

Arctic Council officials to meet in Juneau to prepare for upcoming Ministerial meeting

**Juneau, Alaska, U.S.A.
22 February 2017**

The Arctic Council's Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) and representatives of the indigenous Permanent Participant organizations (PPs) will meet in Juneau, Alaska on 8-9 March 2017. The Arctic Council's SAOs and PPs will discuss and review the Council's ongoing work, including programs and projects from the six [Working Groups](#) and other subsidiary bodies. Some of this work is concluding and will be finalized in Juneau in time for the upcoming Arctic Council Ministerial meeting taking place 10-11 May 2017 in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Among other items, the agenda includes discussions on scientific cooperation, telecommunications, health, Arctic economies, renewable energy, protected areas, shipping, prevention of oil spills, marine biodiversity, invasive species, the Arctic cryosphere, food security, chemical contaminants, and black carbon emissions.

In addition, Finland, which takes the reins of the Arctic Council from the United States at the upcoming Ministerial meeting, will present key elements of the program for its 2017-2019 Chairmanship.

Looking ahead to the meeting, the Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials, Amb. David Balton (U.S.) said: "The meeting in Juneau will set the stage for the upcoming Ministerial meeting in Alaska in May, where the Council will highlight its accomplishments over the past two years and set in motion the work that it will undertake over the coming two years."

Ambassador Balton will hold a media briefing in Juneau on Friday, 10 March, at 9:00 AM local time (1:00 PM ET, 6:00 PM UTC) to share outcomes from the SAO meeting and respond to questions from media representatives. Journalists are welcome to attend in person or join remotely. To participate, [register here](#). To receive information about all future Arctic Council activities, please [subscribe to our distribution list](#).

The last Senior Arctic Officials meeting took place in Portland, Maine in October of 2016. [\[Click here to read the summary report from the Portland meeting.\]](#)



The Members of the Arctic Council are the eight Arctic States – Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States. In addition, six organizations representing Arctic indigenous peoples have status as Permanent Participants. They are the Aleut International Association, the Arctic Athabaskan Council, the Gwich'In Council International, the Inuit Circumpolar Council, RAIPON (the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North), and the Saami Council. [Learn more about the Council and its work in our backgrounder.](#)

[To register for the media briefing in Juneau on Friday, 10 March, click here.](#)

For more information, please contact:

Tom Fries, Arctic Council Secretariat
tom@arctic-council.org
+47 911 20 370

Resources and references (Click any link below)

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The Arctic Council Working Groups: [ACAP](#), [AMAP](#), [CAFF](#), [EPPR](#), [PAME](#) and [SDWG](#).

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