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Russia and the Arctic Council: Toward a New Cooperative Agenda?

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Abstract

This study aims to examine Russia's academic and political discourses on the Arctic Council (AC), as well as Moscow's policies on and within the Council in the aftermath of the Ukrainian crisis, and to discuss Russia's agenda during its AC presidency in 2021–2023. It is concluded that Russia was actively involved from the very beginning in AC activities. Russia was one of the initiators and active negotiators of all three binding agreements (search and rescue operations, oil spills prevention, science cooperation) concluded under the AC auspices. Moscow supported all major Council endeavors in areas such as

sustainable development, energy security, environment protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation of biodiversity, maritime safety, connectivity of Arctic regions, telecommunications, sustainable fisheries, well-being of local communities (including Indigenous peoples), and so on. Russia favors further Council's institutionalization and strengthening its role in the regional governance system.

Keywords

Russia **Arctic Council** **Regional cooperation**

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