

Draft proposal for a Ministerial Declaration on Oil and Gas Exploitation in the Arctic.

To be discussed and amended as appropriate

Welcomes the AMAP Report on Arctic Oil and Gas 2007.

Recognises the efforts of the Arctic states to contribute to the preparation of the scientific assessment report on oil and gas activities in the Arctic and the overview report.

Notes the opportunities and challenges for the development of the Arctic through growth in the oil and gas sector, and the associated envisaged changes for people and environment of the Arctic.

Welcomes the new Arctic Council “Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines” for activities in the marine environment.

Recognises the precautionary approach and polluter-pays principle as reflected in Principle 15 and 16 of the Rio Declaration.

Recognises the risk for trans-boundary oil pollution hazards.

Calls for closer cooperation in the Arctic Council and between Arctic states, and coordination of precautionary plans and responses to lower the risk.

Asks EPPR to review and report to the Arctic Council on new developments regarding the abatement of and response to oil spills in ice-covered waters, including plans for trans-boundary response.

Urges the Arctic states to consider the need for additional protection of areas, including establishment of areas that are closed permanently or seasonally for oil and gas activities, where vulnerable species are present or the conditions for protecting humans and environment are disadvantageous.

Asks CAFF to prepare an assessment of the benefits of and need for additional protected areas and seasonal restrictions in the Arctic.

Encourages the Arctic states to improve monitoring and assessment of effects on human health and environment including vulnerable species, marine and terrestrial flora and fauna, and on to give priority to new risk-reducing operations and prevention and response technologies.

Asks CAFF and AMAP to prepare an assessment of current capabilities for detecting effects on key species at individual and population levels, to include an analysis of priorities.

Recommends that the Arctic states:

-  **grant** increased priority to the consequences of existing and new oil and gas activities on humans and environment in the Arctic, and on climate change, to research, assessment and effective measures to prevent spills and disturbances,

and to improved management of social and economic effects on local communities;

- ✚ **consult** local residents, including indigenous communities, prior to opening new areas for exploitation or constructing new infrastructure in order to minimise adverse effects and indentify measures having long lasting benefits for Arctic residents, i.e., establishment of community infrastructure such as health-care facilities.
- ✚ **enact and/or enforce** stringent laws and controls to protect the environment, especially vulnerable species, and human well-being.

To assist the Arctic states, asks that:

- ✚ **ACAP** evaluate the costs and benefits of decommissioning and removing (selected) abandoned oil and gas facilities and clean-up of (selected) sites still seriously polluted by prior oil spills
- ✚ **AMAP** seek to obtain data from long-term monitoring efforts in regions that have experienced large spills and provide an estimate of long-term effects that may result from any future spills
- ✚ **AMAP, CAFF, and SDWG** jointly evaluate the near- and long-term costs and benefits locally and globally of exploitation of Arctic oil and gas, taking into account linkages between fossil fuel use and climate change
- ✚ **PAME** prepare an analysis of the extent to which existing laws, regulations and management systems adhere to the new “Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines” and the relevant recommendations in the “Oil and Gas Assessment” report, including how Arctic states make use of the guidelines