



BACKGROUND GUIDE

THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

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POLITIKUM THE LOST COMMITTEES

POLITIKUM offers a unique academic simulation from February 03 – 06, 2022. Three different committees will be simulated in three different languages: the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (Spanish), the Arctic Council (English) and the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 27 (COP 27) - NGOs Committee (German).

This conference is all about giving space to committees that do not receive attention in conventional Model United Nations conferences. Thus, participants from all over the world come together to discuss the big questions of the future: How can climate change be tackled effectively and in a socially way? What role does the textile and fashion industry, and thus our consumer behavior, play in environmental pollution? Which social and cultural groups need to be given more attention? Participants will have the opportunity to present their ideas and proposals for solutions and to discuss them in an international environment.

THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

¹ The Arctic Council was created on September 19, 1996, with the Ottawa Declaration. The objective of this council is to be a high-level intergovernmental forum to enhance cooperation, coordination, and interaction among the Arctic States with the active involvement of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues. It has 8 arctic states members: Canada, Finland, Iceland, Norway, The Russian Federation, Sweden, The United States and The Kingdom of Denmark; with 6 permanent participants: Aleut international Association, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich' in Council International, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Saami Council; 6 working groups: Arctic Contaminants Action Program, Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response, Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment, Sustainable Development

¹ Figure 1: Arctic Atlas - <https://www.infoplease.com/atlas/arctic>



Working Group; and 38 observers that include Non-Arctic States, Intergovernmental and Interparliamentary organizations and Non-governmental organizations.

The Arctic Council is a forum; it has no programming budget. Therefore, all projects or initiatives are sponsored by one or more Arctic States and some projects also receive support from other entities. The Arctic Council focuses on many subjects such as the Arctic peoples, biodiversity, climate, ocean, pollutants, and emergencies; and to find viable solutions

to these issues they have working groups. The Council has also provided a forum for the negotiation of three important legally binding agreements among the eight Arctic States:

- 2011 – Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic.
- 2013 – Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic.
- 2017 – Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation.

In addition, the Arctic Council has a Senior Arctic official (SAO). Each SAO is thus a government representative, usually from an Arctic State's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. SAOs and Permanent Participants meet at least twice a year, these meetings are typically held in the Arctic State that holds the Chairmanship at the time of the meeting.

There is also an Arctic Council Secretariat (ACS) which is an administrative office that works under the direction of the Senior Arctic Officials and the Arctic Council Chairmanship.

- **Committee mission**

The Arctic Council is an intergovernmental body undertaking arctic issues whose primary goal is to promote cooperation and interaction between arctic countries and Arctic inhabitants on sustainable development and environmental protection. Arctic countries, permanent participants, working groups, observer countries, and other international organizations work together to find solutions and preserve the environmental and social aspects of the Arctic. The Ottawa Declaration (1996)² establishes that the main and only mission of this Council is preserving the Arctic environment, this means that this committee will not address policing, political conflict, or military engagements occurred in the Arctic.

The topics that the Arctic Council tackles are climate change, emergency response, the mental health of indigenous communities, species conservation, sustainable development, and more issues related to the ones said before. The topics at hand—new threats to the Arctic environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic pollution and improving mental health in the arctic’s indigenous population—are perhaps the most relevant issues that the Arctic Council must confront today. Addressing the first topic will enrich the debate as delegates will discuss climate change, global warming, recycle education and prevent plastic pollution. Also, tackling the second topic will make delegates discuss about the importance of mental health, suicide rates, addictions, economic problems due to the pandemic and other social problems the Arctic indigenous peoples are struggling with.

NEW THREATS TO THE ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT DUE TO THE PANDEMIC POLLUTION

The Arctic Council, apart from being known as the leading intergovernmental forum of coordination, cooperation and interaction between the Arctic States, Arctic Indigenous Peoples, and other Arctic Inhabitants, is the one that tackles the different issues found in the arctic environment, such as its sustainable development. Therefore, it is

² The Ottawa Declaration is the written document that creates the Arctic Council.

reasonable that this council addresses the proposed topic: new threats to the Arctic environment due to the pandemic pollution.

As everybody knows, the recent COVID-19 pandemic brought terrible numbers. It increased the global death rate as well as the unemployment rate. However, it seems that the ecological outcomes have not been discussed enough in the international community. At the beginning of the worldwide lockdown, the coronavirus environmental impact was optimistic. Still, the long-term effects of the pandemic are most likely to be rather negative than positive.

