

## **Coordination with Inter-Governmental Organizations (The “Host Principle”)**

Consistent with Paragraph 30 of the Iqaluit Declaration, the United States believes it is important to pursue better coordination between the Arctic Council and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Nordic Council, the Nordic Council of Ministers and other relevant inter-governmental fora with interests in the Arctic.

Where appropriate, we would encourage movement toward a suitable “division of labor” between these organizations. For example, the Barents Council’s focus on environmental, economic and social engagement between the Nordic countries and Northwest Russia could be matched by increased Arctic Council activity in these spheres involving the U.S., Canada and the Russian Far East. Our aim is also to promote direct linkages among experts and officials working on issues of common interest yet under the aegis of separate inter-governmental organizations.

To maximize communication between organizations involved in Arctic issues, we propose adopting the “host principle,” namely that an Arctic Council member state which hosts meetings of a given organization (e.g., the Nordic Council) take responsibility for informing the Arctic Council of relevant programs being carried out by that organization. This responsibility would include helping to establish contact between responsible officials within member states of the given organization and their counterparts involved in relevant environmental protection or sustainable development projects under the Arctic Council or its subsidiary working groups.

With regard to communication between the Arctic Council and other international fora, including those that do not include Arctic Council member states, we recall the language of Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure: “The Host Country, an Arctic State, or other subsidiary bodies may undertake communication on Arctic Council matters with other international fora as may be agreed to in advance by the Arctic States.” The United States, as Chair of the Arctic Council, could inform international organizations in which it participates of the work of the Council, in accordance with Rule 11.