



Provisional programme

The Arctic in 2045: a long-term vision

Wednesday 17 – Friday 19 February 2016 | WP1453

The Arctic is as important as it is diverse. Whilst it is at the frontier of climate change and a region of global environmental importance, it is also the home and place of work to over four million people.

Despite the challenges, communities have thrived in these regions for generations and are skilled at managing the consequences of change. The Arctic is universally recognised as a well-governed space by Arctic states with clear and internationally recognised sovereign responsibilities.

Rapid technological as well as environmental changes are driving the economic and social development of the region. With reducing ice cover, the Arctic Ocean may become increasingly accessible to commercial activity, including shipping, exploration for hydrocarbons, metals and rare earths, and tourism. Sustainable economic development is the shared goal, but how best to ensure that increased economic activity and use of the Arctic's marine and coastal environments does not cause environmental damage remains an important issue. The short term future for some well-developed extractive industries looks different now to five years ago, presenting a different set of potential challenges.

High-level, intergovernmental coordination in the region is led by the Arctic Council, the primary forum for promoting good governance and cooperation between the eight Arctic states. Indigenous communities are at the centre of the Council's work through six representations from across the region, as well as observer organisations and non-Arctic states. The introduction of the Arctic Economic Council in 2014 emphasised the Council's belief in the central role of business for helping to foster sustainable development in the region.

In its 'Vision for the Arctic' document produced in 2013, the Council outlined key principles to guide the future activities of Arctic states: maintaining peace and stability; ensuring the welfare of Arctic citizens and indigenous peoples; promoting sustainable development; strengthening cooperation on environmental and civil security; addressing conservation needs; pursuing research and maintaining a strong Council. The international community has a long-term role to play in supporting the Arctic states to achieve that vision.

Using for context a number of different scenarios regarding the prospective characteristics of the Arctic in 2045, this Wilton Park meeting will offer attendees the opportunity to:

- examine the challenges to implementation of the values and principles of the Arctic Council's vision statement in a changed Arctic of 2045;
- examine the international avenues available to support the Arctic states and the Arctic Council in addressing these long-term challenges;
- assess and propose policy options for Arctic and non-Arctic states to consider over the coming years that could start to develop these avenues;

In association with:



- consider and propose ways in which the Arctic states and the wider Arctic stakeholder community can most effectively work together to address long-term challenges.

In association with: Foreign & Commonwealth Office; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway; Natural Environment Research Council Arctic Office; Canadian High Commission

(Speakers invited and themes proposed * denotes not confirmed)

Wednesday 17 February

1300-1430

Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500

Welcome and introduction

Robert Grant

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

1515-1645

1. The Arctic today: context and challenges

This session will outline the current situation in the Arctic, assessing the foundations for good governance and sustainable development as well as highlighting gaps in knowledge and current challenges. Particular attention will be paid to the framework of governance in the Arctic and the role of wider Arctic stakeholders and their interactions with the Arctic Council. In addition the role that climate change plays in the Arctic will be explored, as the evolution of the Arctic climate constitutes a foundational driver of wider change in the region.

Bjorn Midthun

Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo

Jane Rumble

Head, Polar Regions Department, Foreign and Commonwealth, London

1645-1730

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1730-1900

2. Local interests and perspectives

It is vital that the interests and perspectives of local communities are fully expressed in all discussions about the future of the Arctic. This session will focus on how local communities view the potential opportunities and challenges of increased activity in the Arctic and their engagement in international public and private sector initiatives.

Gunn-Britt Retter

Head, Arctic and Environmental Unit, Saami Council, Karasjok

Kaisu Mustonen

Researcher, Snowchange Cooperative, Helsinki

Okalik Egeesiak

Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Ottawa

1900

Reception followed by dinner

James Gray

MP; Chair, All Party Parliamentary Group on Polar Regions

Thursday 18 February

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-0930

3. Introduction to scenarios

Brief overview presentation in plenary session outlining three different scenarios which hypothesise various characteristics the Arctic could take on by 2045. There will be a summary of the rationale for each scenario and an opportunity for participants to ask questions.

Participants will then divide into three pre-selected breakout groups (to ensure cross-sector and international expertise is present in each.)

Klaus Dodds

Professor of Geopolitics, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham

0930-1030

4. Break out group deliberations: alternative scenarios for the Arctic in 2045

Conducted in three separate break out groups, each group will work through one scenario to explore the different environmental, political, economic and social opportunities and challenges that could arise within the region and beyond between the present and 2045, based on their scenario's parameters.

