Institutional reform of the Arctic Council

Ambassador Andreas von Uexküll
Senior Arctic Official

Ministers TFII mandate in Nuuk

- Implement decisions to strengthen the Arctic Council:
  - including any necessary arrangements to establish the Secretariat (operational by the beginning of the Canadian Chairmanship)
  - necessary revisions of the Rules of Procedure
- Seven tasks defined

Task 1

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

- Seven readings
- Final decision at Kiruna Ministerial, 15 May 2013

Task 2

"Develop the administrative framework for the Secretariat."

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

Task 3

"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."

- Host Country Agreement signed 21 January 2013 by Foreign Minister of Norway and in-coming Director
Task 4

"Prepare an indicative budget."

- Approved by Deputy Ministers, 15 May 2012 (USD 58,000 per state for 2013)
- Up to USD 125,000 per state committed
- Norway’s Host Country contribution up to USD 739,130
  (Russian translation financed outside administrative budget)
- Several contributions already wired

Task 5

"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, Director Roles and Responsibilities approved by Deputy Ministers, 15 May 2012
- Magnus Johansson appointed as SAOs in Raparada, 13 November 2012
- 4 vacancies posted on the website

Task 6

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

- Handed over to the Director in Reykjavik, 11 January 2013
- Director tasked present work plan ahead of Arctic Council meeting in Kiruna according to Financial rules

Task 7

"Propose text for the Ministerial declaration in Kiruna, May 2013."

- Included in draft Kiruna Declaration

Operational by the beginning of the Canadian Chairmanship

- All legal framework in place one year before
- Physically operational - Director Magnus Johansson began operations on 7 February 2013

Other tasks

- Observer manual
- SAO preparatory meetings
  (Kiruna vision, declaration, SAO report to Ministers)
Questions?

Thank you!