

## Cover sheet

Full name of state or organization:

People's Republic of China

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Observer's website, if appropriate:

Information for appropriate contact person

Full name:

Yang Xiaoning

Email:

Telephone:

Organization or department:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

Job Title:

Deputy Division Director

Full mailing address:

No.2 Chaoyangmen Nandajie, Beijing, China 100701

中华人民共和国外交部，北京市朝阳区南大街2号，邮编100701

Is your state or organization still interested in continuing as an Observer of the Arctic Council?

√  Yes  No

## Observer Report

Please describe in no more than 2 pages your state or organization's contributions to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces and/or Expert Groups since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years. Please highlight contributions to specific projects, such as through proposals, concept development, in-kind and financial support, and hosting of meetings. If applicable, please include mention of collaboration with Permanent Participants, such as project proposal endorsement and support.

Since the latest report in 2015, China continues to contribute to the work of the Arctic Council as an observer, including:

- China has attended all the governmental meetings open to observers under the umbrella of the Arctic Council, such as the 2015 & 2016 Ministerial meetings, the 2015 & 2016 spring and autumn Senior Arctic Official (SAO) meetings, the V & VI International Meeting of States-Members of the Arctic Council, States-Observers to the Arctic Council and Foreign Scientific Community, meetings marking the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arctic Council, the 1st White House Arctic Science Ministerial meeting (2016), the Warsaw Format Meeting, etc.
- China has attended the Working Groups, Task Forces and/or Expert Groups WG/meetings of the Council, including: the meetings of the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) working group (2016), the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group (2016), the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) working group (2016) and the Scientific Cooperation Task Force (SCTF) (2016).
- China has recommended more than 25 experts to relevant programs, 8 of them have been invited to engage in specific programs : 2 experts for the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Networks of PAME , 2 experts for recommendation and review on relevant reports of the Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP), 3 experts for the Arctic

Contaminants Action Program (ACAP), 3 experts for the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiatives (AMBI) of CAFF, 1 expert for the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACCA) of AMAP. Several concrete suggestions and contributions were made to relevant projects from the Chinese experts.

- China hosted several meetings and sessions related to Arctic issues included : the Ny-Ålesund Science Managers Committee Seminar in Xiamen (2016), the country session in the Third Arctic Circle Assembly (2015), the breakout session regarding the sustainable development of the indigenous peoples and Asia's contribution in the Arctic Frontier Meeting (2016).
- China has contributed to the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat on the project of *A Story Map of Indigenous Peoples and the Arctic Council* to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Arctic Council.
- China has appointed Mr. Gao Feng as the first Special Representative for Arctic Affairs of the MFA on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2016. Mr. Gao will also act as the senior Arctic official of China to the Council to further enhance China's contribution to the Council.

If applicable, please describe in no more than 1 page your state or organization's future plans for contributing to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces and/or Expert Groups. Please highlight intentions to contribute to specific projects and to collaborate with Permanent Participants.

China stands ready to further contribute to the work of the Arctic Council.

- China will continue to participate in the relevant meetings under the framework of the Arctic Council including the Ministerial meetings, the spring and autumn SAO meetings and the meetings of Working Groups, Task Forces and/or Expert Groups WG/meetings of the Council, such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> compliance meeting of the AMBI in Singapore in 2017, etc.
- Besides the experts already engaged in the work of the Council, China has established a pool of experts ready to participate in the work and projects of the Council once invited, including 13 experts for the PAME, 18 experts for the AMAP, 3 experts for the CAFF, 5 experts for the ACAP, 4 experts for the SDWG and 2 experts for the EPPR.
- China will continue to carry out the Arctic scientific research, projects on environmental protection monitoring and promoting Arctic shipping management. China will conduct the 8<sup>th</sup> Arctic scientific expedition in 2018. China plans to accomplish the translation of the Guideline for the Arctic Ocean Passage in 2017 and draw 60 relevant nautical maps before 2020.
- China will continue the existing bilateral and multilateral dialogue and cooperation with the Arctic States and non-Arctic States, while welcoming more inclusive, comprehensive and diversified cooperation with all relevant stakeholders regarding the Arctic affairs. China will co-host a seminar on Arctic issues with the Institute of Arctic Research of Finland, the 5<sup>th</sup> China-Nordic Arctic Cooperation Symposium in 2017 and open to other possible collaboration.

If applicable, please describe in no more than 1 page your state or organization's contributions to other aspects of the Arctic Council and its goals not covered by the previous sections since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years.

**Policy.** China is formulating China's Arctic policy since 2015.

**Scientific research.** In 2016, China has successfully conducted the seventh Arctic scientific expedition. China initiated various projects regarding the climate change, pollution and environmental security in the Arctic. China built the Arctic UAV remote sensing system and carried out 5 flights in the Svalbard archipelago. As a member of the International Arctic Science Committee and the Ny-Ålesund Science Managers Committee, China also actively engaged in international cooperation in Arctic scientific research. In 2015, the Ocean University of China dispatched experts to the sixth Korean Arctic scientific research, as well as worked on data collection in the Nordic Sea together with the Institute of Marine Research of Norway. In 2016, China and Russia conducted a joint Arctic scientific research. The China-Iceland Joint Aurora Observatory foundationstone laying ceremony was held as planned, the Observatory will be open to international society when established.

**Environmental protection.** China has made tremendous effort to facilitate the early entry into force and implementation of the Paris Agreement and devoted to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Shipping.** In 2016, China issued the Chinese version of Guideline for Navigation in West-east Passage of the Arctic, and continue commercial trial voyage using the Arctic Sea Route.

**Bilateral and multilateral exchanges.** In 2015&2016, China held dialogues on Arctic affairs with Russia, the United States, UK, France and Iceland respectively. In 2016, China, Japan and Korea held the first Trilateral High-Level Dialogue on the Arctic in Seoul.

**Multilateral meetings.** In 2015&2016, China attended the Assembly of the Arctic Circle, the Arctic Frontier, the Arctic Summit Week, the International Arctic Science Committee and the Year of Polar Prediction(YOPP) etc.