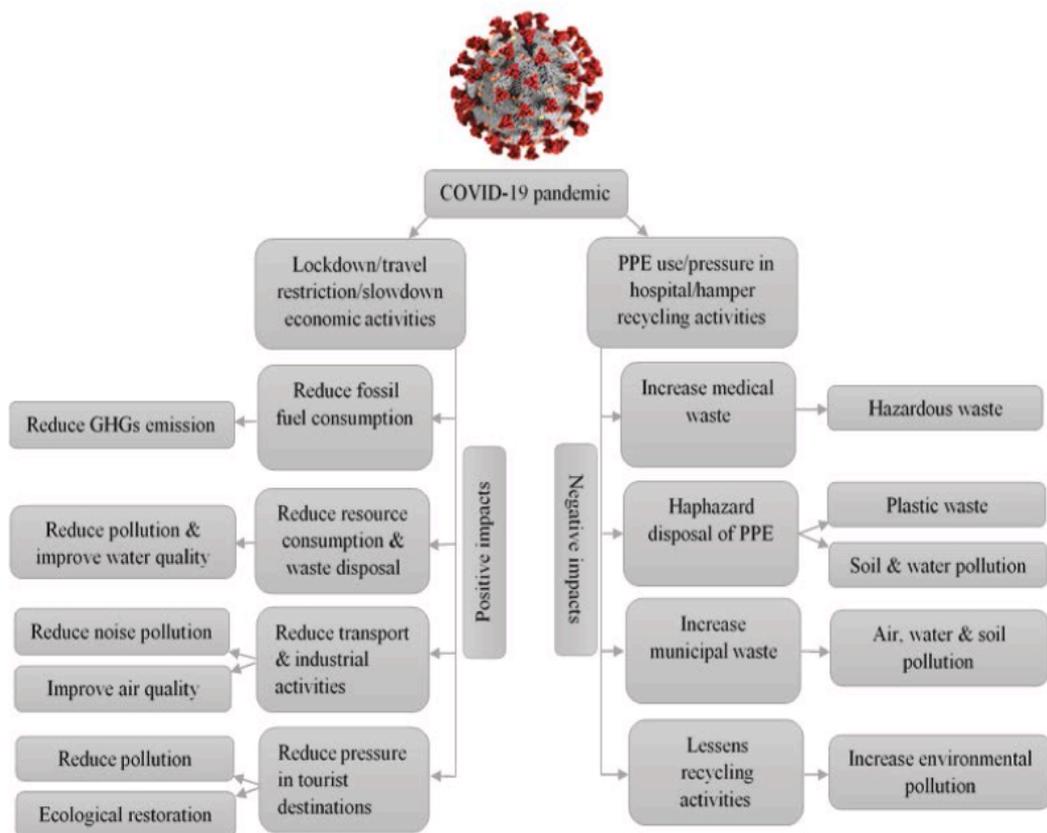
- **History and description of the issue**

COVID-19 pandemic started as a local Chinese contagious virus; however, it did not take a long time to get to the different continents and provoke a worldwide sanitary crisis. Environmentally speaking, the short-term effects of the pandemic, at first, were positive. As the COVID cases increased promptly, governments around the world established internal public policies to tackle the coronavirus spread in each country. For instance, they exhorted their citizens to work from home, limit their right of association and transportation, and encouraged the daily use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs). As a result, it reduced pollution, including noise pollution, Greenhouse Gases emissions and improved water and air quality (Rume & Islam, 2020).

However, the long-term effects COVID-19 has brought the Arctic community, and in synthesis, the world itself, are negative. The high use of PPEs and medical waste rise as a direct consequence of the rapid evolution of the virus, so many countries overload their capacity to treat these waste items properly (Patrício Silva et al., 2021). In the character of the alarming contagion coronavirus is, all medical waste was cataloged as highly contagious waste. According to Ana Silva Patrício, the highly contagious medical waste gets incinerated at outrageous temperatures which allows sterilization and ends up in landfilling of residual ash. Nevertheless, this procedure is not standardized worldwide due to the lack of resources, provoking an incorrect form of disposing of toxic material, causing negative effects to human health and environmental sustainability.

Although COVID-19 has been extremely beneficial to flora and fauna as an immediate reaction to the global isolation in 2020, scientists are wondering if the early ice melt in the Arctic could be related to the pandemic lockdown. At the early stage of the virus, nobody realized the possible environmental short-term effects due to the instant closure of the industrial sector. Thus, the constant emission of different gases, such as sulphate aerosol pollutants, contributed the Arctic region to be colder and cloudier. Nonetheless, the amount of this type of emissions decreased and instantly the arctic ice started to melt, causing a slight rise in global warming in response to the drop-off of atmospheric pollutants (Dickie, 2020).

In the following figure, you will find the positive and negative impacts COVID-19 pandemic brought.



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³ Figure 2. Positive and negative environmental effects of COVID-19 pandemic.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7498239/figure/fig4/>

Plastic trash in the Arctic

Over the last decade, scientists have documented high concentrations of plastic litter—including microplastics—all over the Arctic: on beaches and in deep sea sediments, sea ice, and surface waters.

Where plastic litter was found

● Beach ● Surface ● Seafloor ● Open sea ● Other



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⁴ According to Professor Yong Sik Ok, even though COVID-19 magnified the consumption of plastic materials, it is not the root of the issue. Using single-use plastics (SUP) has been accepted by many societies, especially big cities, due to its ease and the lack of time of the user. Thus, the real problem related to the use of plastic is the way in which humans recycle. Plastics have been an unsolved problem to the environment, we can find plastic debris in all the oceans, and the arctic coast is

not an exemption. Therefore, what started as a sanitary and health crisis, rapidly evolved to an environmental threat (Patrício Silva et al., 2021).

According to some Portuguese studies, citizens worldwide need approximately 129 billion facemasks to protect themselves adequately (2021). Hence, the effect of not knowing how to recycle PPEs⁵ properly, resulted in increasing the amount of plastic waste across the world to 8 million tons of plastic every year (Peng et al., 2021). It is necessary to acknowledge that facemasks are made of polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) which most likely end up in microplastics that currently can be found in water, soil, organic food, and even inside mammals (Patrício Silva et al., 2021).

⁴ Figure 3. plastic trash in the Arctic map

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/remote-arctic-contains-more-plastic-than-most-places-on-earth>

⁵ Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) are plastic made materials to protect oneself from viruses. For example: facemasks, gloves and similar

Finally, in March 2021, the government of Iceland hosted the International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and the Sub-Arctic Region. One of its highlights was the intervention of the executive director of the UN Environmental Programme, Inger Andersen who said: “Carried by the currents waves and wind, plastic pollution is found on Arctic beaches, in the water column, in the sea ice, in the sediments, in Arctic birds and in mammals.” According to Andersen, the pandemic augmented the demand of personal protective equipment, single-use food and shipping packaging, and other plastic items which by now have found its way into the oceans, increasing ocean litter and sea water contamination. Supporting Andersen’s concern, Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, Iceland Foreign Minister, raised awareness on pursuing several scientific research and studies that can help arctic members to identify possible solutions to the high amount of plastic debris that is usually found in the Arctic environment.

