

## Arctic Council Coordination

### With Other Arctic International Bodies

#### Discussion Draft

The Arctic Council's Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) noted the need for coordination with other international organizations with Arctic interests, such as the Nordic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Northern Forum and the Council of Baltic Sea States. The SAOs have also taken note of the shared interests of the European Union's "Northern Dimension" and the United States "Northern Europe Initiative."

The SAOs have begun to take the following steps to expand the exchange of information and improve cooperation during the U.S. Chairmanship:

- The SAO of the nation that is serving as Chair of the body or its Executive Secretary will be welcome to update the Arctic Council on developments of interest. (The Nordic Council, the EU's Northern Dimension, the Northern Forum, and the U.S. Northern Europe Initiative have briefed the Arctic Council.)
- The nation that is Chair of the Arctic Council will brief the other bodies as time and travel funds permit. (The U.S., as chair of the Arctic Council, has briefed the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Arctic Parliamentarians.)

The suggestion has been made that the Arctic Council SAOs meet jointly with their counterparts in other bodies. In the absence of a compelling agenda, this has not yet been tried.

In addition, the SAOs agreed that a catalogue of Arctic Council activities should be prepared so that the Council's work might be exchanged with other bodies. The exchange of information, it is hoped, will identify gaps in the coverage of matters of interest to Arctic residents and opportunities for collaboration. The U.S. has compiled a draft catalogue of the Council's activities for SAO's review. (Item 10 of the SAO agenda documents.) The U.S. will seek SAO agreement to circulate the revised catalogue electronically to other international bodies and post the catalogue on the Arctic Council website in advance of the Ministerial meeting in Barrow, Alaska. As with all compilations of information, the challenge to the Council will be to keep the information current. Hot links between websites offer a promising means of exchange and for updating the information frequently at low cost.