

**FORUM:** The General Assembly

**QUESTION OF:** The Arms Race In the Arctic and how to regulate it

**SUBMITTED BY:** Netherlands

**SPONSOR:** Netherlands

**SIGNATORIES:** Peru, Indonesia, UAE, Venezuela, Poland, France, USA, UK, Switzerland, Kuwait, Russia, Ivory-Coast, Iran, China, Sweden, Norway, Kazakhstan

**CO-SUBMITTED BY:** UK, USA, Russia, China, Venezuela, Poland

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Fully Aware* of the oil and gas reserves beneath the Arctic glaciers are roughly equivalent to:

- a. 1,669 trillion cubic feet of Natural gas reserves (24% of the world's known reserves)
  - i. 99% of Russia's known reserves
  - ii. 2,354% of Norway's known reserves
  - iii. 500% of US known reserves
  - iv. 2,736% of Canada's known reserves
- b. 90 Billion barrels of undiscovered oil reserves (5.9% of the world's known reserves)110% of Russia's known reserves
  - i. 1,677% of Norway's known reserves
  - ii. 339% of US known reserves
  - iii. 52% of Canada's known reserves,

*Keeping in mind* that control of the Arctic also means the opening and control of new trade routes for both ice breaking and regular ships, instead of taking the Suez canal,

*Aware of* the Polar Code that separates ships into categories, breaking down their functions and if they are suitable to perform their orders in the Arctic territory,

*Noting with regret* that recently with the warm winds moving up from Siberia, the Arctic's temperature went up by as much as 35 F above the historical averages,

*Having studied* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, allowing States to the following rights:

- a. to exploit resources in a 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (including natural resources and jurisdiction)
- b. over the continental shelf (the national area of the seabed) for exploring and exploiting it; extending to at least 200 nautical miles from the shore, and further, depending on the circumstances.
- c. to share part of the revenue with the international community, if derived from exploiting resources from beyond 200 miles;
- d. to have passage as long as this is innocent and peaceful until a foreign ship can be considered prejudicial to the peace, good and conformity by exercising or practicing with weapons of any kind,
- e. for the geographically disadvantaged to participate on an equitable basis in the exploitation of an appropriate part of the living resources of the EEZ's of coastal States of the same region.
- f. enjoy the traditional freedoms of navigation, scientific research and fishing on the high seas; they are obliged to adopt, or cooperate with other States in adapting measures to manage and conserve resources,

*Alarmed by* the (known) military bases built on or near the Arctic by the following countries:

- a. Russia's new Arctic Trefoil military base
- b. US's Thule Air Base (Greenland)
- c. Canadian Forces Nanisivik naval facility (Nunavut, Canada)

*Taking into account* the countries that participate in this race to control the Arctic:

- a. Russia
- b. Canada
- c. Finland
- d. Norway
- e. United States  
and stakeholder states:
- f. China
- g. Japan,
- h. South Korea,
- i. France

j. the United Kingdom,

*Emphasising* the fragility of the Arctic ecosystem, with the sinking of Exxon Valdez as an example of what the sinking of a cargo ship can do to the Arctic, let alone weapons, both nuclear and non nuclear,

*Viewing with appreciation* the Hiroshima declaration that advocates for all countries to reduce nuclear weapon production and armament, run by Interaction Council of Former Heads of State and Government, further developing the START treaty (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) signed in 2011, which commits Russia and the United States significantly to reduce their nuclear arsenal,

*Noting with deep concern* the Indigenous populations that face pressured relocation due to government gas and oil reserve exploitation stations, based on their own EEZ, and by the changing conditions such as mass migrations of animals in the following areas:

- a. more than 2 Million Russian Indigenous people living in the Arctic zone
- b. more than 1.25 million European Indigenous people living in the Arctic zone
- c. more than 825,000 American Indigenous people living in the Arctic zone
- d. more than 400,000 Canadian Indigenous people living in the Arctic zone,