- **Research and preparation questions**

All Arctic Members should question their own recycling practices and analyze the best ways of disposing of medical material and single-use plastics related to the pandemic pollution.

Here are some questions that will help your delegation to adequately understand the topic and be ready to debate!

1. How is your country handling plastic waste now?
2. What internal public policies can be implemented to prevent plastic pollution?
3. What is the best alternative to discard PPEs?
4. Which international organizations can cooperate with the Arctic Council?
5. What are the possible alternatives to the use of plastic?
6. In what ways could your delegation contribute to this topic?

- **Additional investigation sources:**

- a. <https://arctic-council.org/about/>
- b. <https://news.mongabay.com/2020/06/climate-conundrum-could-covid-19-be-linked-to-early-arctic-ice-melt/>

- c. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1352231021006750>
- d. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/ele.13611>
- e. <https://www.proquest.com/openview/caf2d8e6b796bc5aff195e355830a379/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=666306>
- f. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405844021004485>
- g. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/another-wake-call-sea-ice-loss-speeding>
- h. <https://arctic-council.org/news/covid-19-the-arctic-experience/>
- i. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/another-wake-call-sea-ice-loss-speeding>
- j. <https://arctic-council.org/news/highlights-from-the-international-symposium-on-plastics-in-the-arctic/>

IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH IN THE ARCTIC'S INDIGENOUS POPULATION

Mental health is an arising subject amongst new generations who are looking to improve their mental health while also helping others improve theirs. However, not every group of people deals with mental the same way, for instance, mental health in the Arctic is not talked about enough, yet it is a big struggle because of the high suicide rates. Furthermore, the pandemic has brought new challenges concerning mental health due to the uncertain situation everyone is going through “stressful and traumatic life events like pandemics may result in depression, anxiety and possibly enhanced suicidal risk in vulnerable populations”, Dr. Eydís Kristín Sveinbjarnardóttir stated in a panel focusing on human health during the Arctic Science Summit Week (27 March 2020). Indeed, the Arctic Science Summit Week is an annual event that focuses on discussing physical and mental health in the Arctic.

On the same token, the subject of mental health has been of big importance even before the effects of the pandemic “suicide was a pandemic in the Arctic before COVID-19 came along and after the virus is dealt with, suicide prevention will remain a priority for ICC (International Cricket Council) and other Arctic Indigenous peoples,” the ICC said in a recent statement. To tackle the issue, we need to understand what leads indigenous people to have a high rate of suicide. It is known that indigenous people

deal with different types of issues concerning their community, such as culture loss, land dispossession, political issues, amongst the most common problems like anxiety and depression.

There are a few things already being done by Local 2 Global, which is a Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG):

- Digital storytelling workshops that focus on the lived experience of Arctic peoples, especially youth.
- Study tours on suicide prevention to support the exchange of knowledge derived from practice across Arctic communities.
- A research initiative on adverse childhood experiences and the link to suicidality.

There are still a lot of things that need to be done and put in place by the Arctic's Council members. It is important to take into consideration the economic problems, the news outlets that are constantly giving information that affects mental health, the effects of the pandemic, living conditions, and political issues.

- **History and description of the issue**

During recent years, the indigenous people in the Arctic have had to deal with various socio-cultural changes that have affected them immensely. It is important to explore the regional and ethnic differences in mental health:

It was found that current epidemiological knowledge is based mainly on cross-sectional studies from selected regions and limited to substance use and suicidal behavior. Youth suicide rates are alarmingly high in many parts of the Arctic, particularly in Greenland and Alaska (sci med, 2009).

One of the main problems concerning mental health and its consequences is substance abuse which include: alcohol heavy binge drinking, illegal drugs, tabaco, prescription drug abuse. Thus, increasing rates of mental health problems such as anxiety and depression, which lead to suicide “from 1994 to 2008, the rate of suicide among Inuit youth under 18 years of age was 30 times higher than that of their counterparts in the general population” (MHN, 2017). This gives a narrower view of where the issues lie. It is important to know which groups of indigenous people live in the Arctic and are part

of the Arctic Council. Therefore, here are indigenous communities living in the Arctic: Saami in circumpolar areas of Finland, Sweden, Norway and Northwest Russia, Nenets, Khanty, Evenk and Chukchi in Russia, Aleut, Yupik, and Inuit (Iñupiat) in Alaska, Inuit (Inuvialuit) in Canada and Inuit (Kalaallit) in Greenland.

With that being said, the indigenous population composes 9% of the Arctic's population, with 40 different ethnic groups. This shows that even though they do not compose a big percentage of the population, they still compose a big percentage of the suicide rates and substance abuse in the Arctic. Therefore, mental health is a very pressing matter in the Arctic Council. The permanent members of the council—Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States—need to come up with solutions and health plans focused on the needs of the diverse indigenous populations' issues based on the center of their problems. Even though the indigenous population is a minority, it does not make them less important. As a matter of fact, because they are a minority who tend to be discriminated against, they are more prone to deal with mental health issues, and currently the pandemic has become another mental health treating issue.

It is also important to note that the Arctic Council works with an Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG). The expert group is an integrated research community with interest in circumpolar community health and wellness. It supports SDWG by providing expert advice and conducting projects and activities related to human health in the Arctic. Members of AHHEG include a range of circumpolar human health professionals involved in, for example: health systems, human biology, mental health, and social, cultural, and economic aspects of health. A recent one called Circumpolar Resilience, Engagement and Action Through Story (CREATeS) supported communities and engaged indigenous youth in a digital storytelling format with the goal of reducing suicide and fostering mental wellness. Recently, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, AHHEG and SDWG's other Expert Group, the Social, Economic and Cultural Expert Group (SECEG), have sort of joined forces. Everyone is realizing how everything is connected, and we need to look at the connectedness when addressing the pandemic.

