

BACKGROUND

NEEDS TO BE UPDATED
BY ODD ROGNE

This proposal is the result of many preliminary studies, papers, policy statements and discussions within and between countries concerned with Arctic science and research. A preliminary international meeting was held at San Diego, USA, on 20 June, 1986. Another meeting took place in Oslo, Norway, in February, 1987, involving participants from the eight Arctic countries (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, USA, USSR). A subsequent meeting was held in Stockholm, Sweden, from 24 to 26 March, 1988.

Participants of the Stockholm meeting from the eight Arctic countries, hereinafter referred to as the founding countries, unanimously agreed that an International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) should be established to promote international cooperation and coordination of scientific research in the Arctic. The Planning Group appointed a Drafting group to develop a proposal for an organizational framework for the IASC.

The draft proposal was discussed at a meeting of the Planning Group in Leningrad, USSR, from 10 to 11 December, 1988. The result of this meeting was the proposal "Founding Articles for an International Arctic Science Committee".

The Planning group is composed of:

O. R. Rogne	Norway - Chairman
R. W. Corell	USA
I. Foighel	Denmark
A. Karlqvist	Sweden
V. M. Kotlyakov	USSR
E. Leppävuori	Finland
M. Magnusson	Iceland
F. A. Mathys	Canada

PROPOSAL
19 May 1989

FOUNDING ARTICLES

for an

INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SCIENCE COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVES of national scientific organizations of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the United States of America,

RECOGNIZING the need to encourage and facilitate international consultation and cooperation for scientific research concerned with the Arctic,

RECOGNIZING the importance of the Arctic in advancing world science,

RECOGNIZING the special interests of the countries of the Arctic Region,

RECOGNIZING the important role of, and the need to work closely with, national scientific organizations from countries outside the Arctic region which have an active and continuing Arctic research programme,

HAVE DECIDED to establish an International Arctic Science Committee (IASC).

A. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. IASC is a non-governmental scientific organization established to encourage and facilitate international consultation and cooperation for scientific research concerned with the Arctic.
2. IASC, in carrying out its activities, will strive for the highest standards of excellence and be guided by the principle of scientific openness.
3. IASC endeavours to cover all subjects and fields of science for the advancement of world science and for the benefit of the Arctic regions.
4. IASC will take into account programmes and activities on Arctic research advanced by other scientific organizations and will cooperate with them whenever appropriate.
5. IASC will not interfere with the scientific activities of any country or group of countries carrying out research in the Arctic, nor commit governments to support or approve programmes or activities.
6. The activities of the IASC will in no way affect the rights or obligations of countries under international law with respect to scientific research in areas within their jurisdiction.
7. A Liaison Committee will be established by the eight founding countries to ensure that the conduct of IASC-activities is consistent with regional interests of those countries. The character of the issues to be considered will determine the number of countries (all, five or fewer) which will participate in the discussion.

B. THE IASC

1. The IASC (hereafter called a Committee) has as its responsibilities, inter alia:
 - i. Developing policies and guidelines for cooperative scientific research concerned with the Arctic.
 - ii. Endorsing plans developed by Working Groups and recommending scientific programmes and projects.
 - iii. Recommend, in cooperation with the appropriate Working Groups, implementation plans for IASC programmes and activities, and
 - iv. Develop plans and facilitate the coordination of logistics and operations for IASC programmes, projects, and activities.
 - v. Establishing working groups, as needed, and the terms of reference for and participation in such groups.
 - vi. Provide a linkage between the IASC and national Arctic research programmes.
 - vii. Organizing Arctic Science Conferences.
2. The IASC will be served by a Secretariat.
3. Participation in the IASC (Participating Countries) will be open to:
 - i. representatives of the scientific organizations of the eight Arctic countries,
 - ii. representatives of the scientific organizations of any other countries, during such time as those countries are engaged in significant Arctic research. ✓
4. The representatives of the IASC are appointed by their relevant national organization to represent the scientific community in their country.
5. The IASC shall carry out its functions in the spirit of consensus. If a consensus can not be reached the support of the eight Arctic countries is necessary for the adaption of a decision or recommendation.

6. The IASC will have recommendatory, not decision-making, functions with respect to scientific research priorities and programmes concerned with the Arctic.

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C. WORKING GROUPS

1. Working Groups provide the main fora for the IASC to develop programmes and activities. They are established by the Committee to:
 - i. Exchange information,
 - ii. Discuss problems, methods, and research directions,
 - iii. Identify opportunities for cooperation.
2. Working Groups will develop and recommend proposals for programmes, projects, and activities to the Committee.
3. Working Group participants will be scientists with expertise and experience in the central task of the Group. Each participating country may have at least one member of a Working Group. Working groups may invite scientists or other experts from any country to assist them in their work, with the Committee's approval.
4. Working Groups will be composed of representatives from participating countries.

D. THE ARCTIC SCIENCE CONFERENCE

1. An Arctic Science Conference will be convened periodically by the IASC to identify key scientific questions and issues. The Conference will provide an international forum to:
 - i. Review the current status of Arctic Science,
 - ii. Provide scientific and technical advice,
 - iii. Promote cooperation and links with other national and international organizations, and
 - iv. Increase understanding and support for the work of the IASC.
2. To meet these objectives, the Conference will seek the participation of scientists from the broad international scientific community involved in Arctic research.
3. The Conference will be organized under guidelines and procedures established by the Committee.
4. The Conference will produce a report and recommendations which will be reviewed by the Committee.

E. SECRETARIAT

1. A Secretariat will be established to serve the organizational needs of the IASC.
2. The Secretariat will be directed by an Executive Secretary responsible to the Committee.
3. The host country will provide basic funding for the operation of the IASC Secretariat. Basic funding includes salaries for an Executive Secretary, office help, basic office expenses and some travel funds.
4. The Secretariat will be located in one of the Arctic countries.

F. RULES AND PROCEDURES

The Committee may establish, as needed, Rules and Procedures to guide their work.

G. FUNDING

Participating organizations will be responsible for travel and other related costs of their representatives to the IASC. Costs of programmes, projects, or special activities will be borne by organization participating in such efforts.

H. ENTRY INTO EFFECT OF THE FOUNDING ARTICLES

1. The Founding Articles will take effect when endorsed by a representative of the national scientific organizations of the eight Arctic Countries responsible for the founding of the IASC.
2. Endorsement will take the form of signature by a representative of the national scientific organizations of the Founding Countries.
3. Five years after the entry into affect of the Founding Articles, a meeting will be held to review the activities and the organizations of the IASC, and, if necessary, to revise the Founding Articles.
4. The Founding Articles are endorsed by the national scientific organizations who have signed below:

_____	_____
(Name of Organization)	
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____