¹⁶

RUSSIA

RUSSIA WILL OVERALL IMPROVE THE STRUCTURE OF ARMED FORCES AND OTHER TROOPS IN THE ARCTIC ZONE AND MODERNIZE ITS TECHNOLOGY.

 Russia will improve the composition and structure of the Armed Forces, other troops, and military formulations in the Arctic Zone; ensure favorable operational conditions (maintaining level of combat readiness); use of dual-use technologies; development of base infrastructure.¹⁷





NORWAY

NORWAY AIMS TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH THEIR ALLIES AND NOTABLY CONDEMNS RUSSIA'S ACTIONS IN UKRAINE, CITING NEW BORDER POSTS AS A WAY TO STRENGTHEN ITS ABILITY TO MONITOR THE NORWEGIAN-RUSSIAN BORDER.

- Condemnation of Russia's actions in Ukraine but "targeted cooperation with Russia has led to improved maritime safety, higher cod quotas and action to reduce the risk of radioactive pollution."¹⁸
- The presence of our allies, such as for training and exercising in Norway, is an important and natural result of our membership of NATO. Closer cooperation between the Norwegian Joint Headquarters in Bodø and NATO's command structure strengthens the Alliance's ability to manage potential military crisis situations in the north.¹⁹
- New military borderposts: The building of new border stations will strengthen Norway's ability to monitor and control the Norwegian–Russian border. Pasvik border post was opened in June 2014.²⁰
- Closer military cooperation: Norway is further developing its military cooperation and ability to cooperate with key allies and Nordic partner countries in the north, for example by participating in joint exercises. The Cold Response exercise is carried out in North Norway every other year, most recently in March 2014.²¹

UNITED STATES

US AIMS TO ENHANCE ARCTIC DOMAIN AWARENESS AS WELL AS PRESERVE ARCTIC REGION FREEDOM OF THE SEAS, WHEREBY THE RIGHTS, FREEDOMS, AND USES OF THE SEA AND AIRSPACE RECOGNIZED UN-DER INTERNATIONAL LAW ARE PRESERVED.

- Enhance Arctic Domain Awareness We seek to improve our awareness of activities, conditions, and trends in the Arctic region that may affect our safety, security, environmental, or commercial interests. The United States will endeavor to appropriately enhance sea, air, and space capabilities as Arctic conditions change, and to promote maritime-related information sharing with international, public, and private sector partners, to support implementation of activities such as the search-and-rescue agreement signed by Arctic states.²²
- Preserve Arctic Region Freedom of the Seas– 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. We will enable prosperity and safe transit by developing and maintaining sea, under-sea, and air assets and necessary infrastructure. In addition, the United States will support the enhancement of national defence, law enforcement, navigation safety, marine environment response, and search-and-rescue capabilities. Existing international law provides a comprehensive set of rules governing the rights, freedoms, and uses of the world's oceans and airspace. 23



ICELAND

ICELAND WILL SAFEGUARD SECURITY
INTERESTS BY WORKING AGAINST
MILITARIZATION OF THE ARCTIC THROUGH
CIVILIAN MEANS.

- Safeguarding broadly defined security interests in the Arctic region through civilian means and working against any kind of militarization of the Arctic.
- Most of the Arctic States have opted to improve civil preparedness and monitoring of the region, inter alia by developing the capacities of rescue services, the coast guard and the police.²⁴

SWEDEN

SWEDEN SEES A RISK OF AN ARMS RACE AND INCIDENTS, WHICH CALLS FOR LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES AND THE EU TO COOPERATE IN ORDER TO CHALLENGE CHINA'S GLOBAL INFLUENCE (AMONG OTHER THREATENING STATES).

