

Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation

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Background

At the Kiruna Ministerial Meeting (2013), the Ministers decided to "establish a Task Force to work towards an arrangement on improved scientific research cooperation among the eight Arctic States"

Negotiations started in December 2013 and ended in July 2016

Ratified by all parties and entered into force in May 2018

Responsibility of the depositary to host first review meeting no later than one year after entering into force

Inaugural meeting 11 March 2019, Helsinki

2nd meeting scheduled for March 2020, but converted to smaller online meeting.



Importance of scientific collaboration

- Science is international
- Access to
 - areas,
 - infrastructure and
 - datais a key priority for research



Areas covered by the agreement

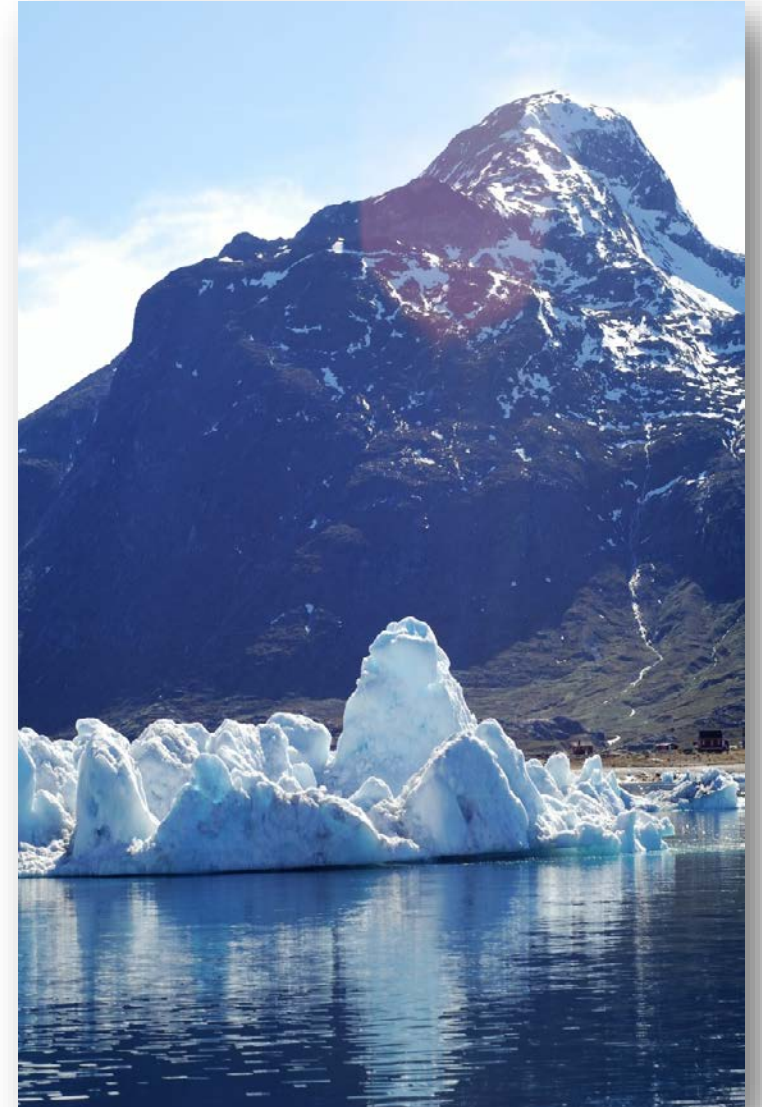
- *Intellectual property and other matters*
- *Entry and exit of persons, equipment, and material*
- *Access to research infrastructure and facilities*
- *Access to research areas*
- *Access to data*
- *Education, career development and training opportunities*
- *Traditional and local knowledge*
- *Laws, regulations, procedures, and policies*



Inaugural meeting

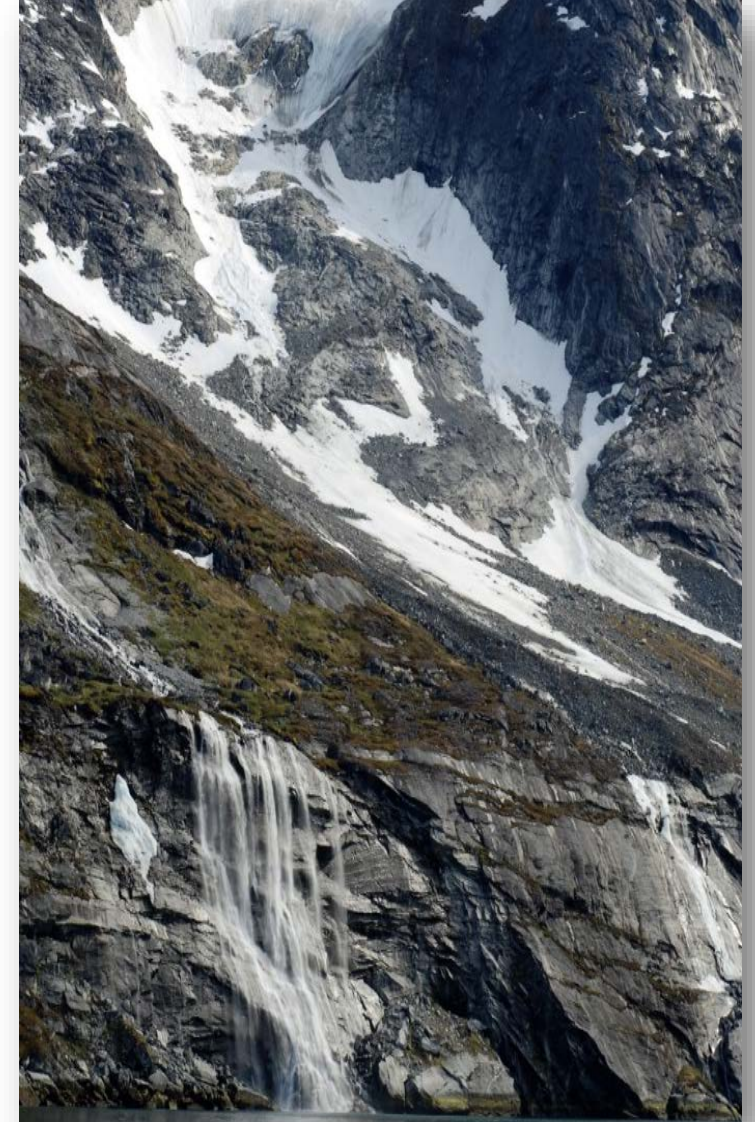
One day meeting with an open and a closed session

- Presentation from parties
- Presentation from non-parties
- Parties discussions on future process to follow-up (closed session)



Take - away from inaugural meeting

- All parties have made efforts to disseminate information of the agreement, but there is still a way to go
- Different approach from the countries
- The key word for this agreement in "access "
- The Parties should discuss both barriers and best cases for implementation



What lies ahead ...

- Next meeting for NCA 14. April 2021
- Russia is responsible for meetings in 2022 and 2023
- Terms of Reference to be developed
- Clearer and collective understanding of the agreement
- How does the agreement interlock with other arctic initiatives

Thank you

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EASTGRIP Field camp, Photo: Frej Sorento Dichmann

