

Russian Arctic Strategy Until 2020

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[Unattributed article entitled "Principles of the State Policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic Until 2020 and Future Perspectives"]

I. General Provisions

1. The present Principles define the main goals, basic tasks, strategic priorities and mechanisms for the implementation of a national policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic, as well as a system of strategic planning measures for the social and economic development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation and for providing for the national security of Russia.

2. In the present Principles the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation is understood to mean the part of the Arctic* which fully or partially includes the territory of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Murmansk and Arkhangelsk Oblasts, the Krasnoyarsk Kray, the Nenetskiy, Yamalo-Nenetskiy and Chukotskiy Autonomous Okrugs, that were defined by a decision of the State Commission for Arctic Affairs under the Council of Ministers of the USSR of 22 April 1989, as well as the lands and islands indicated in the Resolution of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR of 15 April 1926 "On the Declaration of the Territories of the USSR of Lands and Islands Situated in the Arctic Ocean," and the interior sea waters, the territorial seas, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of the Russian Federation adjacent to the territories, lands and islands within the limits of which Russia possesses sovereign rights and jurisdictions in accordance with international law.

The borders of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation may be revised in accordance with the normative legal acts of the Russian Federation, as well as with the norms of international treaties and agreements to which the Russian Federation is a party.

3. The features of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation that influence the formation of the state policy in the Arctic are:

- a) the extreme natural and climatic conditions, including permanent ice cover or drifting ice in the Arctic seas;
- b) the localized character of industrial and economic development of the territories and the low population density;
- c) the remoteness from main industrial centers, high resource content and dependence of economic activity and subsistence of the population on the delivery of basic fuel, food and goods from other regions of Russia;
- d) the fragility of ecological systems that determine the biologic equilibrium and climate of the Earth, and their susceptibility to even insignificant anthropologic influences.

II. The National Interests of the Russian Federation in the Arctic

4. The basic national interests of the Russian Federation in the Arctic are:

- a) the use of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation as a strategic resource base of the Russian Federation that provides for the solution of tasks for the social and economic development of the country;
- b) the maintaining of the Arctic as a zone of peace and cooperation;
- c) the preservation of the unique ecological systems of the Arctic;
- d) the use of the Northern Sea Route as a national unified transportation line of communications of the Russian Federation in the Arctic (the Northern Sea Route, below).

5. The national interests define the main goals, basic tasks and strategic priorities of the national policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic.

The implementation of the national interests of the Russian Federation in the Arctic are provided for by institutes of state authorities jointly with public institutes in strict accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation and its international treaties.

III. The main goals and strategic priorities of the national policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic

6. The main goals of the national policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic are:

- a) in the sphere of social and economic development: to expand the resource base of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation that is able, to a significant degree, to satisfy the requirement of Russia for hydrocarbon resources, aquatic biologic resources and other kinds of strategic raw materials;
- b) in the sphere of military security: to defend and safeguard the state border of the Russian Federation in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation; and, to provide for favorable operational conditions in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation, including the support of essential combat capabilities of general purpose formations of troops (forces) of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, and of other troops, military formations and organizations in this region;
- c) in the sphere of ecological security: to maintain and provide for the protection of the natural environment of the Arctic and to eliminate the ecologic impact of commerce under the conditions of growing economic activity and global climate change;
- d) in the sphere of information technology and communications: to form a single information space of the Russian Federation in its Arctic Zone, taking into consideration the unique natural features;
- e) in the sphere of science and technology: to provide for a sufficient level of basic and applied scientific research for the accumulation of knowledge and the creation of modern scientific and geoinformational foundations for the management of the Arctic territories, including the development of resources for solving defense and security tasks and a reliable functioning system for life sustainment and manufacturing activity under the natural climatic conditions of the Arctic;
- f) in the sphere of international cooperation: to provide for conditions of mutually advantageous, bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation between the Russian Federation and Arctic-bordering states based on international treaties and agreements to which the Russian Federation is a party.