- The Government intends to work for the further development and deepening of Nordic and Euro-Atlantic security and defence policy cooperation focusing on the European part of the Arctic, the Cap of the North and the North Atlantic region.²⁵
- Sweden sees a risk of an arms race and incidents.
 Developments in the Arctic are also affected by the global security policy situation, which is characterized by instability and unpredictability. The military strategic importance of the Arctic has increased, and, as in the Cold War, the Arctic is a dividing line between western countries and Russia.²⁶
- The Government is encouraging like-minded countries and the EU to cooperate and act together regarding challenges and opportunities resulting from the increase in China's global influence.²⁷
- On account of the greater strategic im-portance of the Arctic, the Government intends to work for the further development and deepening of Nordic and Euro-Atlantic security and defence policy coop-eration focusing on the European part of the Arctic, the Cap of the North and the North Atlantic region.²⁸

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CANADA

WHILE THERE ARE CHALLENGES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH, ANY INVESTMENT--WHETHER THAT BE IN NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES OR OTHERWISE — MUST BE CONDUCTED IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER.

- Economic development was often mentioned by participants (those consulted) as a key theme.
- Territorial and provincial governments emphasized that regional economies will need to be built upon both sustainable resource extraction and the development of other sectors.
- Entrepreneurial research and innovation will help in strengthening and diversifying their economies.
 Stakeholders and experts approached economic development issues from differing perspectives. In public submissions, some saw the answer in more support for non-renewable resource development such as mining.
- Government documents highlight the place of resource development in supporting a robust economy.
- Northern economic development is challenged by higher operating costs for businesses due to the region's small and dispersed population, sparse infrastructure and higher energy and connectivity costs.²⁹

SWEDEN

ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THE ARCTIC SHOULD BE CONDUCTED/DEVELOPED IN A LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE WAY.

- The Government will contribute to sustainable trade and investments in the Arctic region, and work to ensure that the increase in economic activity in the Arctic benefits local economic growth.³⁰
- From the Swedish perspective, it is important that all economic activity in the Arctic is conducted and developed in a long-term sustainable way.³¹

NORWAY



- The Government will set high environmental standards, improve preparedness, enhance safety standards, and maintain close cooperation with other countries, all of which are essential for sustainable economic activity.³²
- The oil and gas sector is a mainstay of economic activity in the north, and offers unique opportunities for value creation, employment and growth, and for generating other positive spin-off effects in North Norway.³³
- The Norwegian government's budget allocations for activities relating to the arctic have risen since 2010.³⁴
- Through financing research and com-serialization, the public authorities are contributing to the development of businesses based on marine biotechnology and bioprospecting.³⁵





ICELAND

ICLELANDERS RELY ON THE FRAGILE
RESOURCES. OF THE ARCTIC, SO IT MUST
SECURE ITS POSITION AS A COASTAL STATE BY
INCREASING COOPERATION BETWEEN WEST
NORDIC COUNTRIES.

- Increased cooperation between the West Nordic countries will strengthen international and economic positions as well as polico-security dimensions.³⁶
- Icelanders, more than other nations, rely on the fragile resources of the Arctic region, for example the industries of fishing, tourism and energy production. Therefore, it is of vital importance that Iceland secures its position as a coastal State among other coastal States in the region.³⁷

RUSSIA

RUSSIA PLANS TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE EXTRACTION OF OIL, GAS, SOLID MINERALS, AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS, ALL IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER.

- Russia hopes to implement a special economic regime in the Arctic zone by contributing to the transition to a circular economy, private investments in exploration work, the creation of new production facilities and the modernization of existing ones, the development of high-tech production facilities, the development of new oil and gas provinces, deposits of solid minerals and hard-to-extract hydrocarbon reserves, and an increase in the volume of advanced petroleum refining and the production of liquefied natural gas and gas chemical products.³⁶
- Russia plans to implement this strategy while reducing and preventing the negative impacts of economic activities on the environment.³⁹

FINLAND

FINLAND WILL SUSTAINABLY TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
IN THE ARCTIC WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY
TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS.

