

The Doon School Model United Nations
Conference 2019

Background Guide



United Nations Security Council



DSMUN '19

Secretary General

Vikram Jain

President

Nandil B. Sarma

Chairperson

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Dear delegates,

As the Secretary General, It is my honour and privilege to welcome you all to the 13th Doon School Model United Nations Conference. DSMUN has been growing exponentially and actively augmenting the level and intensity of crises, debate and co-operation with each passing year. It is a legacy that we hope to continue and reinforce with this year's conference.

In an ever volatile, dynamic and adaptive international status-quo, it becomes increasingly vital for us as students- and thereby potential actors in the same system of compromise- to deliberate, discuss and formulate the groundwork of bi-lateral and multi-lateral ties that are to be established in the future.

With firm precedence, it would not be wrong to say that delegates, having attended this conference in the past, have developed a deeper and a more empirical understanding of diplomacy, compromise and conflict. While the Viceroy's Executive Council strives to ensure the peaceful transfer of power from the British to the Indian Union in 1946, the NATO contemplates the feasibility of occupying Antarctica. From condemning theocracies to enforcing climate laws, DSMUN will be an invigorating amalgamation of resolving and debating dissidence, dispute and disparity.

Besides whiling away my time watching typical Netflix Rom-coms, I find myself engrossed in reading about the framework and history of international and national politics. I am in- charge of the historical and political society and the editor of various publications in school. Having participated in various MUNs in India and abroad, I have had the opportunity to serve DSMUN in various capacities, and subsequently feel privileged to be given the opportunity to be at the organisational apex of the conference this year.

I eagerly await your presence at Chandbagh.

Warm regards,

Vikram Jain



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President's Address

Greetings!

As the President of the Doon School Model United Nations Society, it gives me immense pleasure to invite you to the 13th Session of the Doon School Model United Nations Conference. Being at the pinnacle of a conference that finds itself amidst the top ranks in the country, both in terms of global outreach and quality, has been an absolute honour. However, we at Doon constantly strive to outdo ourselves and promise that this edition of DSMUN will outdo all of its predecessors be it in terms of organizational skill, quality of debate or participation not just from the South Asian region but from around the world. It is with this vision in mind that I extend my heartiest welcome to each one of you to this year's conference.

The scope of this year's DSMUN will not remain confined to conventional committees. Keeping this in mind, we have expanded DSMUN's committee choices incorporating some bold and new ideas. With the introduction of highly challenging committees such as Lincoln's War Cabinet (1864), Viceroy's Executive Council (1946), Union Council of Ministers (1984) and the Rajya Sabha, we aim to pull off a conference not limited to one's imagination. This year's committees are aimed at developing informative deliberations and solutions to issues: both of global and national significance. Discussions pertaining to context of historical events allows one to explore the multitude of possibilities and find answers to the fundamental question of 'what if'. Having said so, the essential Model UN committees still remain intact providing an interesting challenge in terms of debate, wit and diplomacy to one and all.

As for myself, I am currently surviving the ISC curriculum and hold a keen interest in Politics and History. I deeply enjoy playing sports be it athletics or football. If not on the sports field, you can probably catch me commenting on Tottenham Hotspurs bleak chances of clinching a trophy. I also serve as the School Captain of the Doon School and the Editor-in-Chief of the Yearbook, one of the school's flagship publications.

Looking forward to seeing you all in August.

Warm Regards,

Nandil B. Sarma

Introduction to the committee

The United Nations Security Council is one of the most prestigious committees at the United Nations with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and dealing with security issues. It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, charged with maintaining international peace and security, accepting new members to the United Nations and approving any changes to its charter. Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations and international sanctions as well as the authorization of military actions through resolutions.

Conventionally, the Security Council consists of fifteen members. The great powers that were the victors of World War II – the Soviet Union (now represented by Russia), the United Kingdom, France, China, and the United States – serve as the body's five permanent members. These can veto any substantive resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or nominees for the office of Secretary-General. In addition, the council has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve a term of two years.