7. The strategic priorities of the national policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic are:

- a) to conduct active interaction of the Russian Federation with Arctic-bordering states toward the goals of demarking the ocean spaces on the basis of norms of international law and mutual understandings, taking into consideration the national interests of the Russian Federation, as well as for the purpose of

resolving of issues of international legal substantiation of the external borders of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation;

- b) to expand the efforts of Arctic-bordering states in the creation of a single regional system for search and rescue and for averting man-made disasters and eliminating their effects, to include the coordination of activities of rescue forces;
- c) to strengthen the good-neighborly relations of Russia with Arctic-adjacent states on a bilateral basis and within the framework of regional organizations, including the Arctic Council and the Barents/Euroarctic Region Council, and to activate economic, scientific and technical, and cultural interactions and border cooperation, to include those in the area of effective exploitation of national resources and in the protection of the surrounding natural environment in the Arctic;
- d) to assist in the organization and effective use of transit and cross-polar air routes in the Arctic, as well as in the use of the Northern Sea Route for international navigation within the framework of the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and in accordance with international treaties of the Russian Federation;
- e) to promote participation of Russian state institutions and social organizations in the work of international forums dedicated to Arctic problem sets, including inter-parliamentary interactions within the framework of the Russia-European Union partnership;
- f) to demarcate the maritime spaces in the Arctic Ocean and to secure a mutually advantageous Russian presence on the Spitsbergen Archipelago;
- g) to improve the state management system for the social and economic development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation, to include those due to the expansion of basic and applied scientific research in the Arctic;
- h) to improve the quality of life of the indigenous population and the social conditions of economic activity in the Arctic;
- i) to develop the resource base of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation through the use of advanced technologies;
- j) to modernize and develop of the infrastructure of the Arctic transportation system and the fishing complex in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation.

IV. The main tasks and measures for implementing the national policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic

8. The main goals of the national policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic are to be attained by solving the following basic tasks:

a) in the sphere of social and economic development it is necessary:

- to conduct geologic and geophysical, hydrographic and cartographic work to prepare materials for substantiating the external borders of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation;
- to provide for substantive increases in the balance of minerals reserves of Arctic maritime deposits, to include those realized by means of the state program for study and development of the continental shelf of the Russian Federation, as well as by the beginning of work to develop oil and gas deposits in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation;
- to develop and introduce new kinds of equipment and technologies for developing maritime mineral deposits and aquatic biologic resources under Arctic conditions, to include regions covered by ice[;]
- to form a fleet of aviation equipment and a fleet of fishing vessels, as well as the necessary infrastructure, to provide for work under Arctic conditions;
- to optimize the economic mechanisms of the "Northern Delivery" through the use of renewable and alternative (including local) sources of energy, the reconstruction and modernization of depleted power generation resources, and the introduction of energy-saving materials and technologies;
- to provide for the restructuring of the volume of truck transits along the Northern Sea Route, to include restructuring due to state support for the building of the fleets of ice-breaking, emergency-rescue, and auxiliary vessels, as well as the shore infrastructure;
- to form the control system for providing navigation safety and for managing transportation flows in regions of intensive traffic of vessels, to include improvements resulting from the implementation of a

set of measures to provide hydrometeorological and navigation services in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation;

- to create a comprehensive safety system for the protection of the territories, populations and installations of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation that are critically important for the national security of the Russian Federation from threats from extraordinary situations of a natural or man-made nature.

The main measures for implementing the national policy in the area of social and economic development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation are:

- state support of economic entities conducting activities in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation, primarily in the area of developing hydrocarbon resources and other minerals and aquatic biologic resources, through the introduction of innovative technologies, the development of the transportation and electric energy infrastructure, improvements to tariff, customs and tax regulation;
- stimulation of the implementation of new economic development projects for the Arctic territories by means of their co-financing from budgets of various levels of the budgetary system of the Russian Federation and from non-budgetary sources, and the provision of state guarantees for the payment of wages, to include those earned during work performed using the remote shift-work method [vakhtovoekspeditsionnyy metod];
- modernization of social infrastructure installations, including educational and public health institutions, as well as development of housing construction, to include those within the framework of the implementation of priority national projects;
- providing training and retraining of specialists in the higher and intermediate specialized education system for work under Arctic conditions, and adjustments to the state social guarantees and compensation for individuals working and living in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation;
- providing for accessible and high-quality medical services for all groups of the population living and working in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation, to include those due to expanding the paramedic system and emergency medical aid;
- improvements to the educational program for the indigenous population of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation, especially the parts involving the training of children for life in modern society and full mastery of the skills for living under extreme natural conditions, including the equipping of educational institutions and remote population points with distance learning resources;
- providing for rational nature management and the development of ecologically safe kinds of tourism in compact residential areas and traditional economies of indigenous, low-population nationalities, and the preserving of cultural heritages and languages and ethnic artistic trades;

b) in the sphere of military security and the protection and safeguarding of the state borders of the Russian Federation in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation it is necessary:

