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Canada and the Arctic Council

Opportunities North, Whitehorse, YT

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International Arctic Engagement

- Bilateral Cooperation
 - Canada's relations with the other seven Arctic states
 - Canada's relations with other countries interested in the Arctic such as Japan, Korea, China
- Multilateral Cooperation
 - The Arctic Council
 - The A5
 - The IMO
 - ACGF
 - Others

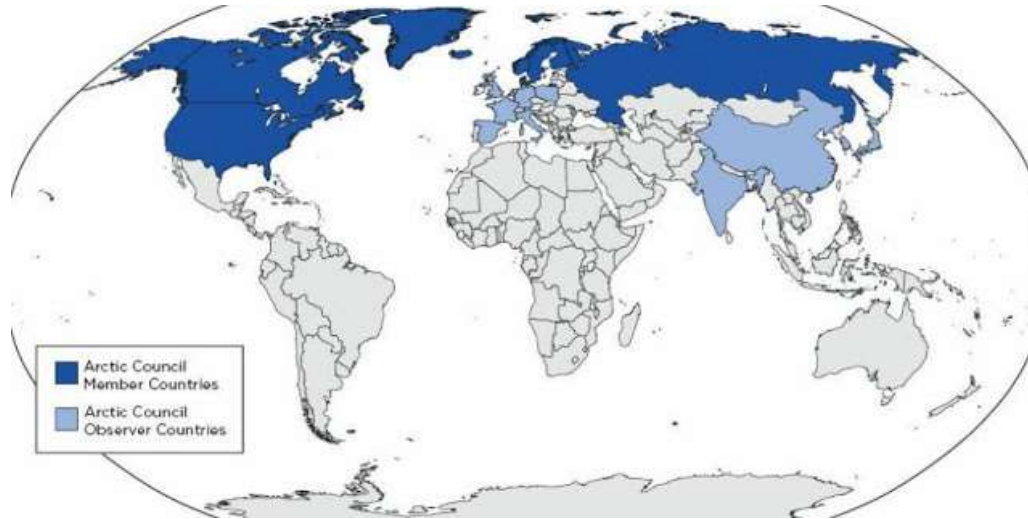


The Arctic Council



“The Arctic Council is established as a high-level forum to provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic Indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular issues of **sustainable development and environmental protection** in the Arctic.”

Council Membership



- **8 Arctic States**
 - Canada, USA, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, Russia, and Norway
- **6 Indigenous Permanent Participant Organizations**
 - Aleut International Association, **Arctic Athabaskan Council**, **Gwich'in Council International**, **Inuit Circumpolar Council**, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, and the Saami Council