The UN's role in international collective security is defined by the UN Charter, which authorizes the Security Council to investigate any situation threatening international peace; recommended procedures for peaceful resolution of a dispute; call upon other member nations to completely or partially interrupt economic relations as well as sea, air, postal, and radio communications, or to sever diplomatic relations; and enforce its decisions militarily, or by any means necessary.

While other committees or organizations of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, the Security Council is the only organ, which has the power to make decisions that member states are then obliged to obey. Moreover, a low number of member countries allows for decisive and effective action to be taken.

The council is assigned to the task of determining the existence of a threat to peace or an act of aggression. The council aims at settling these disputes by using peaceful means, but can use methods of force as well.

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Agenda 1

The Enforcement of International Climate Change Legislation.

Overview

With rapidly changing weather patterns and sea levels, it becomes increasingly clear that climate change is the defining issue of our time. The effects of climate change are widespread. It is disrupting economic progress, affecting the quality of life, increasing costs incurred by various people and communities, while raising global temperatures. As time passes, it continues to become more difficult and costly to be able to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.

The core issue associated with this agenda is of global warming. The problem of global warming is mainly caused by the greenhouse effect.

Although it does play an important role in maintaining warm temperatures on the earth, its levels have become dangerously large in scale and are causing an increase in average global temperatures. This gradual but large-scale change has widespread effects, including its effect on weather and climate patterns. There are numerous ways used to measure the level of greenhouse gas emissions and they come from a wide variety of sources, including transportation, electricity production, industrial processes, residential activities, and agriculture.

The gases present in the atmosphere that absorb radiation are known as "greenhouse gases" (sometimes abbreviated as GHGs) as they are mainly responsible for the greenhouse effect.

The greenhouse effect, in fact, is recognized as one of the leading causes of global warming. The most important greenhouse gases present in our atmosphere are water vapor (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O).

Fundamental scientific research for over half a century has shown that the concentration of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere directly corresponds to the average global temperature on Earth, and the concentration of these gases, along with the mean global temperatures, has been rising steadily since the time of the Industrial Revolution. The average global temperature has risen by 0.85°C from 1880 to 2012. This has lowered snow and ice levels and caused the sea levels to rise at the same time.

The most commonly present GHG, accounting for about two-thirds of GHGs, is carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is largely the product of burning fossil fuels.

The issue has faced extensive ignorance, and decisive action is the demand of the moment. The issue's relevance is reinforced by various events or disasters, such as floods, which are caused by changes in climate patterns. Scientists are very confident that global temperatures will continue to rise for decades to come, largely due to greenhouse gases produced by human activities.

Scientists from the IPCC forecast a temperature rise of over 4 degrees Celsius over the remainder of the 21st century. Moreover, overall global costs will rise significantly in an effort to cope with this change. A very important part of the impacts of climate change is that they are long-term in nature. These include the consistent increase in average temperatures, the shortening of the winter season and changes in rain and precipitation patterns. Moreover, a further rise of 1 to 4 feet in sea levels is forecasted, along with the projection of the Arctic becoming ice-free.

Various developed countries, such as the USA and the UK, have successfully reduced pollution levels in their country as the significance of the manufacturing sector has declined and blame the problem of climate change on rapidly developing nations such as India and China. However, these nations argue that the developed nations had emitted large amounts of greenhouse gases over the course of the late 18th and the 19th and 20th century, and that controlling carbon emissions would significantly hinder economic progress. In this way, no country claims responsibility for the problem of climate change. However, recent reports have that some of the biggest economies, including the USA, have emitted very high levels of greenhouse gases. However, all nations continue to remain reluctant to take steps

to radically combat climate change as it puts them at an economic disadvantage.

While nations have been reluctant to take radical steps to oppose climate change, various individuals and organizations, including the World Bank, have acknowledged the significance of this issue.