- to create a general purpose grouping of troops (forces) of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and of other troops, military formations and organizations (primarily border organizations) in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation that are able to provide for military security under various conditions of military and political situations;
- to optimize the system of comprehensive control of the situation in the Arctic, including border controls at border entry points across the state border of the Russian Federation, the introduction of a border zone control system in the administrative territorial formations of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation, and the organization of effective technical controls for the bay zones, river entrances, and estuaries on the Northern Sea Route lines;
- to upgrade the capabilities of the border authorities to correspond to the nature of the threats and challenges of the Russian Federation in the Arctic.

The main measures for implementing the national policy in the sphere of military security, defense and safeguarding of the state border of the Russian Federation in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation are:

- creation of an actively functioning system of coastal defense of the Russian Federation Federal Security Service in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation and raising the effectiveness of the interaction with border agencies (coast guards) of adjoining states in issues of combating terrorism at sea, interdiction of contraband activity, illegal immigration, and protection of the aquatic biologic resources;
- development of the border infrastructure of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation and re-equipping the border authorities;
- creation of a system of comprehensive controls over the maritime surface situation, strengthening state control over commercial activities in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation;

c) in the sphere of ecological security is it necessary:

- to provide for the preservation of biologic diversity of Arctic flora and fauna, including by means of expanding the network of especially protected natural territories and aquariums, taking into consideration the national interests of the Russian Federation, the necessity for preserving the surrounding natural environment under the conditions of the expansion of economic activity and global climate change;
- to perform planned recycling of vessels with nuclear power plants that have served out their established periods of service life.

The main measures for implementing the national policy in the sphere of providing for ecological security in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation are:

- The establishment of special controls for nature management and protection of the surrounding natural environment in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation, including the monitoring of its pollution;
- reclamation of the natural landscape, recycling of toxic industrial waste products, and providing for chemical safety, primarily in locations of compact populations;

d) in the sphere of information technology and communications it is necessary:

- to introduce modern information and telecommunications technologies and resources (including mobile ones) of communications, television and radio service, management of vessel traffic and aviation flights, remote Earth sounding, the conducting of area photography of the ice cover, as well as systems for providing hydrometeorological and hydrographic services, and providing for scientific expeditionary research;
- to create a reliable system for rendering navigation, hydrometeorological and information services providing effective control of economic, military and ecologic activities in the Arctic, as well as for the forecasting and warning of extraordinary situations and the minimization of damage in the event of their occurrence, to include those derived from the use of the GLONASS global navigational satellite system and the multirole space system.

The main measures for implementing national policy in the sphere of information technology and communications in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation must be directed toward the development and broad use of the latest technologies, including space assets of various kinds and multirole universal and territorially allocated networks;

e) in the sphere of science and technology it is necessary:

- to introduce new technologies, including those for cleaning the territories of the islands, shore zones and aquariums of the Arctic seas from man-made pollution, as well as to develop materials adapted to the natural and climatic conditions of the Arctic;
- to provide for the implementation of the state program to develop the scientific research fleet of the Russian Federation, that will also provide for research in the area of deep-water activities and hydronautics, to include the introduction of technical resources and instrumentation adapted for the conducting of polar scientific research.

The main measures for implementing the national policy in the area of scientific research and for providing for scientific activity in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation are:

- the development of long-term forecasts and basic initiatives for the development of various kinds of activities in the Arctic;
- the study of dangerous and critical natural phenomena and the development and introduction of modern technologies and methods to forecast them under the conditions of a changing climate;
- the forecasting and assessment of the effects of global climate change occurring in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation under the influence of natural and man-made factors, in the near-term and long-term perspective, to include improvements to the structural stability of infrastructure sites;
- the conducting of research in the area of history, culture and economics of the region, as well as the legal regulation of activities in the Arctic;
- the study of the influence of introducing harmful factors into the surrounding environment on the health of the population, the development of requirements for safeguarding the health of the population and polar explorers, and the development of a set of measures directed toward health improvements in the habitation environment of the population and the prevention of disease.