- **Research and preparation questions**

Here are a few research questions that can help you develop the subject and find variable solutions:

1. Why do mainly indigenous people do substance abuse?
2. What are these communities lacking in health care?
3. Is it a broad solution or should it be focused on each individual indigenous?
4. How can suicides be prevented? What are the main causes?
5. How can we make mental health care available for everyone?
6. In which can we deal with mental health during the pandemic?
7. What does the indigenous community need?

- **Additional investigation sources:**

- a. <https://www.arcticcentre.org/EN/arcticregion/Arctic-Indigenous-Peoples>
- b. <https://www.mentalhealth.gov/basics/what-is-mental-health>
- c. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/2611755/>
- d. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/ng-interactive/2019/aug/12/life-on-thin-ice-mental-health-at-the-heart-of-the-climate-crisis>
- e. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/070674377001500203>
- f. <https://www.hhrjournal.org/2020/06/arctic-suicide-social-medicine-and-the-purview-of-care-in-global-mental-health/>
- g. <https://www.thearcticinstitute.org/turning-traditional-processes-supporting-mental-health/>
- h. <https://jsis.washington.edu/news/the-intersection-of-mental-health-and-climate-change-policy-suggestions-for-supporting-greenlandic-inuit/>
- i. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.3402/ijch.v62i3.17560>

ARCTIC COUNCIL MEMBER COUNTRIES ⁶

- **Canada**

Canada plays a crucial role in the Arctic. Not only does the country possess expansive swaths of Arctic territory, but a sizable portion of its indigenous population also resides in the Arctic Circle. The Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon, and northern portions of a few other provinces comprise Arctic Canada, which has about 150,000 inhabitants. More than half are indigenous and are represented by the Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC), Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), and Gwich'in Council International (GCI). Despite the vast territory in Canada's Arctic region, only 1 percent of Canada's population lives in the Arctic. Canada's foremost priorities in the Arctic Council include developing infrastructure for Arctic dwellers, improving mental wellness in Arctic communities, and environmental protection. Regarding the country's portfolio powers in the Arctic Council, Canada established the Arctic Economic Council, an independent forum for business-to-business cooperation, including industries such as mining, shipping, reindeer herding, and indigenous economic development corporations. Canada has also worked tirelessly to reform positive relationships with its indigenous communities through youth development programs and other partnerships. Lastly, Canada is a forerunner in reducing oil pollution and methane emissions in the Arctic.

- **Denmark**

Denmark only officially recognizes one indigenous group, the Greenlandic Inuit. Greenland is Denmark's primary claim to the Arctic. Its ice caps cover 81 percent of its area, leaving 15 percent of the coastline inhabitable. The three primary sectors in Greenland are fishing, rare earth metals, and tourism. Thus, Greenland is one of the prime development targets of metals, including gold, rubies, diamonds, coppers, rare earth elements, and oil. The Faroe Islands are also a significant area as they are positioned in a main shipping route center. Denmark's portfolio powers include its wealth of access to resources and control of major arctic shipping (if the islands become well inhabited).

⁶ Credit to: <https://imuna.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/NHSMUN-2022-Background-Guide-Arctic-Council-Crisis.pdf>

- **Finland**

About one-third of Finland's territory lies within the Arctic Circle in the province of Lapland. Within this sparsely populated territory are 180,000 inhabitants, approximately 10,500 of whom are part of the Indigenous Sami population. Finland's current priorities in the Arctic Council include sustainable development, capacity building for financial resources, and promoting science-based decision making. In reference to their future agenda, Finland has also highlighted environmental protection, increased broadband services, educational opportunities, and circumpolar meteorological technology. Given these priorities, Finland's portfolio powers include influential expertise in modern technology and industries such as arctic construction, arctic environmental technology, arctic infrastructure, and arctic navigation. Prominent biological research stations, arctic medical stations, interdisciplinary research centers, and higher education intuitions reside in Lapland. These give Finland the power to impact research-backed decisions in the Arctic Council.

- **Iceland**

Iceland lands on the cusp of the Arctic Circle, with the boundary passing through its northernmost island, Grimsey Island, which is situated 40 kilometers off Iceland's northern coast. Iceland has committed itself to sustainable development. Its key industries are heavily rooted in sustainable development, including renewable energies and geothermal heat, to support an image of development that reflects environmental goals. Notably, Iceland does not have an indigenous population, with all its inhabitants coming from Europe. Iceland's primary objectives for the Arctic Council include augmenting economic opportunities and implementing the green energy solutions. Iceland's portfolio powers stand as very scalable sustainable development policy and industries, as well as a robust research potential for new technology to be introduced in committee.

- **Norway**

Norway is the western and northernmost country on the Scandinavian peninsula, thus granting it uninhibited access to the northern Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic Ocean. In addition, half of Norway's territory lies in the Arctic, including the counties of Nordland, Troms, and Finnmark and islands of Svalbard and Jan Mayen. About 490,000 people inhabit Norway's Arctic territory, and about 50,000–80,000 of those are the Indigenous Sami people. Because Norway's maritime area extends 1,500,000 square kilometers, marine industries comprise the cornerstone of Arctic Norway's economy. Fisheries and aquaculture, tourism, sustainable energy through hydropower and wind, natural gas, mining, and transit are the leading industries supporting Arctic Norway. Norway's priorities in the Arctic Council include integrating resource management and regulation in the industries, monitoring climate change, preventing pollution, protecting the marine environment, and supporting Arctic Indigenous peoples.