At the One Planet Summit convened at the end of 2017, the World Bank made a few but significant announcements in line with its ongoing support to developing countries for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement's goals. These included its decision to end the provision of financial support for upstream oil and gas, after 2019. The group has started publishing reports, which present the greenhouse gas emissions from the projects funded by the group. The group is working closely with the United Nations and is providing assistance with regard to the implementation of various UN agreements, including the Paris Agreement.

Moreover, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, representative-elect in the United States, has taken a radical stance against climate change by proposing the effective implementation of the Green New Deal. The Green New Deal revolves around the ideas of creating a large-scale program of investments in clean-energy jobs and infrastructure. It ambitiously aims at bringing a massive change in the

functionality of the entire economy- by decarbonizing it and making its working style significantly fairer and just. On the other hand, the various challenges posed to it include the high economic benefit yielded from the operations of greenhouse-gas emitting industries. Moreover, various industrial units will have to bear large costs in order to change their production methods. This could put the nation at an economic disadvantage. Due to these reasons and many more, the Green New Deal has faced extensive opposition. However, the support for this cause continues to rise as ideas pertaining to sustainability and environment-protection gain significance.

Fundamentally, the lack of willingness on the part of many nations to make the necessary sacrifices is putting the lives of all of us and the existence of humanity itself at risk.

Course of the Committee

In order to successfully climate change as the United Nations Security Council, it becomes imperative for the committee to discuss enforceable methods and their effectiveness. The Council needs to look at climate change as a defining issue of our time. Hence, it is considered imperative for the committee to find radical solutions to solve the problem of climate change. While the issue is very often referred to the United Nations

Framework on Climate Change and not acknowledged as a security issue, it must be understood that the committee has already identified long term security issues associated with climate change (in the form of temperature rises and environmental disturbance which threatens the survival of the human species) and aims to effectively find enforceable international laws to control the negative effect of climate change.

The committee is not about creating a framework for tackling climate change. The aforementioned aim is already achieved through other various other conferences and diplomatic forums such as the Paris Climate Agreement and the United Nations Framework on Climate Change. Thus, in order to solve the problem of climate change, the Security Council must look at and critically consider the various enforceable methods and the effectiveness of their implementation.

In order to channelize debate successfully, all delegates must keep in mind that combatting climate change is an international issue. As mentioned earlier, nations remain reluctant to radically combat climate change as it gives their competitors an unfair advantage over them. This is unacceptable to nations in the competitive environment that exists today. Therefore, all delegates are expected to negotiate methods, which can be enforced internationally in order

to maintain fair competition between countries.

All delegates are expected to negotiate effective methods while keeping their national interest in mind. Delegates are expected to initiate debate by sharing individual opinions and stance.

Discussing various enforceable solutions and their implementation should further the debate. Using the available formal and informal means of negotiation available, the delegates are expected to reach a resolution, which presents the decisions made by the committee at the end of negotiations, and includes methods to control climate change which can be enforced internationally.

Along with this, delegates are expected to clearly lay out the extent of non-compliance which would correspond to a certain level of corrective action.

Scope of the Agenda

There is scope for extensive discussion on this issue. Various branches of the agenda, such as the causes, countries responsible, and solutions can be discussed extensively. Moreover, the various aspects (economic, social and political) of the issue and possible solutions can be discussed and debated.

The causes can be discussed extensively as the history of climate change and various patterns are analyzed. Moreover,

various aspects of different solutions can be considered. There are a large number of possible enforcement solutions as various factors have to be considered and they have to apply internationally.

Delegates are encouraged to collect statistics and other relevant information pertaining to the various aspects of the issue considering the wide scope for discussion on the agenda.

An understanding of the timeline of this issue is also very important. Delegates must understand that greenhouse-gas emissions raised exponentially as the Industrial Revolution gained pace through the later part of the 18th century. The levels of emission have been increasing through the 19th and 20th century, with developed countries being the prime polluters at the time. From the 21st century onwards, the currently developing countries started to become the countries responsible for the carbon emissions.

