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The SDGs in the Arctic – Local and Global Perspectives

On Friday 1 December 2017, Mr. Anders Samuelsen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark, and Ms. Suka K. Frederiksen, Minister of Independence, Foreign Affairs and Agriculture, Greenland, in partnership with the Arctic Economic Council and planned together with the Faroe Islands, hosted an international high-level Conference in Copenhagen on the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arctic. Mr. Martin Breum, journalist and writer on Arctic affairs, moderated the Conference.

The Conference offered dynamic discussions on sustainable development in the Arctic, including economic development, and the three dimensions of the SDGs: social; environmental; and economic. Thereby the Conference contributed to the work of the Arctic Council during Finland’s Chairmanship with its emphasis on the SDGs and the deliberations on a long-term strategy plan for the Arctic Council.

The Conference addressed in particular the economic dimension with a strong focus on the role of the private sector and private-public partnerships, the role of the Arctic Council and the Arctic Economic Council, the need for more investments in the Arctic, inclusion of indigenous peoples, and continued local and international cooperation in the region.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Denmark, Ms. Suka K. Frederiksen, Minister of Independence, Foreign Affairs and Agriculture, Greenland, and Mr. Anders Samuelsen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark, before the Conference.

Key insights from speakers

The SDGs present a good framework for strategic and concrete cooperation and economic development in the Arctic.

The SDGs offer universal terminology for sustainable development that set the directions for national and regional cooperation between public, private and local stakeholders.

Companies that align their business models with the SDGs are better suited to meet future market demands.

A holistic approach to development, including the voices of the Arctic peoples, is crucial to ensuring that development is truly sustainable.

Private sector encourages coherent, ambitious and global strategies and regulatory frameworks based on the SDGs.

Regulatory frameworks and physical and technological infrastructure in the Arctic region need improvement in order to facilitate sustainable development, incl. attracting important investments.

Climate change, which is particularly affecting the Arctic, is a global challenge calling for global rules and regulations.

There is no one Arctic region, but rather diverse, multi-dimensional national and sub-national Arctics with similarities and differences.

The **opening high-level segment** featured welcoming remarks by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Denmark followed by the hosting Ministers and a keynote address by Ms. Lise Kingo, CEO of UN Global Compact.

The Conference also featured **key insights** from Mr. Aqqaluaq B. Egede, Minister of Finance and Internal Revenue, Greenland; Mr. Bernhard Friess, Director of Maritime Policy and Blue Economy, European Commission; Mr. Keiji Ide, Japanese Arctic Ambassador.

See all speeches and interventions [here](#)

Press release “The SDGs in the Arctic” from the [Arctic Economic Council](#)



Discussion Panel: The SDGs & the Arctic

A discussion panel on *The SDGs & the Arctic* underscored the fact that the SDGs are universal in nature and highly relevant in the Arctic. Panelists singled out the most important goal seen from their viewpoint while also agreeing that the goals are intertwined and that a holistic approach based on partnerships as described in SDG 17 is paramount when attributing the SDGs to the Arctic and its different regions with varying economic, climate and social challenges.

Several of the panelists linked the partnership discussion to observations of the fact that governments and municipalities must take strategic leadership and follow-up on the growing private sector engagement. Partnerships and political leadership must be open, transparent and take into account the needs of the local and indigenous peoples in the Arctic region.



Lotte Kirkegaard, CSR Greenland: UN Goal no 4 - quality Education - most important 4 #Greenland. This goal impacts so many others #SDGsInArctic

Oversæt fra engelsk



02.20 - 1. dec. 2017 fra København, Danmark

Panelists rallied behind the message that the Arctic region can indeed be at the forefront of the sustainable development agenda, contribute to reaching the SDGs, and potentially be a leading example of cooperation and shared responsibility.



