



Программа развития ООН
в Российской Федерации

Устойчивое человеческое развитие



United Nations Development Programme
in the Russian Federation

Sustainable human development

6 May 2002
SAO/2002/B/3.3.

Dear Ambassador Stenlund,

Following the participation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as an ad-hoc observer in the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials' meeting held in Espoo, Finland in November 2001, I write to extend UNDP's application for permanent observer status in the Arctic Council.

The Arctic Council establishes an effective and flexible international forum for the Arctic states, indigenous people organizations and international development agencies to dialogue and collaborate at the policy and programme levels. UNDP is interested in pursuing cooperation with the Arctic Council and its members particularly in the areas of sustainable development of the Arctic regions, environment protection and the sustainable use of natural resources, improving governance and democratic processes. UNDP-Russia's programme portfolio for the Russian Arctic currently includes projects on biodiversity conservation, energy efficiency, and sustainable socio-economic development with indigenous people. Following your discussion with Ms. Blanche de Bonneval, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in February this year, we will be glad to explore the opportunities of our cooperation on the Arctic Council Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) project.

In view of the forthcoming meetings of the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group and Senior Arctic Officials in Oulu, Finland from 14 to 16 May, I would like to delegate Ms. Natalia Olofinskaya, Environment Programme Officer to take part in the meetings on behalf of UNDP with an ad-hoc observer status.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you and the Arctic Council Secretariat for the support and hospitality provided to UNDP during the latest Arctic Council SAO meeting in Espoo.

Yours sincerely,

Frederick Lyons,
Resident Representative

Ambassador Peter Stenlund,
Chairman of the Arctic Council Secretariat