Possible Blocs and Solutions

In order to make negotiations effective, alliances need to be formed. Alliances shall be formed based on common interests. They may be formed according to levels of economic and political development or the significance of greenhouse-gas emitting energy sources in the country.

Countries such as **China** and organizations like the **European Union**

are leaders in the renewable energy market, and therefore have been seen as the leaders in adhering to existing frameworks against climate change.

Developed and peaceful nations, which do not yield any significant benefit from greenhouse gas emitting processes such as **Sweden** and **Norway**, are leading the fight against climate change

On the other hand, economies which are largely dependent on production methods and products, which emit greenhouse gases, include **Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Russia** and **USA**, all four of which notably refused to even 'welcome' the IPCC report. Furthermore, countries like **India** and **Nigeria** are also dependent on fossil fuels to grow their nascent manufacturing industries.

The delegates could devise various possible solutions. Some of them have been explained below.

In a globalized world, **economic sanctions** can be an extremely effective measure at rectifying the wrong actions of a country. However, their effectiveness depends on various other factors such as the dependence of the country on international trade. They can be of various types and can include levying heavy duties on goods produced in a certain country, placing an embargo, which completely bans the consumption of goods, and services produced in a

particular country or simply cutting off all trade relations with a country. However, it must be noted that trade sanctions will only be effective if economically powerful countries support them. Therefore, reaching a consensus is very important.

The committee is expected to analyse the effectiveness of these solutions as well. Since the end of the 20th century, it has been highlighted that sanctions heavily inflict external costs, which have to be borne, by vulnerable civilian groups, third party countries and other sections of society, which are not responsible for the problem.

Selective sanctions are less elaborate than full-scale embargoes. This means that they only place restrictions on certain products and particular finance flows. These could be used to restrict the trade of specific harmful commodities such as those, which emit greenhouse gases at a large scale. This brings in another idea of banning the operations of all industries that emit dangerously high levels of greenhouse gases. Various methods could be used to control the greenhouse gases emitted by industries. These could include the introduction of a high pollution tax, which would be charged in proportion to the level of greenhouse gases emitted by the industries. Moreover, government or non-governmental organizations that are opposed to climate change must be provided with adequate funds. These

organizations could be made to use the resources available to them to help industries change their production processes.

Another type of sanctions is targeted or **smart sanctions**. These focus on and aim to impact particular individuals or groups in society. Some examples of this may include arms embargoes or asset freezes. While it may overlap with ideas pertaining to selective sanctions, the difference between the two must be understood. Targeted sanctions could be an ideal method for corrective action adopted by the committee. The sanctions will provide a strong economic incentive for countries to comply with the emission level limits and parameters set by the committee. This may be very significant as enforcement is a very important aspect of this issue, as highlighted before. Therefore, sanctions can be very effective as they can significantly affect the economic, social and political conditions prevalent in a country, especially those that are highly dependent on international trade. In order to avoid domestic turmoil, countries and groups of society are likely to respond to sanctions in a prompt manner.

Solutions could also include **banning a company**, which is found to be indulged in malpractice, and violates the parameters laid out by the council. However, national governments will have to be efficient with regular checks of the levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

Sanctions could be applied against a country that is found to not report malpractice from their country.

Along with this, **military interventions** could be reserved as the 'last-resort' to enforce laws upon countries. Countries that repeatedly fail to comply with the agreed norms could be subjected to military action. The impact of military action on a country is likely to be very high. This will incite immediate response from the country responsible and might set an example for other countries. Therefore, military action could be used in extreme cases of non-compliance.

Past Resolutions and Actions

The United Nations has presented the various steps it has taken, including the formation of various bodies, to analyse and tackle the issue of climate change, as described in detail below:

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The United Nations has assumed the lead role in the effort to save the planet. In 1992, its "Earth Summit" produced the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as a first step in addressing the climate change problem. Today, it has near-universal membership. Over 195 countries that have endorsed the Convention are Parties to the Convention. The ultimate aim of the Convention is to prevent the dangerous human activities that interfere

with the climate system from taking place.