- The shrinking ice cover and technological advances create new opportunities for economic activities in the region.
- Economic development mentioned in reference to the EU Arctic Strategy to "ensure that economic development in the Arctic is based on the sustainable use of resources and environmental expertise." 40
- Objectives related to seizing business opportunities in the Arctic region: Create new potential and utilize the natural resources of the Arctic region for commercial purposes and engage in efforts to develop and create services and infrastructure to support the same with due regard to the principles of sustainable development; Assume an active role in the development of international legislation and regulations concerning the exploitation and development of the Arctic regions through the EU and bilateral agreements and international treaties (e.g. IMO); Steer economic activity in the region through uniform, predictable and rigorous regulation.⁴¹
- Objective related to the Arctic maritime industry: Expand the roles of the shipbuilding, oil and gas working groups of the Finnish-Russian Economic Commission in addressing and promoting Arctic issues.⁴²

DENMARK

EFFORTS WILL BE STRENGTHENED
TO INVOLVE CITIZENS IN TASKS
WITHIN AREAS OF MARITIME SAFETY, SUCH AS
SURVEYING, BUOYING, AND SEARCH AND RESCUE
AT SEA.

- The increasing maritime activity is closely linked with economic development in the Arctic.
- Given the clear correlation between the rise of maritime activity and economic development in the Arctic, efforts will be strengthened to involve Greenland citizens in tasks within areas of maritime safety, such as surveying, buoying, and search and rescue at sea, perhaps by establishing a voluntary coastal rescue service.⁴³

COUNTRIES WHOSE ARCTIC POLICIES HAVE LITTLE TO NO MENTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:



INTERNATIONAL



CANADA

GREATER ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT ARE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTORS TO ARCTIC GROWTH.

- International trade and foreign investment are important contributors to growth, by helping Arctic and northern businesses take advantage of global export opportunities made possible by existing and new free trade agreements.
- Common view that economic development could be facilitated through greater access to international markets.44

DENMARK

THE GOAL IS TO ATTRACT MORE FOREIGN INVESTORS, BUT THIS REQUIRES INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT GROWING TRADE.

- Government of Greenland has set itself clear targets to attract more foreign investors.
- Opportunities for a closer association to the surrounding markets must gradually be expanded as the extent of sea ice decreases. Trading requires infrastructure, and it is essential that the infrastructure be developed to support growing trade.⁴⁵

NORWAY

AS NEW TRADE ROUTES BECOME AVAILABLE, CROSS-BORDER HIGHWAYS AND COMMUNICATION WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE IMPROVED.

• Mention of new trade routes in the Arctic but no agenda for them or mention of international trade partners. Cross-border highways should also be improved, while cooperation with neighboring countries should ensure coordinated development and the greatest possible harmonization of standards across the borders. 46

ICELAND

ALLIANCES WITH GREENLAND AND THE FAROE ISLANDS, AMONG OTHER STATES IN THE ARCTIC REGION, WILL ALLOW FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

- Relations between Iceland and Greenland have intensified in recent years through more frequent political consultation and increasing trade.4
- Strengthening and increasing cooperation with the Faroe Islands and Greenland with the aim of promoting the interests and political position of the three countries.48
- Developing further trade relations between States in the Arctic region and thereby laying the groundwork for Icelanders to compete for the opportunities created as a result of increased economic activity in the Arctic region.

REMOVE BARRIERS TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE, COMBAT PROTECTIONIST MEASURES AND MAKE USE OF RUSSIA'S WTO MEMBERSHIP.

Allocate expert, regulatory and government resources to remove barriers to international trade, develop environmental impact assessments and maintain risk management capabilities while fostering smooth communications between the various parties involved.49

SWEDEN

SWEDEN WILL WORK TO MAINTAIN AND FURTHER DEVELOP A ROBUST REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR FREE, FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE TRADE.

• The Government will work to maintain and further develop a robust regulatory framework for free, fair and sustainable trade. Proactive work to address technical trade barriers and to promote greater border trade. 50

COUNTRIES WHOSE ARCTIC POLICIES HAVE LITTLE TO NO MENTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE:







HUMAN & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



CANADA

IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF ARCTIC AND NORTHERN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND SOLVE INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES, SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION.