The parameters characterising the Arctic in 2045 will differ in areas such as geopolitical relationships that could affect Arctic governance and security, the scale and nature of marine transit and tourism, levels and location of mineral and hydrocarbons extraction. Participants will then examine what policy options are open to the international community to address the opportunities and challenges that could arise from the postulated Arctic 2045 characteristics, in support of the Arctic Council's long term vision.

Group 1:

Co-chair: Alan Kessel

Deputy High Commissioner, Canadian High Commission, London

Co-chair: *Ramon van Barneveld

Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission, Brussels

Group 2:

Co-chair: Susan Harper

Director-General and Senior Arctic Official, Global Affairs Canada, Ottawa

Co-chair: Robin Teverson

Member, House of Lords, London

Group 3:

Co-chair: *Kelly Falkner

Polar Programs Director, National Science Foundation, Arlington

Co-chair: Klaus Dodds

Professor of Geopolitics, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1300

5. Key themes in the Arctic's future

Governance and Security

How should the Arctic Council develop between now and 2045 in order to deal with the impacts of increased global interest and activity in the region? What role should intergovernmental organisations other than the Arctic Council play in 2045? What does the

international community need to do to ensure coherence between all intergovernmental organisations in 2045? How can the international community help to keep the Arctic insulated from any wider geopolitical tensions that could develop? What actions need to be taken to strengthen international and regional cooperation in the fields of environmental and civil security, especially maritime safety?

Elana Wilson Rowe

Senior Research Fellow, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Oslo

Sustainable development

What processes and initiatives could enable non-Arctic states and organisations to contribute to the wellbeing of indigenous communities and regional economic development over the next thirty years? How should Arctic states, non-Arctic states and private sector organisations collaborate to support economic development (e.g. shipping, tourism, extractives and fishing) in the Arctic on a sustainable basis? How should mutually beneficial relationships develop between Arctic communities and the private sector?

Lars Thostrup

Special Adviser, Department of Arctic Affairs, Denmark

Polar law

What role does 'polar law' currently play in Arctic governance, security, and development issues? In what ways might polar law need to develop in response to challenges such as the opening of new shipping routes, the persistence of current and potential boundary disputes on land and sea, the growing attention to issues and questions of national and local governance in the Arctic, and the potential emergence of multiple serious threats to the environment? Are there lessons that the legal regime for Antarctica could provide for solutions in the Arctic?

***Agust Thor Arnason**

Director of The Polar Law Institute, University of Akureyri

Science and research

What areas of research are important to focus on now in order to prepare for the Arctic of 2045, such as in helping to determine how the economic development of the region should be balanced against conservation and sustainable use of the environment? How should collaboration in science develop between the present and 2045? Where will the gaps be in our knowledge? What kind of framework could promote the widest sharing of knowledge between international experts? What steps can be taken to ensure positive relationships between scientists and local communities are and maintained?

Jane Francis

Director, British Antarctic Survey (BAS), Cambridge

1300-1430

Lunch

1500-1630

6. Session 4 scenario break out groups continued

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1800

7. Break out group report back in plenary session

Each break out group will make 5-7 minute presentations in plenary session summarising the key conclusions and recommendations from their group's discussion.

The subsequent plenary session round table discussion will assess the various conclusions drawn from the different scenarios and highlight opportunities and challenges that appear across more than one scenarios. This drawing together of the scenario discussions will then enable consideration of initiatives that could respond to a range of future developments in the Arctic.

1900

Dinner

Friday 19 February

0800-0900

Breakfast and checkout

0900-1100

8. Practical workshops: tools for response

Participants will sign up to one of three breakout groups and will aim to answer several key questions with a focus on establishing what steps and measures should be taken in the following three key overarching thematic areas in order to best meet the challenges presented by rapidly changing landscape of the Arctic, as hypothesised in the different scenarios?

Group 1: Governance and Security

Chair: Nils Christian Wang

Commandant, Royal Danish Defense College, Copenhagen

Group 2: Sustainable development

Chair: *Áki Johansen

Head of Representation, Minister Counsellor at Representation of the Faroes in London

Group 3: Science and research

Chair: Björn Dahlbäck

Director General, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, Stockholm

1100-1130

Tea/coffee

1130-1145

eQuestionnaire completion

Completion of e-Questionnaire: <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/wp1453/>

1145-1300

9. Report back in plenary session from practical workshops and conference conclusions

Robert Grant

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

1300-1400

Lunch

1400

Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

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