Kyoto Protocol

By 1995, numerous countries had initiated negotiations to strengthen the global response to climate change, and, two years later, adopted the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol legally bound developed country Parties to abide by the emission reduction targets. The Protocol's first commitment period started in 2008 and ended in 2012. The second commitment period began on 1 January 2013 and will end in 2020. Now, there are 197 Parties to the Convention and 192 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

Paris Agreement

At the 21st Conference of the Parties in Paris in 2015, Parties to the UNFCCC reached a landmark agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future. The Paris Agreement furthers ideas from the Convention and – for the first time – brings all countries into a common cause of undertaking the ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with increased support to assist developing countries to do so. As such, it draws out a new course in the effort to combat climate change.

The Paris Agreement's primary aim is to strengthen the global response to the

threat posed by climate change by keeping the global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to follow and build upon previous efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

On Earth Day, 22 April 2016, 175 world leaders signed the Paris Agreement at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This was, till the time, the largest number of countries ever to sign an international agreement on a single day. There are now 184 countries that have joined the Paris Agreement.

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Agenda 2

Militarization of the Arctic

Introduction

The Arctic is the northernmost area on Earth, covering approximately eight percent of the globe's surface, and is centered on the North Pole. The region is limited by the Arctic Circle, and includes the Arctic Ocean and surrounding lands and seas. There are eight arctic bordering countries: Canada, Denmark (via Greenland), Finland, Norway (via the Svalbard archipelago), Iceland, The Russian Federation, Sweden and The United States (via Alaska).

During the 20th century, the arctic region emerged as a key strategic area, as it constituted a variety of supply routes for various foreign powers. For example, in world war II, the USSR received many resource convoys from the "Lend-Lease" U.S. program through the Arctic route as it was the shortest and most direct. Moreover, there were many important settlements in the Arctic surroundings, and the region quickly became the target of various attacks and invasions from Nazi Germany.

The strategic location of the Arctic also played an important role in the Cold War, serving as headquarters for the Soviet sea-based nuclear deterrence systems, centered in the Northern Fleet. This importance remains even after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and is expected to grow with the increasing competition in the global energy market, as the Arctic contains significant mineral wealth, and is home to a substantial share of the world's non-renewable resources like oil and gas, as well as deposits of many valuable minerals, like gold, copper, iron, tin manganese and diamonds among others.

The potential gains of the Arctic region are yet to be obtained, due to the natural difficulties that are imposed during the exploration of such areas. However, changes to the climate in the region are making it more attractive to explore for

traditional sources of energy that are almost exhausted in other areas.

As of now, any military conflict in the Arctic is currently unnoticeable, but tensions concerning territorial disputes and other frictional situations between countries, especially the Arctic Five - Norway, Denmark, Russia, Canada, and The USA - may instantly arise at any point in the near future, which may lead to military confrontation as well.

September 2008 saw the Russian Security Council adopt "the Fundamentals of Russian State Policy in the Arctic up to 2020 and beyond", which is the national strategy for the Arctic, including the deployment of the military, border and coastal units. In this context, the Russian National Security Strategy of May 2009 recognises the Arctic as Russia's most important arena for international and military security in relations with other countries. This strategy also established plans to merge the Arctic Special Forces, and create a coast guard unit of the Federal Security Service, and establish an intelligence network to provide security to the region. Recently, the FSB press announced plans to deploy four new warships by 2020, and construct eleven new border protection facilities and deploy automated surveillance systems in order to protect the Russian Arctic zone. These plans have been in accordance with a project to regroup the military districts of Leningrad, Siberia, and the Far East into an Arctic district.

In response to the increased military presence of Russia in the Arctic, other states, especially the other four countries in the Arctic region (Canada, Denmark, Norway and the United States) have also looked to strengthen their presence, through "infrastructure improvements, fleet expansion [and] increased military presence". All these states have sovereignty rights over the Arctic, and are perfectly within their rights to do so.

