



## Disarmament and Security

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Disarmament Committee 1

Preventing the Militarization of the Arctic Region

Submitted by Canada

Co-submitters: Bangladesh, Federative Republic of Brazil, Israel, Mexico, Ukraine

Signatories: Azerbaijan, Columbia, Finland, Germany, Guyana, Sierra Leone, United Kingdom

The General Assembly,

*Recognizing* the strategic, environmental, and cultural importance of the Arctic region,

*Acknowledging* the sovereignty of Arctic states, including Canada, and the rights of indigenous and local communities,

*Concerned* about increased military activity, strategic competition, and the potential deployment of nuclear weapons in the Arctic,

*Recognising* the dangers that the militarisation of the Arctic poses for indigenous communities,

*Reaffirming* the principles of international law, including the United Nations Charter and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS),

*Reaffirming* the sovereignty of Denmark and its ownership of Greenland,

1. Calls upon Arctic and non-Arctic states to reaffirm the Arctic as a region dedicated to peaceful purposes and not military or geopolitical interests:
  - a. Encourages member states to show military restraint in the Arctic,
  - b. Recognizing the region's primary goal of civilian scientific, environmental, and commercial activities,
  - c. Integrating peaceful-use commitments into national Arctic strategies and incorporating them into written down international legal agreements,
  - d. Supports the consideration nuclear-weapon-free arrangements in the Arctic,
  - e. Urges all states, including non-Arctic nations, to engage responsibly in scientific, environmental, and economic activities without threatening regional security;
2. Urges restricting on the establishment of new permanent military bases and installations in the Arctic:
  - a. Prohibiting the construction of new military-purposed facilities north of the Arctic Circle,
  - b. Limiting infrastructure upgrades strictly to search-and-rescue or civilian safety purposes,
  - c. Refraining from deployment of offensive weapon systems in the region with the possibility of establishing a stricter ban,
  - d. Encouraging transparency and multilateral dialogue regarding the intended function of existing installations as well as the potential possibility of removing those infrastructures that could be militarized;
3. Encourages the limitation and regulation of military exercises conducted in the Arctic, ideally commonly agreed regulations that are documented:
  - a. Requiring strictly advance notification of large-scale exercises, military operations, or activities that could potentially post threats to other nations,
  - b. Establishing caps on the size and duration of such exercises,
  - c. Prohibiting exercises simulating offensive operations against Arctic states,
  - d. Mandating nations conducting activities in the Arctic region to allow voluntary observation by other interested states or international bodies, especially the nations surrounding the region geographically;
4. Recommends the creation of an Arctic military transparency and data-sharing mechanism monitored directly by an UN body:

- a. Sharing detailed and precise information on force presence and major equipment deployments,
  - b. Exchanging annual reports on Arctic-related defense activities,
  - c. Establishing a centralized platform for transparency submissions with the UN GA responsible for posting concerns regarding certain nations' actions,
  - d. Ensuring participation is consistent with national security requirements;
- 5. Calls for strengthened confidence-building and risk-reduction measures among Arctic states through a proposed Arctic committee:
  - a. Establishing direct military-to-military communication hotlines in case of potentially escalating accidents,
  - b. Developing pre-agreed incident-prevention agreements for air and maritime encounters,
  - c. Conducting joint training on de-escalation and emergency response,
  - d. Regularly reviewing and updating these measures through regular multilateral dialogue;
- 6. Supports the expansion of the Arctic Council's role in security-adjacent issues without transforming it into a military body:
  - a. Mandating discussions on the security implications of climate change, making such dialogue a regular component of international collaboration,
  - b. Facilitating dialogue on military transparency and restraint aided by collaboration with the UN Security Council,
  - c. Coordinating civilian search-and-rescue and disaster-response cooperation,
  - d. Preserving the Council's consensus-based and non-military character, requiring every decision to be made on a consensus and disallowing any connection between the council and any nation's military forces;
- 7. Requests enhanced international cooperation on civilian Arctic security challenges,
  - a. Jointly funding search-and-rescue infrastructure;
  - b. Sharing capabilities for oil-spill response and environmental emergencies,
  - c. Coordinating maritime safety and navigation systems,
  - d. Reducing the justification for expanded military involvement through civilian capacity-building;
- 8. Encourages to conduct periodic reviews of Arctic militarization trends and compliance with restraint measures:

- a. Mandating regular reporting by participating states to the UN directly with stricter fact-checking procedures,
  - b. Assessing the effectiveness of transparency and confidence-building mechanisms at least bi-annually to track the effectiveness of solutions,
  - c. Identifying emerging risks to Arctic stability timely,
  - d. Considering dialogues regarding further concrete measures to preserve the Arctic as a region of peace and cooperation with the possibility of expanding the UNCLOS for more up-to-date scenarios;
9. Calls for the protection of the rights of indigenous communities in the Arctic through:
- a. Prioritizing ecologically sensitive regions and populated areas, specifically populated by protected indigenous peoples,
  - b. Requiring states to consult indigenous peoples before undertaking any activity with potential security implications,
  - c. Ensuring indigenous representation in all Arctic-related UN forums, committees, and consultations established under this relationship,
  - d. Mandating that states provide transparent impact assessments for any proposed military infrastructure that may affect indigenous lands or livelihoods,
  - e. Deploing the use of indigenous territories for military installations, weapons testing, or dual-use infrastructure without explicit, documented consent from the affected communities,
  - f. Supporting capacity-building programs that strengthen indigenous governance and emergency-response capabilities,
  - g. Encouraging the designation of specific Arctic zones as demilitarized or military-free areas, especially the regions close to inhabited areas:
    - i. Prohibiting weapons deployment and military exercises in such zones completely with detailed punishments,
    - ii. Allowing strictly only civilian and scientific activities,
    - iii. Establishing monitoring arrangements agreed upon by relevant states and the UN General Assembly as an overseeing body of the implementation;
10. Emphasizes the responsibilities that non-arctic states have in preventing the militarization of the high North through:
- a. Requiring non-Arctic countries not to challenge the territorial rights of Arctic Nations,
  - b. Encouraging non-arctic nations to refrain from sending troops or weapons to the region in ways that increase tension,
  - c. Mandating non-Arctic states to follow existing UN agreements and Arctic Council guidelines for safe, responsible activity,
  - d. Inviting non-arctic nations to help with research and climate monitoring without militarizing the area.

