

Recommendation of the Arctic Council Deputy Foreign Ministers, 14 May 2012

Since the establishment of the Arctic Council, participation of observers has been a valuable feature through their provision of scientific and other expertise, information and financial resources. The involvement of observers should complement the unique and critical role of Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council.

As set out in the Declaration on the Establishment of the Arctic Council and in the Arctic Council Rules of Procedure, observer status in the Arctic Council is open to non-Arctic States; inter-governmental and inter-parliamentary organizations, global and regional; and non-governmental organizations, that the Council determines can contribute to its work. Today the Arctic Council has 26 accredited observers.

The Arctic Council has received ten new applications for observer status in the Arctic Council.

The Arctic Council Deputy Foreign Ministers reiterate the decision taken on the Seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council that a decision on observer applications will be taken at the 8th Ministerial meeting in Kiruna 2013. In the determination of the Council of the general suitability of an applicant for observer status the Council will, inter alia, take into account the extent to which the observer fulfills the criteria.

The Arctic Council Deputy Foreign Ministers direct the Chairmanship to carefully prepare with the Senior Arctic Officials and Permanent Participants, as appropriate, the necessary information to facilitate a decision by Ministers in Kiruna in 2013, and point to the importance of close dialogue between applicants and member states.