The Arctic Council: Topic A Primary Sources

Combatting Climate Change in the Arctic Circle

Here are primary sources that your moderator or legal chair thought would be helpful in gaining an understanding of the topic. These are by no means all of the sources available, just sources we wanted to highlight.

Source #1: **Fairbanks Declaration**

This document was recently signed at the tenth ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in Fairbanks, Alaska, on May 11th, 2017. These meetings are held biannually. While this document in its entirety is a great overview of the main goals of the Arctic Council, it is recommended that the section titled, *Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change*, is read by the delegates. This document reiterates the severe threat that global warming poses to the Arctic Circle, in terms of biodiversity, methane emissions, and the need for clean energy sources. This section also outlines several initiatives and task groups that the Arctic Council has created to battle climate change. Finally, this document also introduces the *Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation*, a legally-binding agreement signed by the Arctic Council at the ministerial meeting, which is highlighted below in Source #2.

https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/bitstream/handle/11374/1910/EDOCS-4072-v5-ACMMUS10_FAIRBANKS_2017_Fairbanks_Declaration-2017.pdf?sequence=9&isAllowed=y

Source #2: **Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation**

This document was announced at the tenth ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council which recently occurred in Fairbanks, Alaska, on May 11th, 2017. This details a very recent endeavor by the Council in their attempt to mitigate the effects of climate change. This is only the third legally binding agreement ever signed by the Arctic Council, so it is quite significant. The purpose of this agreement is to increase the transparency and accessibility of scientific information for Arctic Council members. The goal is that this increased cooperation will amplify the benefits that this scientific information can provide to the Arctic ecosystem. It focuses on education, and access to research information, laboratories, and resources. It is recommended that delegates read the first six pages, which includes the entirety of the document in English.

https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/1916

Source #3: **Status on Implementation of the AMSA 2009 Report Recommendations**

This document was presented at the tenth ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in May of 2017. It was put together by PAME, Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment, a working group within the Arctic Council. The recommendations that became the base of this report were put together in 2009 by AMSA, Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment. This was the fourth document of this series, put together by PAME. Eight years later in Fairbanks, Alaska, the recommendations originally put forth in this document were discussed and evaluated. The main subjects of this status report include maritime safety, protection for Arctic peoples and the environment, and marine infrastructure. It is recommended that delegates read the *Executive Summary,* and then choose a few of the status updates to read, which are located in the dark blue text boxes. This document provides a real-world

example of an organization setting goals for itself, and updating its members on how it is fulfilling those goals.
https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/bitstream/handle/11374/1957/PAME_4th-AMSA_Implementation_Progress_Report_for_the_period_2015-2017.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Source #4: **Arctic Resilience Report**
This document was put together by the Arctic Resilience Assessment, or ARA. This five year project, led by the Stockholm Environment Institute and the Stockholm Resilience Center, aims to highlight the rapid, unprecedented change occurring in the Arctic today. According to the report, resilience is defined as, "the capacity to cope with stress and shocks by responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain essential identity, function and structures, as well as the capacity to navigate and shape change, including transformational change." The report showcases how the Arctic ecosystem will have to show resilience, in order to remain a strong and thriving region. This report has been put together in collaboration with Arctic indigenous peoples and the Arctic nations. It is recommended that delegates read the *Arctic Resilience Report Executive Summary*, as well as the *Key Messages* portion of each of the eight chapters.
https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/1838

Source #5: **WWF Global Arctic Program 2016 Observer Review Report**
World Wildlife Fund, WWF, is one of the contributing members to the Arctic Council's efforts in protecting and preserving the Arctic ecosystem. WWF is a strong supporter of the Arctic Council's inclusion of indigenous groups, businesses, and nations in their decision making process, and they are one of the only NGO accredited observers of the Arctic Council. This document discusses the multiple projects that WWF supports, and how they wish to continue their support in the future. It is recommended that delegates read all six pages of the document.
https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/bitstream/handle/11374/1882/EDOCS-3643-v1A-2016-06-01_WWF_Observer_Review-Report.PDF?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Source #6: **State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity**
This document was put together by the Conversation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, CAFF, which is one of the Arctic Council's working groups. The report details direct changes to the Arctic flora and fauna. These changes include the melting of sea ice, changing temperatures, increased Carbon in the atmosphere, and spread of disease. This document is also used to identify areas in the Arctic ecosystem that need to be more closely monitored, or even require the need for more intervention. It is recommended that delegates read the *Introduction* and *Key Findings* sections.
https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/bitstream/handle/11374/1955/SAMBR_Summary_April_2017_LR.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y