- New transportation infrastructure funding has been identified by all partner chapters as crucial to improving safety and fostering economic and social development.
- Unacceptable gaps in health and social development outcomes between Arctic and northern Indigenous peoples and most other Canadians.⁵¹

NORWAY

ENGAGE WITH BUSINESS TO ATTRACT YOUNG PEOPLE TO EDUCATION PATHWAYS THAT LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY IN THE NORTH.

 The Government is determined to cooperate with business to make it attractive for young people to choose – and complete – courses of education that are important to the development of society in the north.⁵²

RUSSIA

MODERNIZATION OF HEALTHCARE AND ACCESS TO GENERAL EDUCATION.

• The Strategy states that the main objectives in the area of social development of the Arctic Zone shall be achieved by implementing the following measures: modernization of primary health care, including bringing the material and technical base of medical organizations providing primary health care to adults and children and their separate structural units and central district and district hospitals into compliance with the procedures for the provision of medical care, and equipment upgrade and re-equipment of these organizations, units and hospitals with equipment necessary for the provision of medical care. As well an increase in the accessibility of high-quality general education.⁵³





UNITED STATES

WORKING WITH ALASKA,
AS WELL AS LOCAL/TRIBAL AUTHORITIES,
THE US WILL ENSURE THEY CAN RESPOND
TO NATURAL OR MAN-MADE DISASTERS,
AND EVOLVING HUMAN AND COMMERCIAL
ACTIVITY IN THE ARCTIC.

• Evolve Arctic Infrastructure and Strategic Capabilities – Working cooperatively with the State of Alaska, local, and tribal authorities, as well as public and private sector partners, we will develop, maintain, and exercise the capacity to execute Federal responsibilities in our Arctic waters, airspace, and coastal regions, including the capacity to respond to natural or man-made disasters. We will carefully tailor this regional infrastructure, as well as our response capacity, to the evolving human and commercial activity in the Arctic region.⁵⁴

FINLAND

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE ARCTIC.

- Secure sufficient resources for the health and well-being of the population; improve the working conditions and promote the wellness at work of all workers in the challenging Arctic environment; ensure the availability of labor, particularly by promoting worker mobility.⁵⁵
- Taking social sustainability into account in impact assessments has an important role to play in this work.

SWEDEN

GENDER AND FEMINIST FOREIGN
POLICY APPROACH, INTENDS TO PROVIDE
HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND ACCESS, AND
OVERALL IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS.

- The Government's broadband strategy contains objectives for access to high-speed broadband and access to stable mobile services of good quality for all households and companies throughout Sweden.⁵⁶
- In line with the Government's gender policy objectives and its feminist foreign policy, the Government intends to work to have the gender policy perspective applied throughout the activities of Arctic-related cooperation bodies such as the Arctic Council and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council.⁵⁷
- Sweden intends to work so that all young people in the Arctic region have good living conditions, power to shape their lives and influence on the development of society. This means creating good living conditions at all levels for the individual on the basis of the right of young people to enjoy human rights. The individual must have access to education, employment, housing, health, safety, culture and leisure, their own language, the possibility of participating and exercising influence and a life free from discrimination. It is therefore important to have a cross-sectoral perspective on young people's living conditions in the Arctic.⁵⁸

COUNTRIES WHOSE ARCTIC POLICIES HAVE LITTLE TO NO MENTION OF HUMAN & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:





INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

CANADA

CANADA MUST TAKE A STRONG STANCE ON PROTECTING INDIGENOUS RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION AS WELL AS COLLABORATE WITH INDIGENOUS GROUPS ON MATTERS THAT IMPACT THEM (I.E. CLIMATE CHANGE).

