

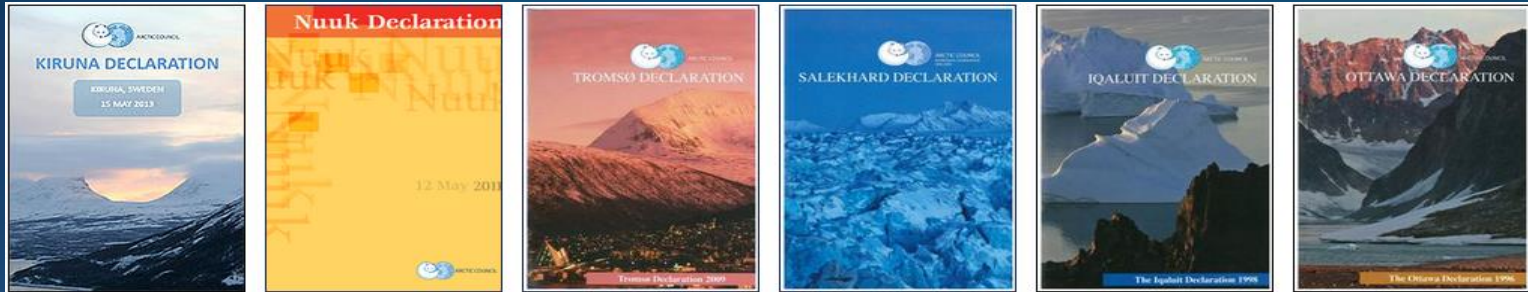


# The Arctic Council and The Paris Agreement

**Julie Gourley**  
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**Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs**  
**U.S. Department of State**



# Arctic Council 101



- High level forum, not an international organization
- 8 Arctic States make decisions by consensus
- Mandate: environmental protection and sustainable development
- “The Arctic Council should not deal with matters related to military security”
- Role of Permanent Participants