- **Russia**

Russia has one of the largest indigenous populations in the Arctic, with tribes including the Dolgan, Nganasan, Nenets, Saami, Khanty, Chukchi. Russia stretches over 53 percent of the Arctic coastline, giving it large access and control over major points of the Arctic. Russia's top priorities include keeping the Arctic peaceful, using the Arctic for socio-economic movement, and sustainable economic development of the Arctic. Russia's primary industry is the extraction of natural resources from the Arctic. Russia's primary portfolio power is the extensive oil mining infrastructure along the Arctic coast. This portfolio power grants Russia strong control over its offshore area.

- **Sweden**

Sweden's two northernmost counties, Västerbotten and Norrbotten, constitute Sweden's arctic territory and equate to about one-third of Sweden's total territory. Sweden has an Arctic population of about 520,000, and about 20,000 to 50,000 Indigenous Sami live in the Swedish Arctic Circle. Sweden's current priorities include increasing climate protection, sea, and land surveillance, and strengthening the research institutions in Sweden. Sweden aims to facilitate better gender equality,

economic development, language preservation, and food security concerning indigenous people. Like Finland, Sweden's portfolio powers are based on improving scientific research and its affiliated institutions. Sweden is home to multiple research stations such as radar facilities for data collection and environmental monitoring programs for detecting temperature, ice-thaw, flora, fauna, and more. In addition to these research facilities, Sweden is home to the most advanced icebreaking technology in the world for both commercial and research purposes.

- **United States**

The United States is a member country of the Arctic Council exclusively due to Alaska, its northernmost state bordering Canada. Specifically, the Arctic Circle covers the top one-third of Alaska, including the North Slope Borough region; the Northwest Arctic Borough region; the nearby Beaufort, Bering, and Chukchi seas; and the Aleutian Island chain. Current Arctic indigenous peoples in Alaska include the Aleut, Alutiiq, Yup'ik, Inupiaq (Northwest Alaskan Inuit), Athabaskan, Tlingit, and Haida, which are part of the Aleutian International Association (AIA), AAC, GCI, and ICC. Most of these indigenous peoples rely heavily on subsistence hunting and fishing. The United States's current priorities for the Arctic Council are improving human health, climate change, and sustainable Arctic tourism in Alaska. Because of the presence of prominent industries such as petroleum, mining, fishing, and tourism in Alaska, the United States has great potential for economic development in the Arctic region. The country highlights national and homeland security as a prime concern. Therefore, their defense capacities in Alaska are greater than most other Arctic countries.

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PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE AND RULES SHORT EXPLANATION

Chair: The Chair facilitates debate and enforces rules of procedure. The Chair will rule on points of order, put questions to votes, announce decisions, and recognize speakers.

Opening Speeches: First debate begins with discussion on how delegates would like to see the topic resolved. No delegates may speak in formal debate until recognized by the Chair. The Chair will maintain a speaker's list for those wishing to speak after it is motioned open by the committee.

Closure of Debate: This motion requires **two speakers for** and **two speakers against**. A 2/3 majority of the delegates present is necessary for passage. If accepted, the committee will enter formal voting procedures on all resolutions and amendments that have been introduced.

Tabling of the Topic: A motion to table the topic requires **two speakers for** and **two speakers against**. A 2/3 majority of the delegates present is necessary for passage. If tabled, the agenda will be considered undetermined, and resolutions and amendments will not be voted on.

Quorum: 1/3 of the members of the body.

Time Limits: Time, question, and answer time limits may be set by the committee. They require a **simple majority** (50%).

Unmoderated Caucusing (Informal Session): A motion for an unmoderated caucus is in order whenever the floor is open and formal debate is in effect. It must specify a time limit and be followed by a brief explanation of its purpose. A **simple majority** is required for its passage.

Moderated Caucusing: A moderated caucus is proposed similarly to an unmoderated caucus. It must specify a total time of the caucus and may include a time limit for

individual speeches. During a moderated caucus, the chair will recognize at random those wishing to speak. There are no questions or speeches given during the moderated caucus.

Working Papers: A document in resolution format before its formal introduction to the whole committee. Sometimes during debate, delegates are not allowed to refer to the paper itself, but delegates are allowed to refer to the ideas of the working paper.

Signatories: 1/5 of the assembled body's signatures. Being a signatory does not imply support of the resolution itself, but being a signatory allows this resolution to be introduced to the floor.

Sponsors: The minimum number of sponsors depends on the number of delegations in the committee. Sponsorship means that you authored a bulk of the ideas in the resolution and supported the ideas of the resolution.

Friendly Amendments: A change to a resolution after its introduction. A friendly amendment is a change that all the sponsors have approved. The changes automatically take effect.

Unfriendly Amendments: A change to a resolution after its introduction. An unfriendly amendment is a change that all of the sponsors do not agree upon and will be voted on separately. The same number of sponsors and signatories are required for its introduction.

Voting Procedures: Formal voting procedures may only be entered by closing debate. Delegates may not speak to other delegations. All formally introduced resolutions and unfriendly amendments will be voted. A simple placard (now hands) vote will be taken on each item, unless voted on otherwise.

Adjournment of the Meeting: This motion requires a **simple majority** vote to pass. When passed, the committee meeting will be suspended until the next session.