1. Encourages maximal transparency for military bases, reports of military operations and training exercises, and outposts of all purposes;
2. Urges the creation of a NNWFZ (Nordic Nuclear Weapon Free Zone) and prohibition of the following actions:
  - a. the use of a country's nuclear arsenal,
  - b. the movement of weapons of mass destruction
  - c. the manufacturing of nuclear weapons,
  - d. the testing of nuclear weapons both on the surface level of the Arctic, and on the continental shelf,
  - e. conventional weapon strikes on nuclear installations and instruments (such as nuclear powered icebreakers);
3. Requests the creation of a Peaceful Arctic Territorial Partition Treaty (PATPT) in the month subsequent to implementation, which will :
  - a. reaffirm the law of the sea treaty,
  - b. enforce the nautical mile line,
  - c. discuss territorial claims and areas of tension,
  - d. urge the security council to impose sanctions on all cases of misconduct,
  - e. allow the UN to claim unclaimed lands that exceed legal boundaries;
4. Recommends the creation of a radio frequency and cellular number similar to that of the cold-war hotline between the USA and the USSR, to urgently communicate with all other relevant states, in case of rising tensions;
5. Urges all military forces in the Arctic, including those disclosed and undisclosed to the public, to suspend all operations and training exercises, until the completion of the PATPT, hopefully leading to a not only nuclear-free but a weapon free Arctic as a peaceful international territory;
6. Decides that the Indigenous and native populations of all concerned countries must be respected and preserved supplying them weekly with requested resources, and further declaring a 25 mile (400 kilometer) radius of restrictions to travel for all ships, and conduct military trainings near the area of their last known location, which will be monitored closely every month, by the UN migration agency;
7. Appeals for the Polar Code to be enhanced to include information, restrictions and rules for all types of submarines passing under the arctic ice sheet;
8. Reaffirms that member states have the ability to utilise nuclear technology for peaceful civilian purposes, as the NNWFZ is created to protect citizens from destructive nuclear weapons, but that zonal states can implant nuclear technology installations for peaceful purposes, in their EEZ limits;
9. Calls upon the creation of a Committee Of Territorial Repartition (COTR) that will determine and discuss different states' continental shelf claims, whether they exceed 200 nautical miles and will discuss territorial overlapping claims to offer an equitable area to both parties involved;

10. Land will be distributed as such: agreed upon offshore boundaries will be extended into the Arctic Ocean and into the North Pole:
  - a. Unclaimed land in Russia's territory will be given to the Arctic Council to distribute equally;
  - b. Unclaimed land in Canada's territory will be given to the United States
  
11. Encourages the allowance of trade activity for all nations in the Arctic Circle
  
12. Confirms the fragile state of the Arctic and discourages the pursuit of oil and gas in the region, so suggests the following quota for the amount of natural resources being allowed to be drilled for stakeholder states:
  - i. 800,000 barrels of oil daily
  - ii. 8 bcm monthly;
  
13. Suggests that stakeholder states have the following rights, obligations, and responsibilities:
  - a. all stakeholder states need a sponsor state who is implicated in the direct control of the Arctic,
  - b. all infrastructure built will have to be approved of by the sponsor state,
  - c. all projects executed by stakeholder states will need to be approved by the sponsor country
  - d. all NGO (Non Governmental Organisations) must be approved by the state in which they are based, and by the sponsor state
  - e. all sponsor states can have their own specific criteria, requirements, and expectations from stakeholder states
  - f. all agreements and transactions in between the sponsor state and the stakeholder state will be monitored by the UN, to avoid illegal trading, and all the documents will hold no secret clauses/agreements, and will remain public and explicit
  - g. To recognise that upon the disrespect of Arctic laws and treaties, both the sponsor state and the stakeholder state will be tried before the ICC and thoroughly investigated.
  
14. Implores research to be commenced to catalog the safest way to extract minerals:
  - a. This includes the committee retaining the data and distributing it to each nation, this being in favor of protecting the environment
  - b. And a catalog to present what minerals or resources are available for mining