- Canada to take a strong stand on protecting Indigenous rights to self-determination.
- From the agreements already signed with Indigenous peoples, to those still being negotiated, and the devolution of powers to regional governments, the degree of fate control in the Arctic and the North is on the rise.
- Canada's approach to reconciliation is guided by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, constitutional values, and collaboration with Indigenous peoples as well as provincial and territorial governments.
- Indigenous communities need tools and knowledge that are locally and culturally appropriate to adapt to urgent issues like climate change.⁵⁹

NORWAY

DIALOGUES BETWEEN BUSINESS ACTORS, AS WELL AS ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR RESOURCE EXTRACTION, ARE NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

- In order to safeguard the interests of Indigenous peoples, we need good dialogues between business actors, such as the reindeer husbandry industry, the authorities, and the local population.⁶⁰
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs runs a project entitled "Resource Extraction and Indigenous Peoples – Evaluating Ethical Guidelines", which is led by the Árran lulesami Centre. the project is to survey and evaluate ethical guidelines for resource extraction in Indigenous areas.⁶¹

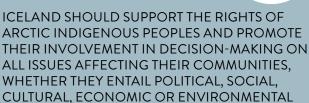
DENMARK

DENMARK WILL ASSIST IN REINFORCING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN NEGOTIATIONS TOWARDS A NEW INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AGREEMENT.

- Denmark and Greenland's cooperation on Arctic Indigenous peoples dates back to 1973 when the Arctic Peoples' Conference at Christiansborg Palace in Copenhagen became a launching point for the international organizing of Indigenous peoples.
- The Kingdom will assist in reinforcing the rights of Indigenous peoples in negotiations towards a new international climate agreement by promoting the visibility of Indigenous peoples' situation and also ensuring that the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from 2007 are observed.⁶²

ICELAND

INTERESTS.



- Supporting the rights of Indigenous peoples in the Arctic in close cooperation with Indigenous organizations and supporting their direct involvement in decisions on regional issues.⁶³
- As a small nation and an advocate of human rights, Iceland should support the rights of Arctic Indigenous peoples and promote their involvement in decision-making in all issues affecting their communities, whether they entail political, social, cultural, economic or environmental interests. 64





RUSSIA COMMITS TO BRINGING HEALTH/
EDUCATION SERVICES TO THE TRADITIONAL
RESIDENCES OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES
AND NOMADIC GROUPS, AS WELL AS TO
SUPPORT TIES BETWEEN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
LIVING IN ARCTIC TERROTIRES OF FOREIGN
STATES.

- 19 groups of Indigenous peoples live in the Arctic Zone, and sites of their historical and cultural heritage with global historical and cultural value are located there.
- The Arctic Strategy commits to improving delivery of drugs/medical services to the areas of traditional residence of Indigenous peoples; development of offsite medical care to the routes of nomadic Indigenous peoples; creation of the conditions for providing education for Indigenous peoples; ensuring the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, the development of traditional culture, and the preservation and development of languages of indigenous peoples; state support of housing construction; development and implementation of a state support program for traditional economic activities of Indigenous peoples; support in strengthening ties between the Indigenous peoples living in the Arctic Zone and the Indigenous peoples living in the Arctic territories of foreign states and holding of relevant international forums; promoting the all-round development of the young generation of Indigenous peoples through educational, humanitarian and cultural exchanges with young people from other Arctic states. 66

THE RIGHTS OF THE SAAMI WILL BE PROMOTED THROUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION GEARED TO ENHANCE THE LEGAL AND ACTUAL PROTECTION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AS WELL AS THE

INVOLVEMENT OF THE SAAMI IN MATTERS THAT EFFECT THEM ON A LOCAL/NATIONAL LEVEL.

- The northernmost municipalities of Finland are part of the Saami Homeland. The rights of the Saami will be promoted through active participation in the international cooperation geared to enhance the legal and actual protection of Indigenous peoples.
- Finland is committed to further reinforcing the position of the Saami language and culture, and securing the availability of services in the Saami language. At the international level, Finland seeks to ensure the participation of Indigenous peoples when issues affecting their status are addressed. The Saami's status as the only Indigenous people within the European Union is duly recognized and their participation in issues affecting their status as Indigenous people is ensured. The northern parts of Finland must remain a stable and secure operating environment.⁶⁷
- The rights of Indigenous peoples are one of the priorities of Finland's international human rights policy. Finland seeks to improve the living conditions of Indigenous peoples so as to allow communities and cultures to survive and evolve on their own terms. Finland underlines the need to consult Indigenous peoples and to offer them adequate opportunities to be involved in various actions, particularly when they have a direct impact on their living conditions.⁶⁸





