About the Arctic Council

• 1991 AEPS “Rovaniemi Process”
• 1996 Ottawa Declaration

• The Arctic Council is a high-level, intergovermental forum for political and scientific discussions on issues common to the governments of the Arctic region and its inhabitants.
Member states
• Aleut International Association (AIA)
• Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC)
• Gwich’in Council International (GCI)
• Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)
• Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East (RAIPON)
• Saami Council (SC)
• Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)
• Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
• Conservation of the Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
• Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)
• Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)
• Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)
Task Forces

- Arctic Economic Council Task Force
- Scientific Cooperation Task Force
- Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention Task Force
- Black Carbon and Methane Task Force
Observers

- Europe: The Netherlands, Spain, UK, Italy, Poland, France, Germany, the EU
- Other countries outside Europe: South-Korea, India, Japan, China and Singapore
- Organizations: IFRC, NEFCO, UN-ECE, UNDP, UNEP, WWF among others, 20 observer organizations in total
Strengthening the Arctic Council

Source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/ilovegreenland/13561517953/
Finland’s proposals 2010

- Revise mandate and working methods
- Better burden-sharing – ensure participation
- Permanent secretariat
- Extended normative role
- Role of observers
- Communication and information
Strengthening the Arctic Council

• Arctic Economic Council
• Security?
• Arctic Summit
• Treaty-based Organization
Finland’s Arctic Vision

Source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/cznr/10559395913
Arctic – why now?

- State change with global dimensions
- New transport routes
- Exploitation of energy and natural resources
- Infrastructure, construction and development of services
Arctic drivers

- climate
- demand for natural resources
- global economy
- technological advancements
- international politics
- international law
Finland’s Arctic Vision

- Finland is an active Arctic actor with the ability to reconcile business opportunities with requirements of the environment in a sustainable manner while drawing upon international cooperation.
What need does the strategy serve?

- Up-to-date analysis of the situation
- Government vision, policies and priorities
- Goals and actions defined
Policy guidelines

• Finland is an Arctic country
• Finland is an Arctic expert
• Finland complies with the principles of sustainable development and respects the basic conditions dictated by the Arctic environment
• International cooperation in the Arctic
Population and social sustainability

• Secure the prerequisites for the well-being of local inhabitants: health, employment and working conditions
• Secure language, culture and services for the Saami population and support their participation
Education and research

• Reinforce broad-based inter-disciplinary Arctic research by making efficient use of international networks
• Invest in education, training and research to strengthen Finland’s international Arctic expertise
• Actively contribute to comprehensive evaluation of changes in the Arctic
Business opportunities

• The Arctic offers Finnish business and industry good opportunities for growth and success
• Identification of new business opportunities and taking advantage of Arctic expertise
• A common and predictable regulation for economic activities
• Environmental requirements and sustainable development as a foundation for competitiveness and business strengths
Areas of Finnish expertise

- Offshore and maritime industry
- Energy
- Renewable natural resources
- Clean technology
- Mining
- Tourism
- Traffic systems
- Data communication and digital services
Environment

• Requirements of the environment, risk assessment and prevention of pollution
• Development of network of protection areas
• Mitigation of and adaption to climate change
Stability

- Maintaining and promoting a stable and secure Arctic
- Responding to security challenges nationally and internationally
- Up-to-date analysis of the situation
- Develop Arctic cooperation and capabilities
- Develop search and rescue activities; expand cooperation between authorities; and intensify crime prevention
International cooperation

• Strengthen the Arctic status of Finland in external relations
• Strengthen international cooperation and international law
• Strengthen the Arctic Council
• Build bilateral Arctic partnerships