

## **Paula Dobriansky, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs, the USA**

### Intervention for Roundtable 1:

#### Actions against Pollution and Environmental Degradation

Let me start by thanking the Chairs of the Working Groups who made the presentations and by complimenting the many members of each group for the work you have completed and the work you propose to do in the next two years.

It is clear to me that the Arctic Council's pioneering work on anthropogenic pollutants will continue to make a difference in the region and around the world.

- The new AMAP report, for example, will help to educate scientists, policymakers and citizens alike. It is sure to provide wise guidance to Council programs in coming years.
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are playing active roles both in the monitoring and assessment work and in efforts to reduce sources of pollution.
- Federal and State officials in Alaska and Alaska Native organizations are on the front lines when it comes to dealing with the effects of pollution on the health of people and the economy.
- The fact that all interested parties are working together in Council to understand the dimensions of the problems and find the ways to solve the problems is convincing evidence of the vitality of this regional partnership.
- I am pleased to let you know that the White House has submitted the Stockholm Convention on POPs to the Senate for ratification. We understand that the

treaty is being considered by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this legislative session.

Let me also take a minute to recognize several activities that are priorities for the United States that benefit from excellent international cooperation within the framework of the Arctic Council.

- Under the working group dealing with emergency responses to accidental pollution, I am pleased to report that late this summer the U.S. and Russia, in cooperation with the IAEA, conducted a successful exercise of our notification and response procedures in the event of an accident at a nuclear power plant in northwest Russia.
- We think the initiative, approved in the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to reduce land-based sources of marine pollution in the Arctic Ocean offers great promise for additional cooperation in the region—cooperation that may include investment by the private sector in new technologies of interest to the Russian Federation.
- Finally, we are supportive of the activities and proposals of the working group concerned with the conservation and sustainable use of flora and fauna, particularly those working closely with the Russian Federation.