

FORUM: Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA4)

QUESTION OF: Addressing the conflict and geopolitical issues in the Arctic

SUBMITTED BY: Russian Federation

CO-SUBMITTED: Afghanistan, Brazil, Costa Rica, Republic of the Congo, DPRK, Egypt, Hungary, Italy, India, Iran, Portugal, Qatar, Spain, Switzerland

THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE,

Understanding that the Arctic Circle has become a symbol of the devastating effects of climate change,

Deeply concerned by the increasing involvement of non-arctic states in the matter,

Guided by the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), particularly those concerning the rights of coastal states and the free and unimpeded navigation of international waters,

Emphasizing the necessity of maintaining international cooperation, peaceful coexistence, and the sustainable use of natural resources,

Affirming the commitment of the Arctic Council and relevant international frameworks to facilitate cooperation and dialogue among Arctic states and stakeholders,

1. Requests that conflict in the region is addressed by the two different commissions of the Arctic Council, one of them being the Arctic Council, and the other being the newly founded sub-commission International Arctic Advisory Council (IAAC), non arctic states will be included in this commission to ensure transparency in possible conflicts:
 - a) members of this new council will be approved by the current Arctic Council members, who will be natural founders of it, with a majority vote, each member state will have 2 representatives in the council,
 - b) this council will be tasked to find unbiased solutions, since its members will contain states that don't have an Arctic border, and therefore have no interest in the area, and it will act in a similar way to the Arctic council, with the goal of facilitating dialogue with Arctic and non-Arctic states,
 - c) for the decisions of the council to be enforced, any member opposing the council will face tariffs for arctic trade with the other members of the Arctic Council
 - i. by incorporating legal and environmental considerations that are to address sustainable development in the region,

- ii. encouraging Arctic Council's role in Global Governance in order to maintain its vital role in the Arctic's Government,
 - d) by increasing engagement in global environmental and security issues with the aim of pushing for formal or informal participation in the Arctic Council deliberations through arctic forums for Arctic and non-Arctic countries to discuss matters of mutual interest,
 - e) balancing Environmental protection and Economic development that aims in the Resilience to Climate Changes and in saving costs through:
 - i. sustainable development goals in order to ensure that economic development in the Arctic is carried out in a way that minimizes environmental harm and benefits local communities,
 - ii. environmental impact assessments in order to ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to provide input on these;
2. Asks for the collaboration of all Arctic Council sub-commissions to define trade routes as international waters in respect of each country's claim and their respective Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):
- a) parts of the trade route will be controlled by the state including the part in its EEZ, but international vessels will have the right to freely pass through as long as it complies with the standards:
 - i. any cargo ship traveling on the trade route needs to report its cargo 2 months prior,
 - ii. the ship with its cargo should not exceed a weight limit set in the Arctic Council with the owner of the vessels partaking in the discussions,
 - b) for any state wishing to use these trade routes, they will need to sign a treaty with the following articles:
 - i. trade vessels will pass freely in times of peace as long as they obey the standards,
 - ii. military vehicles will only be allowed to pass if they belong to an Arctic state and obey the weight and armament standards,
 - iii. in times of war, the member state controlling the trade route will have the right to suspend all traffic;
3. Calls for joint research missions to be conducted on the arctic ice and seabed, including both arctic and non-arctic nations, costs will be shared fairly between the partaking nations:
- a) joint research missions will support international collaboration in the Arctic region by increasing collective actions with the support of these missions which will help solve the disputes over the region,

- b) research missions conducted in the seabed of the Arctic will support the bilateral and international procedures of determining the EEZ's of each Arctic bordering nation;
4. Invites the Arctic states to solve territorial claim issues with bilateral agreements with the assistance of international community:
- a) countries with overlapping claims are obliged to engage in bilateral discussions to discuss the maritime borders, resource distribution and military presence, agreements similar to the Barents Sea Treaty obeying the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) should be made,
 - b) if results of these discussions are proven to be fruitless, international organs such as the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) should support the discussions in accordance with international law and evidence from both sides,
 - c) making the decisions of the Arctic Council binding;
5. Expresses its hope for the natural protection of the Arctic environment, wildlife and indigenous population through actions such as:
- a) complying with the polar code on the design and the operation of the ships that will be tasked to operate in the arctic region,
 - b) actively protecting the environment while conducting research and resource extraction missions using eco-friendly equipment and techniques by:
 - i. investing in technologies that minimize the environmental impact of resource extraction in the Arctic,
 - ii. focusing on renewable energy, sustainable practices, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to help safeguard the Arctic and its ecosystems for future generations,
 - c) engaging in active discussion with the indigenous Arctic population while also getting their opinion about Arctic wildlife protection and environmental policies which are related with the matters, as they are the main victims of any side-effect that may be caused by any agreements,
 - d) promoting knowledge exchange on sustainable practices and green technologies
 - e) all Arctic states to reconsider their environmental policies both nationally and internationally to protect the Arctic:
 - i. actively refraining from actions that will result in the polar ice to melt and will disrupt the natural balance,
 - ii. respecting the natural wildlife and their habitats by avoiding external contamination and preventing illegal poaching and fishing,
 - f) ensuring that the local native population will not be overseen or harmed in any way;

6. Urges the equitable resource distribution and protection of sovereignty in the Arctic, using means such as, but not limited to:
 - a) introducing a global Arctic resource-sharing agreement, which will:
 - i. establish a UN-administered Arctic resource fund to distribute resource revenues equally among member states,
 - ii. require contributions from resource-extracting nations to the Fund for global development projects,
 - iii. prioritize the inclusion of developing nations in resource-sharing mechanisms,
 - b) recognizing sovereignty while ensuring collective ownership, by:
 - i. upholding the principle of non-interference in the Arctic territories of sovereign states,
 - ii. preventing unilateral claims by superpowers through binding international arbitration under UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea),
 - iii. including Indigenous communities in discussions on Arctic sovereignty and resource use;

7. Proposes the strengthening of multilateral diplomatic engagement among the eight Arctic states within the framework of the Arctic Council, to create binding agreements on territorial claims, resource management, and environmental protection in the Arctic region, through means such as:
 - a) shared resource management system to ensure sustainable, and transparent extraction of natural resources, to prioritize Indigenous people and local communities,
 - b) Environmental standards to govern industrial practices such as fishing or oil drilling in support of the ecological protection criteria to safeguard the Arctic's fragile ecosystem,
 - c) establish a UN-administered Arctic resource fund to distribute resource revenues equally among member states,
 - d) require contributions from resource-extracting nations to the Fund for global development projects,
 - e) prioritize the inclusion of developing nations in resource-sharing mechanisms;