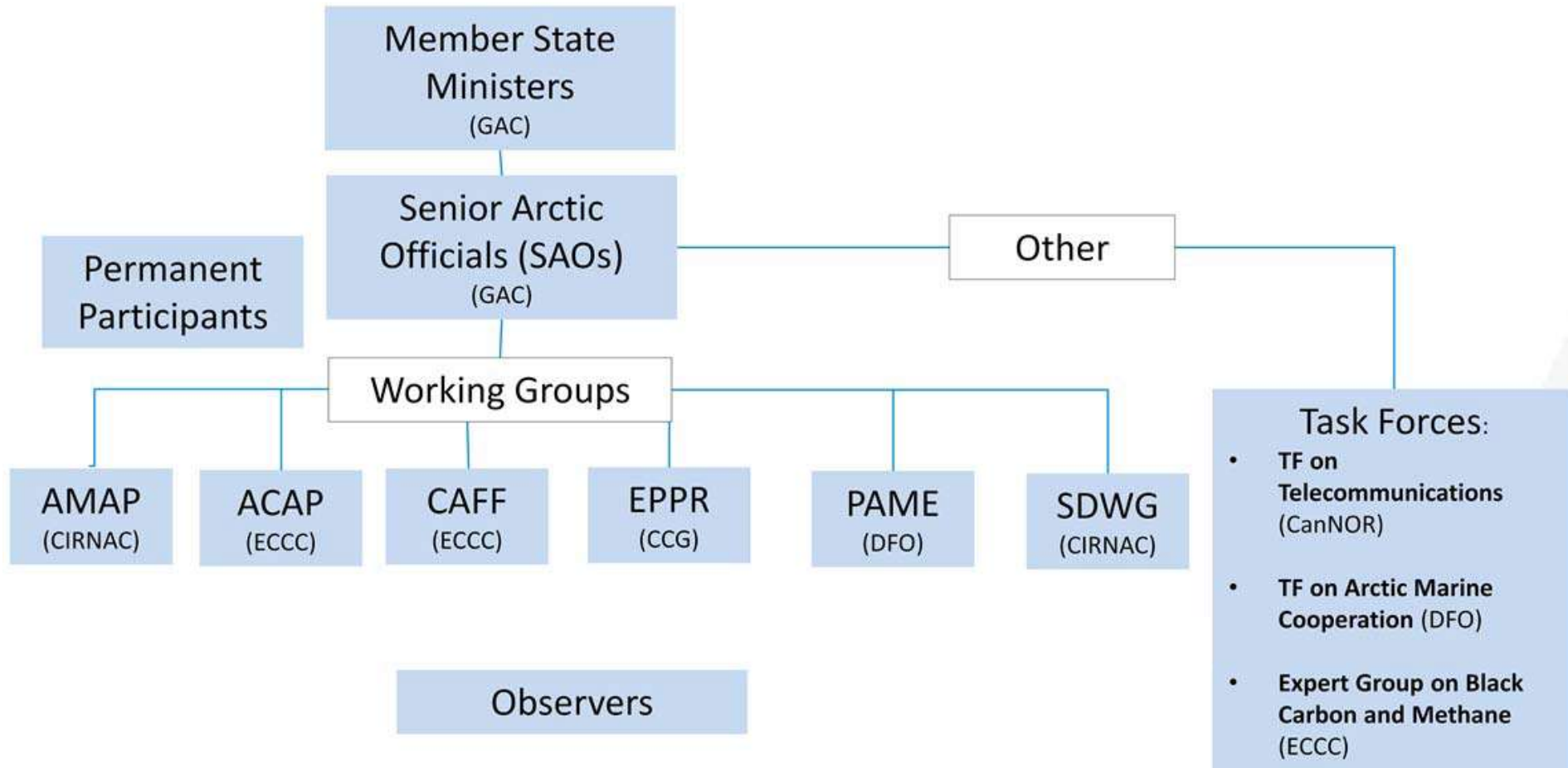
What does the Arctic Council do?

- High quality science has provided Northern peoples and communities with additional tools to meet challenges and opportunities
- Has produced ground-breaking assessments on economic development, ice/cryosphere, climate change, and shipping
- Legally-binding agreements on search & rescue, oil pollution preparedness and response, and scientific cooperation

Why does the Arctic Council matter?

- Initiatives designed for northern realities that inform local decision makers on issues important to them
 - e.g., Arctic Renewable Energy Network Academy, Arctic Sustainable Energy Futures Toolkit, Arctic Foods Innovation Cluster, Arctic Contaminants Action Program
- Canada's priorities include:
 - Championing the needs of northern people and communities
 - Integrating socio-economic development and environmental protection goals
 - Meaningful participation of Indigenous peoples and Northern communities

AC Governance Structure



AC Chairmanship and Ministerials

- Chairmanship rotates between member states
 - Finland is the current chair (2017-2019)
 - Iceland will take over (2019-2021)
- Ministerial meetings are held every 2 years
- Canada held the chairmanship in 2013-2015
 - Arctic Economic Council (2014)



Arctic Economic Council

- Established in September 2014
- The AEC's vision and mission is to make the Arctic a favourable place to do business, and to facilitate sustainable Arctic economic and business development
- Canada's vision is that the AEC should inform the work of the Council by providing a circumpolar business perspective, while enriching private sector understanding of Council interests and initiatives
- The AEC follows the same Chairmanship rotation as the Arctic Council

Thank you



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