



Conference on Gender Equality and Women in the Arctic

3 – 6 August 2002 • Saariselkä Finland

Taking Wing – Conference on Gender Equality and Women in the Arctic

SAO/2002/A/13.1.

- Time** 3—6 August 2002
- Place** Saariselkä, Inari, Finland (closest airport Ivalo)
- Organisers** The Gender Equality Unit at the Ministry for Social Affairs and Health, Finland, in co-operation with the Arctic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- Goals**
- Raising decision-makers' awareness of the situation of women in the arctic**
This includes fact finding of the current situation: what is the women's situation today, what are the problems and future visions? What are the main national, regional or circumpolar policies used to treat the problems? How do they affect women, indigenous peoples and gender equality in the Arctic? What can be done? What are the roles of the different actors, such as the governments, communities and NGOs? What kind of co-operation is there between the actors? The intention is also to review existing policies and examples of good practices and make proposals for future action.
- Integrating the gender perspective in the work of the existing administrative bodies**
The conference acts as a vehicle in bringing actions supporting gender equality on the agenda of the relevant existing bodies in the Arctic. These bodies include The Arctic Council, The Nordic Council and The Nordic Council of Ministers, national and regional authorities and local and indigenous governments and indigenous peoples' organisations.
- Formulating an action agenda**
- Themes**
- Crosscutting themes**
The conference is about women and gender in the Arctic. Issues brought to debate should, therefore, be considered from an arctic viewpoint, as well as from the viewpoint of indigenous peoples where appropriate. Social, economic and cultural change is a further crosscutting theme of the conference.
- Women and work in the Arctic**
This theme deals with the fundamental issue of earning one's living and economy in the Arctic. It may cover various important issues for women in the arctic economies such as living conditions and occupations, capacity building and knowledge, women as entrepreneurs, women and the public sector, tourism/ eco-tourism, land rights, and the use of natural resources as an economic base.
- Gender in the self-determination of indigenous peoples**
Gender in self-determination can cover themes such as leadership in the communities, empowerment, gender roles in the governance of indigenous institutions, legislative practices, and traditional knowledge.
- Violence Against Women**
The context of violence against women may include issues such as the need to break the silence around violence, impacts of violence on social wellbeing and health, experiences of the service systems in crisis management, and trafficking in women and prostitution.



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Participants

- 200 participants. Each member state and Permanent Participant in the Arctic Council has a quota of 10 delegates representing one of the following
- Representatives of indigenous peoples' organisations
- Representatives of relevant NGOs
- Researchers who have expertise in arctic issues
- Representatives of the Arctic Council, the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Barents Council, local and indigenous governments and indigenous peoples' organisations and national and regional authorities
- Representatives from such international organisations as the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues and the EU.

Working methods

The conference working methods are the plenary and workshops. Each set of four parallel workshops is preceded by 2-3 keynote speeches addressing the general issues within each theme. Please see the preliminary program outline for details on keynote speeches.

At this stage of preparations, the topics of the workshops are foreseen as:

Women and Work

1. Women as entrepreneurs
2. Natural resources, use of land, land rights
3. Living conditions
4. Occupations, capacity building, knowledge, education

Gender in the Self Determination of Indigenous Peoples

1. Gender in the self determination of indigenous peoples, gender roles in the governance of indigenous institutions
2. Leadership in the communities, empowerment of women
3. Gender in legislative practices
4. Traditional knowledge

Violence Against Women

1. Breaking the silence around violence against women
2. Women's health in the Arctic
3. Experiences of service systems
4. Trafficking in women and prostitution

Artistic program & Free workshops

The fourth set of workshops on Tuesday is reserved for artistic program such as videos, literature readings and other performances.

Some of the workshops may also continue the discussions begun in the earlier workshops.

A chairperson and a vice-chairperson as well as a rapporteur and assistant rapporteur will be appointed for each plenary session and workshop.

Please see the Preliminary Program of the Workshops for further details.



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The Outcomes of the Conference

- A recommendation for integrating a gender perspective in the work of the Arctic Council to be proposed at the Ministerial meeting in October 2002.
- A conference report including the speeches and presentations given at the conference, to be published before the ministerial meeting.

Information

For further information please see the conference homepage at <http://www.arctic-council.org/whatsnew.asp> or contact the conference co-ordinator

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