Alongside Russia, Canada has emerged as one of the most active players in the Arctic. The country has made investments in order to turn its deep-water docking port into a naval base on Baffin Island at Nanisivik, and has constantly sought to improve its defense capabilities. Currently, Canada has twelve icebreakers, which included the acquisition of a new one in 2010 that cost \$675 million, and is seeking to establish a Canadian Forces winter fighting school in Resolute Bay, near the Northwest Passage, and has also perspectives of building six to eight ice hardened offshore patrols vessels, the first to be delivered in 2014. Canada has also been cooperating in matters of defense, enhancing its military presence in the region through three annual exercises, such as the joint and combined Operation Nanook, which includes air, land and maritime forces and the participation of the United States and Denmark.



Denmark adapted its military forces with investments of nearly \$117 million in order to combine the Danish Greenland and Faroe Commands into a joint service – the Arctic Command, and an Arctic Response Force is well planned too. Denmark has also been using combat aircraft for surveillance and sovereignty missions and has established a larger maritime presence in the region.

The United States has many challenges to overcome in order to provide for their interests, even though plenty of developments and advancements have been made in the Arctic roadmap. Its desire to establish the outer limit of its continental shelf was thwarted as the US refused to ratify the UNCLOS, and hence the necessary military upgrades of its immense force was not achieved.



Currently, the U.S. Coast Guard has only three icebreakers, two of which are out of service. Bearing in mind that it takes eight to ten years to get an icebreaker into service, even though the U.S. Congress would approve the funding allocations, it would not be interesting to the United States to enter a war in which its capabilities are smaller. However, it is important to stress that the United States have interests at stake in the Arctic, such as the developments of the Russian Borei— a class ballistic missile nuclear submarine, to be commissioned with a missile, in the High North — which may undermine the U.S. missile shield in Europe — the perspectives of natural resources in the Beaufort Sea and the choke points disputes arising in the region.

Course of the Committee

In this agenda, there needs to be a culture of compromise, and a focus on the greater good. Cooperation and collaboration between all delegates, in the ultimate goal of achieving compromise and passing a resolution.



For such an ambitious goal to be achieved, we hope the delegates work with the Dias to produce an atmosphere that proves conducive to uncovering new solutions and ideas.

Possible Debate

Such an agenda can be discussed in many ways. Various aspects of the agenda that we would like delegates to pay attention to and discuss in committee are:

1. What international framework shall be employed to define the countries' right to use Arctic resources and routes?
2. What opportunities and challenges will rise with the creation of Arctic routes? How should this process be conducted in order to promote the most beneficial results to humankind?
3. What role can non-Arctic countries play in the Arctic issue and how can their actions interfere in the Arctic countries' sovereignty?
4. Considering the International Law and territorial controversies

among Arctic countries, what sort of collective actions should be taken to avoid increasing militarisation?

5. What actions could be taken to improve governance within the Arctic Council and/or to eventually lead to the constitution of an "international regime" for the Arctic?



To ensure that committee proceedings are as smooth as possible, with little deviation from the actual agenda at hand, we recommend that the delegates attempt staying within the scope of the agenda.

Possible Bloc Positions

A major Arctic country, **Canada** has 40% of its landmass in the Arctic, accounting for a fourth of the entire region. Canadian interests in the region, therefore, are various and byproducts of a positive foreign policy. The main body through which Canada develops this foreign policy is the Arctic Council, an international organisation whose first chairmanship was held by Canada in 1996. The year of 2013 sees Canada as the Arctic Council's chair for the second time, a position through which Canada aims to use to enhance its projects to the region. Canada's foreign

relations with the other Arctic Council members enables it to strengthen the body's reach and influence in the deciding of Arctic matters, as well as protecting the regions populations and environment. The Canadian Northern peoples are an important share of its total population and it is one of the country's objectives to defend these citizens and help promote sustainable development of the region.