Motion	Interrupt	Debatable	Vote Required	Do This?
Adjourn	No	No	Simple Majority	Yes
Recess	No	No	Simple Majority	Yes
Consideration of a Topic	No	Yes	Simple Majority	Yes
Closure of Debate	No	Yes	Simple Majority	Yes
Limits (speaking/debate)	No	Yes	Simple Majority	No
Division of the Questions	No	Yes	Simple Majority	If needed
Adoption by Consensus	No	No	None	Yes
Table a topic	No	Yes	Simple Majority	No
Reconsideration	No	Yes	Two-thirds	No
Appeal Decision of Chair	Yes	Yes	Simple Majority	No
Point of Order	Yes	No	None	If needed
Point of Information	No	No	None	Yes

COMMITTEE FLOW

1. Meeting is called to order
2. Dais makes announcements
3. Dais may set a speakers list or a speaking time limit. If the chair asks for delegations for the speakers list, raise your placard or submit a piece of paper to the dais asap. (Delegates may change speaking time later with a motion and a vote.)
4. Roll Call
5. Quorum checked at start of every session (1/3 of Member States)
6. Opening Speeches
 - a. Motion is made to suspend for an informal session
 - b. Second is required
7. Informal session starts. This is where most of the negotiations and resolution writing are done. After a set time limit, return to formal session

8. Working papers will be submitted to the chair for edits. Once edits are completed the working paper is accepted by the chair as a draft resolution.
9. Once all working papers are accepted a motion for closure of debate is expected.
 - a. Vote
10. Debate is closed and topic is voted on (see chart)
11. Closing debate will enter the committee into voting procedure and requires a second and a simple majority vote.
12. Before a vote takes place, the chair will entertain two speakers for and two against raise your placard to speak on one, but not both, of these sides.
13. Voting will take place with placards, so make sure your country name is easy to read.
 - a. Motion to close debate is discussed and passed
 - b. Amendments are voted on first
 - c. Resolution with passed amendments is voted on is brought to the floor

RULES OF PROCEDURE EXTENDED VERSION ⁷

INTRODUCTION

1. The Rules of Procedure establish the guidelines for interaction within the Arctic Council to facilitate the achievement of its objectives and contribute to its progress.
2. These are the sole rules to be applied during the Arctic Council
3. For these rules, the Presidents and the Secretary General are previously appointed, as are the staff who work during the sessions; these are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
4. Interpretation of the rules shall be the exclusive right of the Academic Director or his/her designee. This interpretation must be carried out in accordance with a didactic philosophy and the educational mission of the Conference.
5. For the purposes of these rules, “President” shall refer to the person who conducts the sessions of the conference.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - Dates of meeting and adjournment

The Arctic Council shall convene every year in regular session, beginning and ending on the dates assigned by the Secretary General.

Rule 2 – Venue

The Arctic Council will be held at a venue assigned by the Secretary-General.

II. AGENDA

Rule 3 - Provisional Agenda

The provisional agenda shall be established by the Secretary-General and

⁷ The following Rules of Procedure have been adapted for POLITIKUM The Lost Committees from the Rules of Procedure of the National Model United Nations Conference (NMUN). These rules are used under permission of the NMUN, after written statement from 15 April 2021, and are the intellectual property thereof. These rules shall not be used outside POLITIKUM The Lost Committees without the proper permission by the NMUN or POLITIKUM..

communicated to all Members at least 30 days prior to the opening session.

Rule 4 - Adoption of the Agenda

The provisional agenda provided by the Academic Director of the Conference shall be considered adopted at the beginning of each session of the Arctic Council. The order of topics will be determined by a simple majority vote of the members present.

Rule 5 - Revision of the Agenda

During session, the committee may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, postponing, or amending items. However, only important, and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during formal session. Permission will be granted on the motion for review of the agenda only to three representatives in favor and three against.

For the purposes of this rule, the determination of an issue as "important and urgent" is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any determination rendered is final. If a topic is determined "important and urgent," then it will require the affirmative vote of all committee members to be included on the agenda. The votes described in this rule are votes on substantive matters, and, as such, members listed as present may abstain and members listed as present, and voting may only issue affirmative or negative votes.

Rule 6 – Explanatory Memorandum

Any item proposed for inclusion on the agenda must be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and relevant documents.

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General or their designee shall act under this distinction in all meetings of Arctic Council.

2. The Secretary-General shall provide for and direct the staff required for Arctic Council and be responsible for all necessary arrangements for the meetings.

Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall receive, print, and distribute documents, reports and resolutions to the members of the Arctic Council, and, in general, carry out the work that may be required.

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat

The Secretary-General, or their representative, may make declarations, both oral and written, regarding any questions or considerations during the sessions of the Arctic Council.

Rule 10 - Selection of the President

The Secretary-General or their representative shall appoint the President, who shall remain in office and, among other duties, direct the committee for the duration of the session, unless decided otherwise by the Secretary-General.

Rule 11 - Replacement of the President

If the President is unable to perform their duties, a new President shall be appointed for an unexpired term at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language

English will be the official and working language during the meetings of the Arctic Council.

Rule 13 - Interpretation (verbal) or Translation (written)

A representative who wishes to address any committee of the Arctic Council or issue a document in a language other than English must provide translation into the official language.

This rule does not affect the total time for speaking allotted to those representatives wishing to address the committee in a language other than English. As such, both the speech and the translation must be within the time limit.

V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 14 – Quorum

The President may declare the meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least three quarters of the members of the Arctic Council are present. The presence of representatives of the majority of members shall be required for any decision to be made.

For purposes of this rule, members of the Arctic Council mean the total number of members (not including observers) summoned to the meeting.

Rule 15 - General Powers of the President

In addition to exercising the powers conferred by other rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Arctic Council, direct the discussions, ensure observance of the rules, grant the right to speak, submit questions to a vote, and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, is endowed with the authority to direct the actions of the Arctic Council and maintain order during meetings. Additionally, the President determines the points of order and can propose closure on the list of speakers, a limitation on the time allowed for speakers, the number of times the representative of each State may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or termination of the meeting.

