

## Cover sheet

Full name of Observer State or Observer Organization:

The Northern Forum

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Observer's website:

www.northernforum.org

### Information for appropriate contact person

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The Northern Forum

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## Observer Report

Please describe in no more than two pages your State's 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. Please detail any collaboration with Permanent Participants, such as project proposal endorsement and support.

The Northern Forum is only Observer organization of the Arctic Council which Secretariat is located on the territory of Russian Federation and faced sanctions impact. Due to sanctions Lapland and Akureyri left the organization and communication with western partners were limited seriously. It is very difficult to maintain effective collaboration with partners from the West being located mostly in Russia but The Northern Forum try to do all the best to keep, at least, communication alive.

The NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev took part in the meeting of Norwegian SAO Morten Hoglund with Observers on January 2023.

So, The Northern Forum supported several events of the Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council in 2023: Research to practice conference on climate change and permafrost thawing in Yakutsk, March 2023; the International Traditional Reindeer Herding Championship in Neryungri, March 2023; Safe Arctic – 2023 Research and Trial Exercise in Salekhard and Yakutsk, April 2023; I Forum of Associations and Consortiums on Northern Territories in Tomsk in April 2023;

Two Arctic Council projects were discussed at the meeting of RAIPON Coordinating Council during the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Salekhard on May 11, 2023: Children of the Arctic and Digitalization of the Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic. When discussing the future of the projects, the NF Executive Director noted that both projects were also the priority projects of the Northern Forum, and proposed to continue organizing roundtables at the Northern Sustainable Development Forum, to ensure that the research on the projects is included in the work plan of the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research. The work on these projects continues in Russia based on the Agreement between RAIPON and The Northern Forum.

Roundtable on the Concept of Indigenous Peoples Support till 2035 was organized together with RAIPON within 5<sup>th</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum.

When the Arctic Council working groups started their activities, Mr. Paul Fuhs, The Northern Forum Goodwill Ambassador from Alaska (USA), was recommended to the Shipping Expert Group.

The Northern Forum try to use neutral platforms to strengthen cooperation with the Arctic states and organizations. The first ever Arctic Pavilion was created on COP29 in Baku. Unfortunately, no Arctic Council states, working groups or Permanent participants raised an interest in organizing sessions or meeting in this absolutely international pavilion. But during pavilion's work the meeting with Morten Hoglund, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials was organized and we discussed ways of more productive engagement of the Northern Forum into the Arctic Council activities in future.

Then, thanks to Mr. Rolf Rodven, AMAP Executive Secretary, AMAP session was organized in the pavilion on November 14. AMAP presented their updated Report on Climate Change and we organize brief discussions on Observers engagement in AMAP activities.

Sara Olsvig, Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, participated as speaker of session "Critical Minerals for Energy Transition: Intergenerational Perspective".

It would be great if the Arctic Council, its structures will combine efforts with The Northern Forum in creating the Arctic Pavilion in coming COPs, it will be great collaboration to share the Arctic voice with all countries. 47 sessions were organized in the Arctic Pavilion on COP29 and initiators of sessions were from all over the world: Asia, Africa, Latin and Northern America, Europe, Russia.

If applicable, please describe in no more than one page your State's 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.

The Northern Forum plans to be more active in the Arctic Council's activities inviting more experts from western countries to be The Northern Forum Goodwill Ambassadors and represent the organization in the working and expert groups.

The Northern Forum can provide assistance in organizing collaboration with Russian experts in project activities:

There are many concerns on Domestic and Wild Reindeers populations management and we plan to create expert group on this issue. It would be good to continue productive communication with Permanent Participants to share ideas, knowledge.

Wildlife fires are serious problem in Russian Far East and The Northern Forum member regions have a great experience in modelling, preservation and fighting them.

The Northern Youth Forum, The Northern Forum Schools Association also can be useful to strengthen cooperation with Permanent Participants and working groups.

The Northern Forum is a member of Russian State Council on Tourism, so some projects on tourism development could be considered.

We plan to organize several events in India, Mongolia, China and these events are opened for experts of any countries interested in the Arctic cooperation. We would like to coordinate our efforts with the Arctic Council Secretariat, Permanent Participants, Working Groups in organizing events.

And COP30 in Brazil can be an excellent possibility to strengthen Arctic cooperation by creating the Arctic Pavilion again.

If applicable, please describe in no more than one page your State's 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.