9. The solution of the basic tasks of the state policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic is to be accomplished within the context of the strategic plan for the social and economic development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation and for the providing of national security of Russia by means of:

- a) the development and implementation of the strategy for the development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation taking into consideration the providing of national security;
- b) the creation of a comprehensive system for monitoring, including improvement of the system for information and statistical observation of indicators of national security in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation;
- c) the preparation of standard legal acts of the Russian Federation concerning the clarification of the geographic borders of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation, including its southern border, with enumerations of municipal formations and their status included within the limits of the indicated zone;
- d) the increasing of the effectiveness of the administration of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation.

V. The main mechanisms for implementing the state policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic

10. The state policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic will be conducted by means of deliberate and coordinated activity of the interested federal organizations of executive authority, the organizations of state authority of the entities of the Russian Federation, the organizations of local self-government, commercial and non-commercial organizations in accordance with their authorities and their spheres of activity on the principles

of a state-private partnership, as well as within the framework of cooperation of the Russian Federation with foreign states and international organizations including:

- a) the improvement, taking into consideration the national interests of Russia and the specifics of the legislative region of the Russian Federation, in the spheres of social and economic development, the protection of the environment, military security, defense and safeguarding of the state border, the performing of scientific research and international cooperation in the Arctic on the basis of norms of international law and international responsibilities of the Russian Federation;
- b) the development and implementation of the targeted programs that are financed by funds from the budgets of various levels of the budgetary system of the Russian Federation and non-budgetary sources;
- c) the development by the entities of the Russian Federation of strategies for social and economic development of entities of the Russian Federation and designs of territorial planning and program of social and economic development;
- d) the publication in the mass media of issues associated with the national interests of the Russian Federation in the Arctic, including the organization of expositions, conferences, and "round tables" dedicated to the history of the mastery of the Arctic by Russian explorers with the goal of forming a positive image of Russia;
- e) the organization of systematic monitoring and analysis of the implementation of the state policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic.

VI. The implementation of the state policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic

11. The present Principles will be realized in stages:

a) the first phase (2008-2010) must provide for:

- performing of geologic and geophysical, hydrographic, cartographic and other work for preparing materials for substantiating the external border of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation;
- the expansion of the capabilities of international cooperation, including those for the effective development of the natural resources of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation;
- the implementation of targeted programs financed by resources of the budgets of various levels of the budgetary system of the Russian Federation and by non-budgetary sources, including the formation of a state program for the development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation for the period to 2020, within the framework of which foundation high-technology manufacturing and power generation and fishing industry clusters and special economic zones will be created;
- the implementation of forecasted investment projects within the framework of a state and private partnership linked to the strategic development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation;

b) the second phase (2011-2015) must provide for:

- an international legal formulation of the external border of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation and the implementation on this basis of competitive advantages for Russia in the extraction and transportation of energy resources;
- the solution of restructuring tasks of the economy in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation based on the development of the mineral and raw materials base and the aquatic biologic resources of the region;
- the creation and development of an infrastructure and a system for managing Northern Sea Route lines of communications solving Eurasian transit tasks;
- the completion of the creation of a single information space of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation;

c) during the third phase (2016-2010) the transformation of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation into a leading strategic resource base of the Russian Federation must be secured.

On the whole, the implementation of the state policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic in the mid-term perspective will allow Russia to maintain the role of a leading Arctic power.

In the future it is necessary to accomplish a comprehensive expansion of the competitive advantages of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation with the goals of strengthening the position of Russia in the Arctic, bolstering international security, and supporting peace and stability in the Arctic region.

* The Arctic is the northern area of the Earth including the deep-water Arctic Basin, the shallow bordering seas with islands and adjacent parts of the mainland of Europe, Asia and North America. Within the limits of the Arctic are located five Arctic-bordering states - Russia, Canada, the United States of America, Norway and Denmark, which possess exclusive economic zones and a continental shelf in the Arctic Ocean.