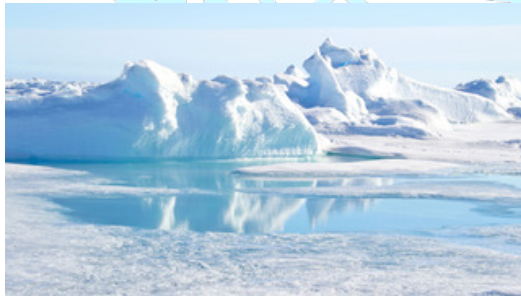
The Kingdom of **Denmark**, involved in Arctic affairs due to Greenland, published in 2011 its own strategic policy for the Arctic. The document affirms that the Kingdom will work for a peaceful, secure and safe resolution to the region, and develop self-sustaining growth, cooperation with the indigenous people and serious attention to climate change. Being part of the Arctic Five, Denmark wishes to make policies that focus on its priority areas: maritime safety, sustainable development focusing on the indigenous people and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The Arctic has been recognised by **Norway** as its main priority in terms of foreign and defense

policy. In accordance with its High North Initiative, adopted in 2006, the Arctic, the Barents Sea, and its neighbouring areas are in the core of Norwegian foreign policy. This Initiative has three main pillars, the extraction of natural resources, knowledge accretion and its relationship with Russia, which is recognised as the main actor in the area. As the country possesses the technology for oil and natural gas exploration in the Arctic, Statoil will profit greatly, having already projects to drill nine wells in the Barents Sea in 2013. Norway is a major proponent of UNCLOS framework to the resolution of disputes and it is of its interest to avoid a major dispute concerning the Svalbard archipelago.

The **Russian Federation** has what is perhaps the most assertive role in the Arctic. In accordance to its 2008 Arctic policy, “Fundamentals of a state policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic for the period up to 2020 and beyond”, the Arctic region is priority to Russian policy, especially its economic development as an energy producer. When it comes to regional cooperation, Russia's main partner is Norway. A joint naval exercise is regularly conducted by the two countries, called Pomor, and is regularly practiced from the Barents Sea. One of Russia's military concerns in the Arctic is related to the NATO missile shield, since “key strategic BMD installations are in the Arctic –

currently 26 US interceptor missiles at Fort Greely, Alaska and early warning radars at Clear, Alaska and Thule, Greenland” and there is the possibility of the United States deploying its ships with missile defense capabilities in the region. Russia may also take advantage of Arctic’s melting to establish another launching platform in order to keep its second-strike capability over the NATO missile shield.



The sole Arctic country which has so far not signed the UNCLOS, due to divergent opinions in the US Senate, The **United States of America** has constantly struggled to gain influence in the Arctic region. The US State Department struggles till date to join the Convention. The US is strongly concerned with the conduction of policies in the region by international bodies, due to the location of Alaska within the Arctic region. As long as these policies are enacted in favourable ways to the US, the Arctic Council has thoroughly supported and even defended in the conduction of such policies. The environmental change’s effects to the region are a matter that deeply concerns the US, mainly because of the

consequences of such changes to the development of economic activities by the US people. The maintenance of the region’s security is an important point of the US agenda to the Arctic.

Another permanent observer of the Arctic Council, the United Kingdom is devoted to sustaining the European Union position in the matter. The British government has officially stressed that the country has a strong environmental, political, economic and scientific interest in the region and that it is willing to assist with technology and expertise. Even if the United Kingdom does not have any territorial interests in the region, it is clearly interested in the new shipping routes, new sources of energy and also in the opportunity to influence in the international scenario.

Subsidiary Blocs

Added in May 2013, **Italy** is the most recent observer of the Arctic Council. This newfound membership is viewed as a recognition of Italy’s longtime involvement in studies and researched in the region, as well as the participation of many Italian companies’ interest in the commercial benefits of the region.

China has taken measures concerning its main priorities in the region, that is the

capability to answer climate change effects in its territory, access to routes, and its ability to enjoy the resources and fishing in the Arctic.

arctic-views-from-the-united-kingdom/

India's interests in the Arctic are related to energetic security, natural resources concerning food security, new commercial routes and international competition.

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