

**International Arctic  
Science Committee  
IASC**

**Founding Articles**

*A report of the Planning Group*

Meeting in Leningrad 10-11. December 1988

*Prepared by*

<i>O. R. Rogne</i>	<i>Oslo, Norway. Chairman</i>
<i>R. W. Corell</i>	<i>Washington D.C., USA</i>
<i>I. Foighel</i>	<i>Copenhagen, Denmark</i>
<i>A. Karlqvist</i>	<i>Stockholm, Sweden</i>
<i>V. M. Kotlyakov</i>	<i>Moscow, USSR</i>
<i>E. Leppävuori</i>	<i>Espoo, Finland</i>
<i>M. Magnusson</i>	<i>Reykjavik, Iceland</i>
<i>F. A. Mathys</i>	<i>Ottawa, Canada</i>

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## Background

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/Greenland, 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

11 December 1988

Founding Articles  
for an  
International Arctic Science Committee

REPRESENTATIVES of national scientific organizations of Canada, Denmark/Greenland, 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,

HAVE DECIDED to establish an International Arctic Science Committee.

THE COMMITTEE will have the following structure:

## 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 be guided by the highest standards of excellence in science and 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 consider programmes and activities on Arctic research advanced by other international scientific organizations and will seek to 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.

## B. Organization and Participation

1. The IASC will be composed of:
  - A Board
  - An Arctic Science Conference
  - An Arctic Science Programmes Group
  - Scientific Working Groups
  - A Secretariat
2. Representatives from the founding and otherwise qualified countries will participate in the activities of the IASC.
3. A qualified country is a non-founding country with an active and continuing research programme concerned with the Arctic.
4. The representatives will be appointed by the relevant national organization to represent the scientific community.

## C. The Board

1. The Board is responsible for the overall activities of the IASC, including
  - i. Establishing policies and guidelines for IASC cooperative scientific research concerned with the Arctic.
  - ii. Endorsing plans and recommendations for scientific programmes and projects to be undertaken by the IASC.
  - iii. Establishing an Arctic Science Programmes Group and Scientific Working Groups, including terms of reference and participation, and
  - iv. Organizing an Arctic Science Conference.
2. The IASC, through the Board, will be served by a Secretariat.
3. The Board will be composed of a representative from each of the founding countries.
4. Decisions are based on consensus.

## D. The Arctic Science Conference

1. An Arctic Science Conference of the IASC will be convened periodically. The central purpose of which is 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 Board.
4. The Conference will produce a report and recommendations, which will be reviewed and endorsed by the Board.