Included in these enumerated powers is the power of the President to assign time for speakers of all interventions, motions, or amendments. In addition, the President may

use their discretion, upon the advice and consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a motion based on the philosophy and the principles of the Arctic Council. Such discretion must be used on a limited basis and only when necessary to further the educational mission of the conference. For the purposes of this rule, the power of proposal of the President implies the authority "to entertain" motions, but not to influence the committee on their own motions, while, however, maintaining the general discretion of the President.

Rule 16 – Authority of the Committee

The President, in the exercise of duty, remains under the authority of the committee members.

Rule 17 - Points of order

During discussion on any topic, any delegate who believes that the rules of procedure during session are being violated may, as a point of order, solicit the rectification of procedure. The intervention of this point of order must begin with a statement of which rule is deemed violated; otherwise, the President may immediately suspend the delegate's intervention. This means that members cannot, by raising a point of order, speak on the content of a matter under discussion.

Such points of order should not, under any circumstances, interrupt the speech of a member of the Arctic Council. Any questions that arise during a speech made by a representative should be raised at the conclusion of the speech or may be referred to the President during the speech. For purposes of this rule, "those present and voting" refers to those members attending the session during which this motion is put to vote.

Rule 18 – Speeches

1. No delegate of the Arctic Council may address the committee without having previously obtained permission from the President.
2. The discussion will be confined to the question presented to the members, and the President may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

3. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the Arctic Council, and with the objective to facilitate discussion, the President shall determine if committee members are largely unwilling to deviate from the expected time limit for the speaker, and any additional motion will not be well received by the committee. The President, in its discretion and in compliance with the Secretariat, may determine as dilatory any additional motion to change the limits of the speaker's time.

Rule 19 – List of Speakers

Members can only be re-included on the list of speakers after they have spoken. During an ongoing debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the members of the conference, declare the closure of the same. When there are no further speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by members of the Arctic Council.

The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the President and shall not be subject to a vote of the members present. The motion of the closure of the list of speakers is within the purview of the Arctic Council and the President should not apply a motion to influence the committee.

Rule 20 - Right of Reply

If a comment infringes upon the sovereignty of a State, the President may allow the right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech and shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply. No decision under this clause shall be subject to appeal.

For purposes of this rule, a comment that "infringes upon the sovereignty of a State" is one directed at the governing authority of that State or its representative. All rights of reply shall be submitted in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point or motion. The reply should be read to the committee by the representative only with the approval of the Secretariat, and, under no circumstance, be read after the voting

has concluded on all matters related to the topic of the agenda, during the discussion of which the right emerged.

Rule 21 - Suspension of Meeting

To suspend the meeting, a motion must be made, which specifies a time for the session's continuation. Such motions may be debated and will be submitted to an immediate vote, requiring the support of the simple majority of members of the Arctic Council to pass.

Rule 22 - Adjournment of Meeting

During session, a delegate may move to adjourn the meeting on the topic under discussion. Such motions shall not be debated, but shall be put to an immediate vote, which requires the support of a simple majority of the delegates present and voting to pass. After adjournment, the Arctic Council will reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

This motion will end the session until the next regular session of the Arctic Council scheduled for the following year and, in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the Council and its educational mission, the President will not entertain such a motion until the end of the last session of the conference.

Rule 23 - Adjournment of Debate

A delegate may, at any time, move to adjourn the debate on the item under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favor and two against, after which the motion shall be put immediately to a vote, requiring majority support of members to pass. If a motion for adjournment passes, the topic is considered discarded, and no action will be taken with respect to it.

Note: see Rule 28 - Reconsideration of Topic

Rule 24 - Closure of Debate

A delegate, at any time, may terminate discussion of the topic under question, regardless of the number of delegates who have requested to speak. The President will permit only two delegates against closure, after which the motion shall be put to an immediate vote. The closure of the debate will require a two-thirds majority of the committee. If the vote is affirmative for closing the debate, delegates should immediately move to voting on the proposals that have been written on the topics included in the agenda.

Rule 25 - Order of Motions

Subject to rule 17, the motions listed below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- a) To suspend the meeting.
- b) To adjourn the meeting.
- c) To adjourn debate on the topic under discussion, and
- d) To close the debate on the topic under discussion.

Rule 26 - Resolutions and Amendments

Resolutions and amendments shall normally be submitted in writing (electronically) to the Secretariat, with the names and signatures of twenty percent of the delegates present who would like to have the proposal or amendment considered. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the circulation of the resolution or amendment between the delegations. As a general rule, no resolution shall be voted on during any session of the Arctic Council, unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations. However, the President may allow discussion and consideration of resolutions or amendments to proceed, though copies may not have been distributed. If the sponsors agree with the adoption of the proposed amendment, the resolution will be modified and will not require any vote on the proposed amendment. In this sense, the modified document will be considered a resolution pending before the committee for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

For the purposes of this rule, the term "delegates" is based on the total number of delegates attending the first afternoon session. For the purposes of this rule, all "resolutions" will be presented in worksheet format before approval by the Secretariat. The worksheets will not be photocopied or otherwise distributed to the room by the Secretariat. The distribution of such worksheets is the sole responsibility of the sponsors of the working document. Within this context, and in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the Arctic Council, delegates must not refer directly to the content of the working document, which has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution/report. After approval of the working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the room. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Arctic Council and, therefore, the names of the original sponsors will be removed. The copying and distribution of amendments are subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, but the content of all amendments will be made available to all delegates.

Rule 27 - Withdrawal of Resolutions

A resolution may be withdrawn at any time by its sponsor before the voting has begun if it has not been amended. After withdrawing, a resolution may be reintroduced by any delegate.