Panel: *The SDGs & the Arctic*. From left to right: Ms. Lise Kingo, CEO & Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact; Mr. Tero Vauraste, Chair of the Arctic Economic Council (Finland); Ms. Lotte Frank Kirkegaard, Chief of Secretariat, CSR Greenland; Mr. Magni Laksafoss, Director for VITorka, (Faroe Islands); Ms. Hannele Pokka, Permanent Secretary of the Finnish Ministry of the Environment (chairmanship of the Arctic Council)



Partnerships for #Arctic research development + local involvement in science & business to enhance SDGs in the Arctic. First takeaways from #SDGsInArctic in CPH today #Greenland #Science


Oversæt fra engelsk





Anne H. Steffensen
@AnneHSteffensen

Følg

I agree with @SturlaHenriksen that global regulation is  to sustainable development: "if you want to go fast go alone, but if you want to go far go together". #SDGsinArctic

Oversæt fra engelsk



05:18 - 1. dec. 2017

A highlight of the day was a **special interview by Mr. Martin Breum of Mr. Sturla Henriksen**, CEO of Norway's Shipowners Association and member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council of the Arctic that formulated the Arctic Investment Protocol. Mr. Henriksen announced on 5 December 2017 that he is joining the UN Global Compact as UN Special Adviser.

Discussion Panel: Sustainable Economic Development in the Arctic

A discussion panel on *Sustainable Economic Development in the Arctic* addressed how the private sector can act as a catalyst for sustainable economic development in the Arctic. Panelists gave their view on how businesses can and should do business in the Arctic in a responsible and sustainable manner while still ensuring economic growth locally.

An example from the Faroe Islands was the production and processing of seaweed for various purposes like energy and food while at the same time being beneficial for the reduction of CO₂ emissions. Another interesting example was optimized production processes such as using the shells from shrimps for various other innovative purposes - thereby reducing food waste.

Several panelists highlighted the need for early involvement of the Arctic peoples, including local youth when aspiring to conduct business in a sustainable way. Communication with the 4 million local and indigenous peoples who live in the Arctic is a necessity, without them valuable knowledge and long-term incentives are lost.

Involving the private sector was also highlighted as crucial to ensuring sustainable development, with a

greater need for more public-private partnerships to help spur economic development. An important point made was that rules and regulations guiding businesses in the Arctic should be uniform in all parts of the Arctic.

While recognizing the increased private sector involvement, some panelists called for even bolder steps by companies in terms of influencing politicians to promote genuine and long-term sustainable development. Finally, panelists saw the need for continued international cooperation across borders and especially through the Arctic Council as particularly significant for sustainable development.



Martin Breum
@Breum_Martin

Følg

Stephen Money, Yukon Research centre: "To me it's a no brainer - you simply have to incorporate indigenous people when doing business in the Arctic" #SDGsinArctic #dkpol #SDG #glpol #arktiskupdate



Henk Swarttouw
@copenhenken

Følg

.@Tvaurast of @ArcticLtd proposes #arctic free-trade zone #SDGsinArctic

Oversæt fra engelsk



Martin Breum
@Breum_Martin

Følg

@TBustrup: "The most important goal is gender equality- because that will fulfil all the other goals" #SDGsinArctic #Goal5 #dkpol #glpol #genderequality

Oversæt fra engelsk

06:53 - 1. dec. 2017

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Panel: Sustainable Economic Development in the Arctic: From left to right: Mr. Sturla Henriksen, CEO of Norway's Shipowners Association; Mr. Alexander Shestakov, Director for Arctic Program, WWF; Mr. Kristian Reinert Davidsen, CEO of Tele-Post (Greenland); Mr. Ólavur Ellefsen, Chairman of the Board, University of the Faroe Islands; Mr. Thomas Bustrup, Deputy Director General, Confederation of Danish Industry; Mr. Stephen Mooney, Director Cold Climate Innovation, Yukon Research Centre (Canada).

Closing session with Senior Arctic Officials

Senior Arctic Officials from Canada (Ms. Alison LeClaire), Finland (Mr. Rene Söderman), Norway (Ms. Anniken Krutnes), Sweden (Mr. Björn Lyrvall), and the Kingdom of Denmark (Ms. Hanne Fugl Eskjær and Ms. Mira Kleist) concluded the day by echoing the importance of cooperation and collaboration between all actors in the Arctic, how inclusion of local and indigenous peoples in the Arctic is key and how public-private partnerships is the way forward when addressing sustainable development in the region. The group concluded by agreeing that the SDGs offer a framework for the Arctic Council's strategic path towards 2030 and pledged to work together towards this goal.

 **Neel Stroebeak**
@NStroebeak

Følg

Closing #SDGsInArctic meeting: 2020-30 #arctic strategy preparation embraces #SDGs & may knit #arctic nations closer together? With #IndigenousPeoples in the centre & #Equality #Diversity #inclusion as necessary parts, responsible business will invest @globalcompact @Ramboll

🌐 Oversæt fra engelsk



11.53 - 1. dec. 2017