Challenges and opportunities in diplomacy in the Arctic

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The platform for Arctic diplomacy

Arctic Council

intergovernmental forum

on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection
Arctic Council

A success-story of information production for over 20 years

Assessment reports compilations of existing information
### Arctic Council has proofed to be influential

- World Summits on Sustainable Development
- IPPC reports
- UN Convention on Biological Diversity

### It affects on national policies
- by arctic and non-arctic states
- strategy documents
- research funding programs

### It has been vital in global treaties
- LRTAP Convention, Protocol on POPs under UN ECE, 1998/2003
- Stockholm Convention on

### It has launched arctic treaties
- Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic, 2011/2013
- Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution
- Preparedness and Response in the Arctic, 2013

### Next:
- IMO International Code of safety for ships operating in polar waters (*Polar Code*) 2015/16
- Arctic Research
- Prevention of oil spill accidents? Fisheries?
Influence on the Arctic Council’s agenda is a matter of…

● **Rules of Procedure:**
  ○ Proposals can be made by Arctic States and Permanent Participants

● **Structure of the AC:**
  ○ The work is done in Working Groups and Task Forces
  ○ WGs propose activities

● **Policy interest** by participants

● **Informal channels**
  ○ shared understanding by the epistemic community
  ○ advanced by individuals as knowledge brokers
Arctic Council structure allows iterative and learning process

AC Assessment - scientists

Political decisions

Strategies, documents, policies
Epistemic community share a view

Policy Leaders
- Ministers of Foreign Affairs
- Deputy Ministers
- Senior Arctic Officials

Diplomats

Experts, Scientists

Indigenous Peoples

Five Environmental Permanent Working Groups
- AMAP - monitoring
- ACAP - actions
- CAFF - nature
- EPPR - emergencies
- PAME - marine

Sustainable Development Working Group
- Ad hoc projects
  - other sectors
  - (except military)
AC chair country’s influence

- two years’ program
  - with specific national interests

- extra policy interest
  - national arrangements

Challenge:

- How to ensure continuity for strategic thinking in the AC?
Available resources influence

Opportunity and challenge:

• Only projects that have resources are accepted
  • resources are dependent on national funding of projects
  • sometimes supported by other entities
Indigenous People as permanent participants

Opportunity

- have a right to propose activities

Challenge:

- Increasing global interest towards the Arctic must not overshadow IPs unique position
Observers:
Non-arctic states, organizations

Opportunity:
- AC has inclusive policy to accept Observers
  - increases AC’s global influence

Challenge:
- AC has no systematic structure how Observers can participate to discussions
  - reduces AC’s global influence
Local governance

Challenge:
- The AC has no structure for local level officers
  - Locals participate in national delegations
- Reduces AC’s influence in local level

Opportunity:
- The new AACA-project
  - Adaptation Actions for Changing Arctic
    - Has strong stakeholder participation component
    - New connections between AC and local officers
Private sector

Opportunity:

- Arctic Economic Council was established in 2014
  - potential to increase AC influence at local level

Challenge:

- Is there true interest?
Scientists & experts

Opportunity:

● Working Groups
  ○ Active input form researchers and experts
  ○ non-arctic researchers can participate

● AC structure offer a channel for “science diplomacy”

Challenge:

● science and politics must not be blurred with each other
Increasing need for research in the Arctic:

- Arctic States have launched new research programs
- Non-arctic actors are investing in arctic research
- Agreement on research co-operation in the Arctic under development
  - Important to be open for participation by non-arctic states
- Researchers seek funding for their co-operation
  - Resource for the AC
Arctic Council as an arena for diplomacy...

- AC’s influence depends on *engaging and inclusive* operation
  - AC should not be developed as a legally binding organization as it would
    - narrow down the agenda
    - limit participation
    - decrease reactivity and flexibility
    - reduce AC’s influence

- In current economic and geopolitical situation environment and related societal issues most likely remain high on the agenda
  - the role of research and science diplomacy will stay strong

Opportunity to even greater enhancement of knowledge in the Arctic

AC can offer a global model for diplomacy, informed decision making and use of scientific knowledge
Thank you!
Increasing need for research in the Arctic:

- **Opportunity to even greater enhancement of knowledge in the Arctic**

- **Arctic States have launched new research programs**
  - Economic interests, environmental concerns
  - To show authority

- **Non-arctic actors are investing to arctic research**
  - Economic interests, concerns about climate change
  - Increase legitimacy to enter the Arctic
  - Awareness of the role of “science diplomacy” in the Arctic
  - Discussions about political involvement of non-arctic actors should not overshadow their potential, expertise and benefits they can bring to the Arctic

- **Agreement on research co-operation in the Arctic under development**
  - Potential increase efficiency of arctic research and its funding
  - **Important to be open for participation by non-arctic states**

- **Researchers seek funding for their co-operation**
  - resource for the AC
Rules of Procedure of the AC and its WGs supervise how the agenda is formulated

• Proposals for projects and programs can be made by Arctic States and Permanent Participants

• The work is done in Working Groups and Task Forces as “chair country projects”
AC member country’s activity to chair projects is dependent on:

- … the national importance of the Arctic.
- … the available resources
- … national structure to handle arctic issues
According to modern science and technology studies, the influence of information is dependent on ownership to the information process i.e. participation to definition and production of the information - credibility, legitimacy, salience -
Arctic region is increasingly prominent in international relations:

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