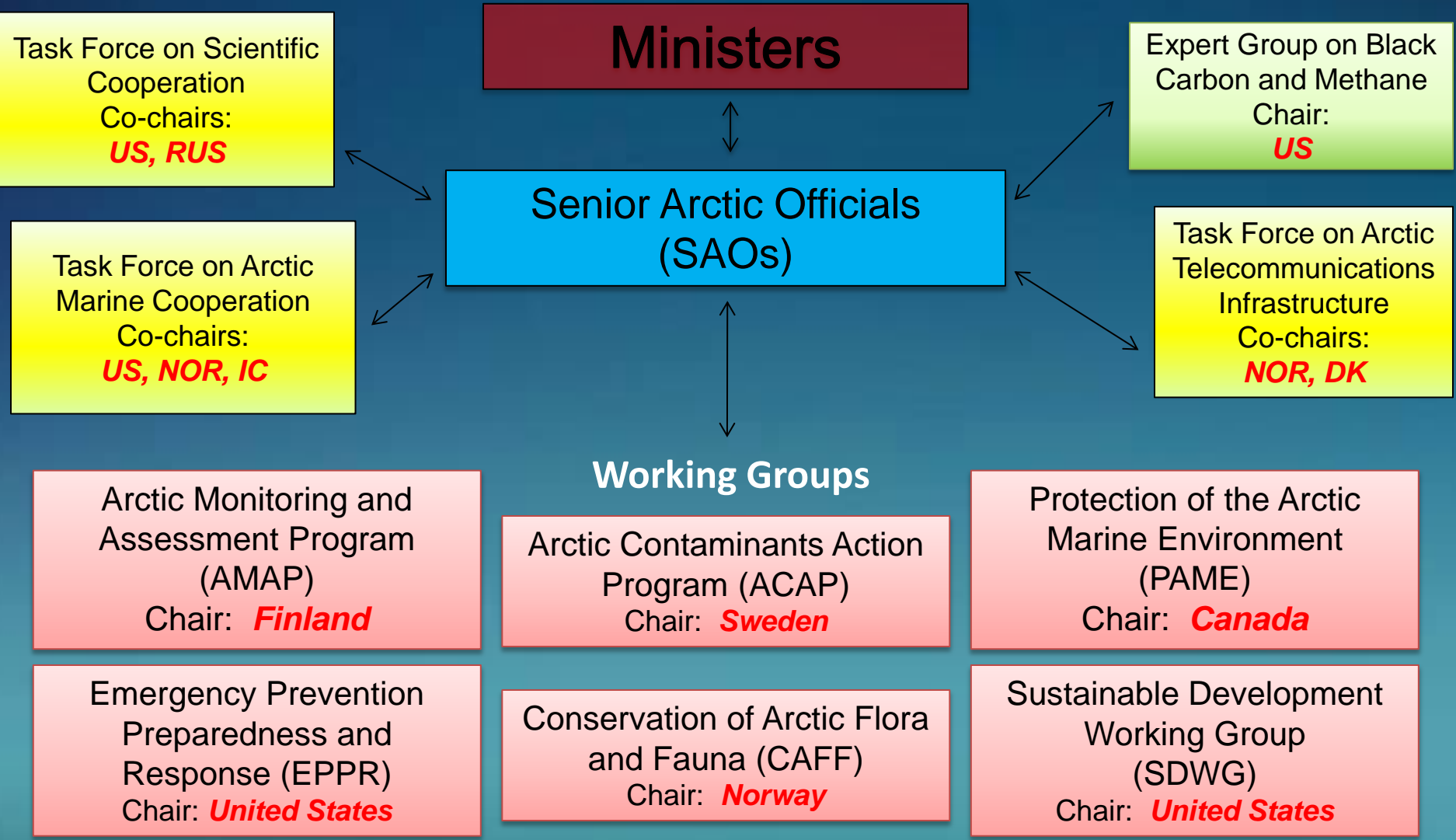




# Arctic Council Structure

2015 – 2017 Chairmanship: **UNITED STATES**

\*Six indigenous groups (“Permanent Participants”) participate at all levels





# Chairmanship Thematic Pillars and Projects

## ARCTIC COMMUNITIES

Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention • Clean Energy • Water Sanitation and Health • Telecommunications Infrastructure • Freshwater Security

## ARCTIC CLIMATE

Short Lived Climate Pollutants • Arctic Resilience • Pan-Arctic Digital Elevation Model • Climate Change Indicator System • Local Environmental Observers

## ARCTIC OCEAN

Search and Rescue Exercises • Ocean Acidification • Marine Environmental Protection • Marine Protected Areas Network • Arctic Ocean Cooperation



# UNFCCC Advice to the Arctic Council

**Although the Paris Agreement does not directly address the Arctic, there are some things the Arctic Council can do to contribute to improving the climate:**

- Educate the public about the Arctic's role in the global climate system
- Focus on Resilience and Adaptation
- Continue pressing for mitigation of black carbon and methane emissions
- Support Arctic observing systems



# Chairmanship Thematic Pillars

## ARCTIC COMMUNITIES

- Renewable Energy
- Water Sanitation and Health
- Water Resources Vulnerability Index
- Freshwater Security
- Telecommunications Infrastructure
- Suicide Prevention and Mental Wellness

## ARCTIC OCEAN

- Search & Rescue Exercises
- Marine Environmental Protection
- Marine Protected Areas Network
- Arctic Ocean Cooperation
- Arctic Ocean Acidification

## ARCTIC CLIMATE

- Short-lived Climate Pollutants
- Arctic Climate Adaptation and Resilience
- Pan-Arctic Digital Elevation Model
- Climate Indicator System



# Black Carbon and Methane

- Task Force on Black Carbon and Methane concluded during Canadian Chairmanship, delivering an Arctic Council Framework for Action
- Arctic States and interested Observers will submit national black carbon and methane emissions to the Council.



by Mark Bennett, courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

- Expert Group will develop recommendations for future voluntary action
- High-level forum will convene to explore collaboration on Expert-Group recommendations



# Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA)

**A knowledge exchange program focusing on microgrids incorporating renewable resources:**

- **Development of future energy leaders**
- **Networks for future collaboration**

**Co-led by the U.S., GCI, Canada, Finland, Iceland**

**Host Institution: UAF Alaska Center for Energy and Power**

**Program pilot: Webinars (April-May 2016) and Alaska on-site program (August 2016)**

**Details: <http://acep.uaf.edu/programs/arctic-remote-energy-networks-academy.aspx>**





# Safety Guidelines for Unmanned Aircraft Systems

**Developed by the Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) Unmanned Aircraft Systems Expert Group**

**Ground-breaking guidelines on Implementing Scientific Data Collection across the Arctic Oceanic Region Utilizing Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)**

**Describes best practices and protocols for UAS operators**

**Timely issue for the region given the need for UAS in scientific research**



# Raising Awareness of the Arctic

- Support of Arctic-focused exchange programs, such as the Arctic Fulbright Initiative, that increase international scientific collaboration and mutual understanding;
- Organizing social media campaigns, special events, media engagements and other public outreach initiatives;
- Strengthen existing networks and creating new ones among civil society, government, private sector and other partners.





[www.arctic-council.org](http://www.arctic-council.org)

[www.state.gov/arctic](http://www.state.gov/arctic)

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