SWEDEN

SWEDEN INTENDS TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS, PERSPECTIVES AND INTERESTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND TO WORK FOR GREATER PARTICIPATION BY YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN IN POLITICAL PROCESSES

- Sweden intends to safeguard the rights, perspectives and interests of Indigenous peoples and to work for greater participation by young people and women in political processes regarding the Arctic.⁶⁹
- It is important to make use of and develop traditional knowledge not only so as to preserve the culture and identity of the Indigenous peoples but also because that knowledge can help to increase understanding of and find solutions to various global challenges such as the effects of climate change and other environmental change in the Arctic.⁷⁰
- Exchanges of knowledge between researchers, Indigenous peoples and local communities living and working in the region should be developed and structured so as to make traditional knowledge and scientific research mutually available. Co-operation in the Nordic Council of Ministers is also a good starting point for the further development of this cooperation from an Arctic perspective.⁷¹
- Sweden intends to work for a living Sami culture based on long-term sustainable reindeer husbandry and other Sami livelihoods.⁷²
- Sweden will promote the preservation of the Sami language and other Arctic Indigenous languages and share Swedish experiences of revitalization work.
- The Sami people have been subjected to abuse, violations and racism throughout history, and still are today. These injustices still affect the relationship between different Sami groups and between Sami and the Swedish State. The Government is working for redress and reconciliation with the Sami people.⁷⁴

UNITED STATES

CONSULT AND COORDINATE WITH
ALASKA NATIVES CONSISTENT WITH TRIBAL
CONSULTATION POLICY TO PROVIDE FOR
MEANINGFUL AND TIMELY INPUT BY TRIBAL
OFFICIALS IN DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATORY
POLICIES THAT HAVE TRIBAL IMPLICATIONS.

Consult and Coordinate with Alaska Natives consistent with tribal consultation policy established by Executive Order. This policy emphasizes trust, respect, and shared responsibility. It articulates that tribal governments have a unique legal relationship with the United States and requires Federal departments and agencies to provide for meaningful and timely input by tribal officials in development of regulatory policies that have tribal implications. This guiding principle is also consistent with the Alaska Federation of Natives Guidelines for Research.



CANADA

CANADA MUST TAKE UP A LEADERSHIP ROLE WHEN IT COMES TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROTECTING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES BY INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE INTO NEW AND EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE.

- There is no force likely to reshape the Arctic and the North greater than climate change.
- Arctic ecosystems are at a disproportionately high risk of experiencing the adverse effects of global warming.
- Indigenous communities are particularly affected: traditional food sources are disappearing; ice conditions are becoming unpredictable and therefore dangerous for travel by hunters using either dogsled or snowmobile; and melting ice and rising sea levels are exposing communities to destructive coastal erosion and costly damage to infrastructure.
- Desire to see Canada play a leadership role on the global stage when it comes to addressing climate change, contaminants and other environmental challenges that have a disproportionate impact on the region.
- Climate change threatens the resilience of existing infrastructure and presents challenges to constructing new infrastructure.
- Integrate climate change resilience into new and existing infrastructure.⁷⁶

DENMARK



STRONG FOCUS ON SCIENCE, RESEARCH, AND MONITORING OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ARCTIC TO STRENGTHEN THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIODIVERSITY IN THE REGION.

- Climate change discussed as a risk to the safety of shipping activities and will require increased need for armed forces.
- Climate change also has direct consequences for the Arctic in terms of changing circumstances for the fishing and hunting industry, the potential for mining and exploitation of hydrocarbon resources, and also navigational options for tourism and transport.
- Greenland faces the challenge of the long-range trans-boundary pollution, which increasingly impacts on traditional food resources and the population's health. 78

FINLAND

UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLY ENGAGING IN THE ARCTIC.