Rule 28 - Reconsideration of Topic

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered in the same session, unless the committee, with a vote in favor of two-thirds majority of the delegates, so decides. The review can be conducted only by a representative who voted in favor of adjourning the debate on the issue under question. Permission to speak on the motion to reconsider shall be accorded to only two speakers against the motion, after which the motion shall be voted on immediately.

For the purposes of this rule, "those delegates present and voting" refers to those delegates attending the session during which the motion is put to vote.

VI. VOTING

Rule 29 - Voting Rights

Each Member State of the Arctic Council shall have one vote.

This rule applies a substantive vote to amendments, draft resolutions, and portions of draft resolutions supplied by a motion; this does not include States that are observers and not allowed to make votes on substantive issues.

Rule 30 - Request for Vote

Voting is a collective act by which the Arctic Council declares its will; the vote is the individual act through which each delegate states their will. A resolution before the committee shall be subject to a vote when any delegate requests it. When no delegate requests a vote, the committee will adopt the resolutions or motions without a voting process.

For the purposes of this rule, the term "resolution" means any draft resolution, an additional amendment, or a portion of a draft resolution. Before voting on a particular resolution or motion, the President may ask if there is any objection to passing the resolution or motion by acclamation, or, in turn, a delegate may come to accept the resolution or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to this resolution or motion, then it is adopted without a vote.

Rule 31 - Majority Required

1. Unless specified in this body of rules, substantive decisions of the Arctic Council in Iran should be made by **simple majority** of the delegates present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase "representatives present and voting" refers to delegates voting in favor or against. Delegates who abstain are considered not voting.

All delegates who are "present and voting," at the time of roll call for session, must vote in favor or against; they cannot abstain.

Rule 32 - Method of Voting

Members of the Special Committee on Sanctions in Iran may vote in the following ways:

1. Ordinary vote: delegates are required to raise their hands.
2. Roll-call vote: by list and in strict alphabetical order. Delegates are required to express their vote, without any argument, when called.

Delegates normally vote raising their placards (now they will raise their hands), except when a delegate requires a vote in registered form, which follows State names in alphabetical order, beginning with the member whose name is randomly selected by the President. The name of each State present will be called to vote by list on any motion, and representatives shall reply "yes," "no" or "abstention."

Rule 33 - Explanation of Vote

Delegates may make brief statements in explanation of their votes only after the voting process has been completed.

All explanations of the vote must be submitted to the President in writing before debate on the topic is closed, except in the case of a sponsor delegate of a resolution: the explanation of the vote must be presented to the President immediately after the vote on the issue has concluded.

Rule 35 - Conduct During Voting

After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting process except on a point of order in connection with the ongoing process.

Rule 36 - Division of Resolutions and Amendments

Immediately before a proposal or amendment enters a vote, a delegate can request that parts of a resolution or motion be voted on separately. If there are requests for multiple divisions, those shall be voted on in an order established by the President, and the most radical division will be voted on first. If any objection is made against the motion for division, the request for division shall be voted upon, and requires the

support of the majority of delegates present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be conceded to only two speakers in favor and two speakers against. If the motion for division is accepted, those parts of the resolution(s) or amendment(s) shall be voted on. If all operative parts of the resolution or amendment have been rejected, the resolution or amendment will be rejected as a whole.

For the purposes of this rule, "division" implies that content will be removed from the draft resolution, but not necessarily a majority of words or clauses. Determining which divisions are "most radical" is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any determination rendered is final.

Rule 37 – Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add, delete, or revise a part of another resolution.

An amendment can add, amend, or delete operative clauses, but cannot, under any circumstances, add, amend, remove or, in any way, affect preambulatory clauses.

Rule 38 - Order of Voting on Amendments

When an amendment is accepted as a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments become a proposal, the amendment farthest in content from the original proposal shall be voted on first and then, next, the amendment, and so on until all the amendments have been put to a vote. In some cases, the adoption of an amendment may cause another to be rejected, in which case, the latter shall not be put to a vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended resolution will be put to a vote.

For the purposes of this rule, "farthest in content" refers to the amendment that has the greatest impact on the draft resolution. The determination of an amendment shall be subject to the discretion of the Secretariat and is final.

Rule 39 - Order of Voting on Resolutions

If two or more resolutions or amendments relate to the same question, they shall, unless the members present agree otherwise, be voted on in the order they were submitted.

Rule 40 - The President shall not vote

The President shall not vote but may designate another member of her/his delegation to vote in her/his place.

VII. CREDENTIALS AND DRESS CODE

Rule 41 - Credentials

The credentials of representatives are given by the Secretariat before the start of the Conference. It is composed by a background which will be used during all sessions.

Rule 42 – Dress Code

For the purposes of the Arctic Council sessions, Western Business Attire is requested at all times. Delegates are expected to respect this rule up to their best effort.

THE ARCTIC COUNCIL SCHEDULE ⁸

The POLITIKUM The Lost Committees Simulation will be held on a virtual classroom at Zoom with the following schedule:

Thursday, February 3 rd	
18.00 – 19.00	Opening Ceremony POLITIKUM The Lost Committees and Texas Model United Nations (Osgood Center for International Studies)
Friday, February 4 th	
16.00 – 17.00	Formal session I
17.00 – 17.30	Coffee Break
17.30 – 19.00	Formal session II
Saturday, February 5 th	
9.00 – 12.00	Formal Session III
12.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 – 17.00	Formal Session IV
Sunday, February 6 th	
9.00 – 12.00	Formal Session V
12.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 – 16.00	Voting Procedure
16.00 – 17.00	Closing Ceremony

⁸ To obtain the certificate of participation in the simulation, delegates must have attended the training and at least 2 out of 3 days of simulation.



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