

Highlights. Senior Arctic Officials Meeting in Washington D.C., U.S.A. November 18-19, 1999

1999

Arctic Council

Arctic Council Secretariat

<http://hdl.handle.net/11374/275>

Disclaimer: This document may not be the final or approved version. It may be a working or draft version, as submitted to one of our Senior Arctic Officials meetings. Drafts are available in order to provide historical perspective on the work of the Arctic Council and the development of our scientific reports and assessments. To find final, approved versions of our reports and assessments, please make note of the title and visit the appropriate collection in our archive. Each collection listed below contains final documents from one of the six Working Groups. <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/1>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/617>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/126>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/3>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/52>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/4> Any citation of an Arctic Council document must include reference to the author. If no author of a particular document is identified, the document may still be cited; in these cases, the Arctic Council should be listed as the author. Downloaded from the Arctic Council Open Access Repository. <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/>

SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**November 17-19, 1999
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.**

- Senior government officials from the eight-member Arctic Council and more than 180 delegates, met November 17-19, 1999 at the State Department in the largest participation in an Arctic Council forum. Delegates came also from the four Permanent Participants; eight accredited Observer and eight Ad Hoc Observer organizations.
- US President Clinton recognized and praised the effort of all working on the Arctic Council in a letter to the delegates distributed on November 18th.
- High-level participation was also notable: U.S. Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Frank Loy; Chairman of the Russian State Committee for Northern Affairs Vladimir Goman; Alaska Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer (US); U.S. Assistant Secretary of State David Sandalow; Russian Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) President Mikhail Nikolayev; Lapland (Finland) Governor Hannale Pokka; Heilongjiang (China) Vice Governor Wang Xinmin; and former Alaska (US) Governor Walter Hickel.
- Senior Arctic Officials (SAO's) expressed their appreciation for the continuing efforts of the four environmental Working Groups. Chairs reported on progress that includes: developing national implementation plans for reducing contaminants (AMAP); furtherance of a circumpolar protected areas network (CAFF); progress on completion of a circumpolar map of resources at risk from oil spills in the Arctic (EPPR); and implementation of Russia's national plan of action for protection of the arctic marine environment from anthropogenic pollution (PAME).
- The officials stressed strong support for the development and implementation of an Arctic Council Action Plan to eliminate pollution in the Arctic.
- SAO's voiced support for continued development of an Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, a comprehensive effort to examine the effects of global climate change, and increased UV radiation on the arctic region.
- The assembled officials reiterated support for the early ratification of protocols on persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals.
- SAO's welcomed briefings on Sustainable Development projects, including children and youth, infectious diseases, managing regional fisheries, the health and environmental needs of indigenous communities in Russia, and endorsed a comprehensive sustainable development project on Arctic ecological tourism.
- The United States showcased representative telemedicine technologies that are improving the quality of health care available to the residents of remote settlements throughout the Arctic.