

Applying for Observer status in the Arctic Council

Form and Instructions

Introduction

The Arctic Council is the leading high-level forum with the objective of promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic indigenous peoples and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic. Since the establishment of the Arctic Council, participation by Observers has been a valuable feature through their provision of scientific and other expertise, information and financial resources.

The role of Observers and the criteria for accreditation as an Observer to the Arctic Council can be found in the Arctic Council Rules of Procedure (Annex 2).

Criteria for admitting Observers

Observer status is open to:

- a) non-Arctic States;
- b) inter-governmental and inter-parliamentary organizations, global and regional; and
- c) non-governmental organizations

that the Council determines can contribute to its work.

In the determination by the Council of the general suitability of an applicant for Observer status the Council will, inter alia, take into account the extent to which the applicant:

- a) accepts and supports the objectives of the Arctic Council as defined in the Ottawa Declaration (1996);
- b) recognizes Arctic States' sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the Arctic;
- c) recognizes that an extensive legal framework applies to the Arctic Ocean including, notably, the Law of the Sea, and that this framework provides a solid foundation for responsible management of this ocean;
- d) respects the values, interests, culture and traditions of Arctic indigenous peoples and other Arctic inhabitants;
- e) has demonstrated a political willingness as well as financial ability to contribute to the work of the Permanent Participants and other Arctic indigenous peoples;
- f) has demonstrated its Arctic interests and expertise relevant to the work of the Arctic Council; and

- g) has demonstrated a concrete interest and ability to support the work of the Arctic Council, including through partnerships with member states and Permanent Participants bringing Arctic concerns to global decision-making bodies.

Role of Observers

Decisions at all levels in the Arctic Council are the exclusive right and responsibility of the eight Arctic States with the involvement of the Permanent Participants.

Once Observer status has been granted, Observers shall be invited to the meetings and other activities of the Arctic Council unless Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) decide otherwise.

The primary role of Observers is to observe the work of the Arctic Council. Observers contribute through their engagement in the Arctic Council primarily at the level of Working Groups and other Arctic Council subsidiary bodies, and in particular by contributing expertise and/or other resources to Arctic Council projects.

In meetings of the Arctic Council's subsidiary bodies to which Observers have been invited to participate, Observers may, at the discretion of the Chair, make statements after Arctic States and Permanent Participants, present written statements, submit relevant documents and provide views on the issues under discussion. Observers may also submit written statements at Ministerial meetings.

Observers may propose projects through an Arctic State or a Permanent Participant, but the total financial contributions from all Observers to any given project may not exceed the financing from Arctic States, unless otherwise decided by the SAOs.

Review of Observers

Following successful accreditation, Observers are requested to submit to the Chairmanship not later than 120 days before a Ministerial meeting up-to-date information about relevant activities and their contributions to the work of the Arctic Council, should they wish to continue as an Observer to the Council.

Every four years from the date of being granted Observer status, Observers should state affirmatively their continued interest in Observer status.

Application and accreditation of Observers

Applications for Observer status shall be directed to the Arctic Council Secretariat, and shall include the relevant information described below.

(a) A description, not longer than 2 pages, of the proposed Observer's ability to contribute to the work of the Arctic Council and its conformity with each of the criteria listed in the section of the Rules of Procedure called "Criteria for admitting Observers".

(b) A description, not longer than 2 pages, of the proposed Observer's specific interests in becoming an Observer to the Arctic Council, including detailed description of the ways in which the proposed Observer envisions contributing expertise or financing to the work of the Arctic Council and how the proposed Observer is working, or intends to work, with the Permanent Participants.

(c) In the case of organizations, a copy of the organization's most recent annual report shall be included, as well as a description, not longer than 1 page, of:

- the organization's governance and the total number of its members; and
- any specific relationships that the organization may have with Arctic Council member states, Permanent Participants, Working Groups and/or Observers, as well as other relevant international bodies.

Each application shall be submitted with a cover sheet including:

- the date of the application;
- the full name of the state or organization applying;
- the website of the applicant, if such exists; and
- the full name, job title, organization, complete mailing address, email and telephone number of an appropriate contact person.

Applications should be submitted electronically to the Arctic Council Secretariat via email to: acs@arctic-council.org

Cover sheet

Full name of state or organization applying

Date of application

Applicant's website, if appropriate

Information for appropriate contact person

Full name:

Email:

Telephone:

Organization or department:

Job Title:

Full mailing address:

Organizations only: Please remember to include a copy (electronic, PDF format) of the organization's most recent annual report.

Please describe in no more than 2 pages your state's or organization's ability to contribute to the work of the Arctic Council and its conformity with each of the criteria listed in the section of the Rules of Procedure called "Criteria for admitting Observers".



Please describe in no more than 2 pages your state's or organization's specific interests in becoming an Observer to the Arctic Council, including detailed description of the ways in which your state or organization envisions contributing expertise or financing to the work of the Arctic Council and how your state or organization is working, or intends to work, with the Permanent Participants.



Organizations only: Please describe, in no more than 1 page:

- the organization's governance and the total number of its members; and
- any specific relationships that the organization may have with Arctic Council member states, Permanent Participants, Working Groups and/or Observers, as well as other relevant international bodies