• Finland's Arctic policy focuses on understanding the effects of climate change and transboundary pollutants; the sustainable use of Arctic natural resources; the identification of the constraints imposed by the environment; and environmental protection in all areas of activity. It lies in the best interest of Finland and the entire international community to conserve the Arctic land and sea areas, and to promote ecologically sustainable economic and social development, a principle that Finland upholds. 79



UNITED STATES

THE US AIMS TO PROTECT THE ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVE ITS RESOURCES; ESTABLISH AND INSTITUTIONALIZE AN INTEGRATED ARCTIC MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK; CHART THE ARCTIC REGION; AND EMPLOY SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARCTIC.

- "We will continue to protect the Arctic environment and conserve its resources; establish and institutionalize an integrated Arctic management framework; chart the Arctic region; and employ scientific research and traditional knowledge to increase understanding of the Arctic." 80
- "We will endeavor to do no harm to the sensitive environment or to Alaska native communities and other indigenous populations that rely on Arctic resources. Protecting the unique and changing environment of the Arctic is a central goal of U.S. policy. Supporting actions will promote healthy, sustainable, and resilient ecosystems over the long term, supporting a full range of ecosystem services. This effort will be risk-based and proceed on the basis of best available information. The United States in the Arctic will assess and monitor the status of ecosystems and the risks of climate change and other stressors to prepare for and respond effectively to environmental challenges." 81
- "Use Integrated Arctic Management to Balance Economic Development, Environmental Protection, and Cultural Values – Natural resource management will be based on a comprehensive understanding of environmental and cultural sensitivities in the region, and address expectations for future infrastructure needs and other development-related trends. This endeavor can promote unity of effort and provide the basis for sensible infrastructure and other resource management decisions in the Arctic. We will emphasize science-informed decision-making and integration of economic, environmental, and cultural values. We will also advance coordination among Federal departments and agencies and collaboration with partners engaged in Arctic stewardship activities."82

ICELAND

ICELAND WILL ENSURE THAT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THE ARCTIC IS SUSTAINABLE.

 Iceland will concentrate its efforts fully on ensuring that increased economic activity in the Arctic region will contribute to sustainable utilization of resources and observe responsible handling of the fragile ecosystem and the conservation of biota.⁸³

RUSSIA

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOCUSES ON PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS, IDENTIFICATION OF SITES OF ACCUMULATED HARM TO THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE PREVENTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HARM IN ECONOMIC ENDEAVORS.

• The environment shall be protected by the creation of specially protected natural areas; adaption of the economy/infrastructure of the Arctic Zone to climate change; identification of sites of accumulated harm to the environment; development of a unified state ecological monitoring system; minimizing atmospheric emissions/pollutants into water bodies during economic and other activities in the Arctic Zone; prevention of negative environmental consequences in the development of natural resources; development of a unified system to clean up spills of oil/petroleum. 84



SWEDEN

SWEDEN WILL SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN THE NORTH BY FOLLOWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS AND PUSHING FOR MORE SPECIFIC LEGISLATION TO ENABLE LONG-TERM PROTECTION OF BIO-DIVERSITY.

- Sweden intends to be a forerunner regarding the green transition. Through innovation and sustainable environmental technology, Swedish companies can contribute to a reduced environmental foot-print from economic activities in the Arctic and to the transition to a circular economy. 85
- Through cooperation in the EU, Sweden will continue to follow the implementation of the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean, and will also work in other ways for sustainable management of fisheries in the Arctic region. 86
- A new global agreement containing specific actions and mechanisms for protection of marine environments beyond national jurisdiction is necessary to enable effective and long-term protection of biodiversity.

NORWAY

CLIMATE CHANGE IS MOSTLY DISCUSSED IN TERMS OF GATHERING KNOWLEDGE AND ENSURING PREPAREDNESS.

- Also lots of mention of increased and proposed conservation areas.
- More than 80 per cent of all maritime traffic in the Arctic passes through Norwegian waters.
 Climate change and ice melting have increased the importance of the Arctic, both to sea transport and to oil and gas activities. The Government will ensure preparedness for acute pollution and for preventive maritime safety in the Arctic. 88

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