

Institutional reform of the Arctic Council

Ambassador Andreas von Uexküll
Senior Arctic Official

Nuuk Ministerial 2011

“Decide to strengthen the capacity of the Arctic Council to respond to the challenges and opportunities facing the Arctic by establishing a standing Arctic Council secretariat, hereinafter the Secretariat, in Tromsø, Norway to be operational no later than at the beginning of the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2013,”









”Draft necessary consequential revisions of the Arctic Council Rules of Procedure.”

- Five TFII readings
- Decision/revision at Kiruna Ministerial in 2013

”Develop the administrative framework for the Secretariat.”

- Terms of Reference approved by Arctic Council Deputy Ministers, 15 May 2012.

”Engage with the Host Country on the legal relationship between the Host Country and the Secretariat, including the extension of appropriate privileges and immunities and review of any corresponding Host Country Agreement.”

- Draft Host Country Agreement finalized.
- Internal governmental process in Norway.

”Prepare an indicative budget.”

- Approved by Arctic Council Deputy Ministers, 15 May 2012 (around USD 58.000 per state for 2013).
- Up to USD 125.000 per state committed.
- In addition, Norway’s Host Country contribution up to USD 739.130 (Norway finances Russian translation outside administrative budget).
- Kiruna Ministerial to adopt budget for 2014-2015.

”Arrange for the preparation of financial and HR/personnel issues, including the merit criteria for the senior staff and other core policies that should be in place at the time of establishment of the Secretariat.”

- **Financial rules, Staff rules as well as Roles and Responsibilities for the Director approved by Arctic Council Deputy Ministers, 15 May 2012.**
- **Job posting for Director launched beginning of April 2012.**
- **Service begins 1 February 2013.**

” Present elements for a first work plan of the Secretariat.”

- Follows Secretariat Terms of Reference:
 1. Administrative and organizational support: meetings, reports, correspondence, archive, PPs and Working groups without secretariat.
 2. Communication and outreach: website, records, exchange of information, strategic communication.
 3. Finance and Human Resources: budgets, recruiting staff, liaising with Host Country.
 4. Other services and functions as directed by the Arctic Council and its chair.
 5. May possess capability translation to and from Russian but finance outside administrative budget.

Other reforms

- Strategic communication plan approved by Deputy Ministers and implemented (contact group established).
- New website up and running: newsletter.
- Document numbering implemented.
- 2-pager reports after every meeting implemented.
- Continue closer dialogue between Chairmanship and Working group chairs.

Thank you!

Applications for Observer status and the role of observers

Ambassador Andreas von Uexküll

Senior Arctic Official

Why observers in the Arctic Council?

- Participation valuable feature through:
 - provision of scientific and other expertise
 - information and financial resources
 - Involvement enhances and complements unique and critical role of Permanent Participants

Situation today

- 26 observers (open to non-Arctic states, inter-governmental and inter-parliamentary organizations (global and regional) and NGOs that the AC determines can contribute to its work)
- 7 ad hoc observers (applicants pre-Nuuk)
- 3 additional applicants (post-Nuuk)
- Review every four years

Nuuk Ministerial 2011

“Adopt the recommendations of the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) on the role and criteria for observers to the Arctic Council as set out in Annexes to the SAO Report, and decide to apply these criteria to evaluate pending applicants for observer status,”

Seven Criteria:

Criteria 1

- Accept and support the objectives of the Arctic Council defined in the Ottawa declaration.

Criteria 2

- Recognize Arctic States' sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the Arctic.

Criteria 3

- Recognize that an extensive legal framework applies to the Arctic Ocean including, notably, the Law of the Sea, and that this framework provides a solid foundation for responsible management of this ocean.

Criteria 4

- **Respect the values, interests and culture and traditions of Arctic indigenous peoples and other Arctic inhabitants.**

Criteria 5

- Have demonstrated a political willingness as well as financial ability to contribute to the work of the Permanent Participants and other Arctic indigenous peoples.

Criteria 6

- Have demonstrated their Arctic interests and expertise relevant to the work of the Arctic Council.

Criteria 7

- Have demonstrated a concrete interest and ability to support the work of the Arctic Council, including through partnerships with member states and Permanent Participants bringing Arctic concerns to global decision making bodies.

Role of observers

1. Invited to meetings once observer status granted.
2. Primary role to observe - continue engage and make relevant contributions, primarily in Working Groups.
3. May propose projects through an Arctic State or PP - contribution may not exceed financing from Arctic States, unless otherwise decided by SAOs.
4. May, at the discretion of the Chair, present written statements, submit documents, provide views on issues under discussion in subsidiary bodies and submit written statements at Ministerial meetings.

On-going processes

1. Swedish Chairmanship prepares necessary information to facilitate a Ministerial decision on applicants in Kiruna on 15 May 2013 as directed by Deputy Ministers (up-dated applications).
2. Determination suitability of candidates take into account to which applicants fulfill Nuuk criteria.
3. Importance close dialogue between applicants and all member states.
4. Revision of Rules of Procedure according to observer decisions at Nuuk Ministerial.
5. TFII proposing Observer manual: “to guide the Council’s subsidiary bodies in relation to meeting logistics and the roles played by observers”.

Thank you!