

# Reflections on table summaries

at the Arctic Governance Project Meeting in Tromsø,  
January 29-30, 2010

By Annika E. Nilsson

Outline:

- Foundations
- Goals
- Means and tools

# Foundation in time

- Encompassing our links to the past
  - by listening to traditional knowledge and all other knowledges of relationships (with the environment and among human beings) and how they are nurtured over time
- Encompassing our responsibility for the future
  - Intergenerational vision
  - Involvement of youth
  - Anticipatory governance that includes capacity to adapt to change
  - Precautionary principle

# Some issues on the time perspective

- Rights and responsibilities
  - “Move from a purely rights-oriented agenda to also encompass duties and responsibilities”
  - Can they be linked to ensure that we look both back in time and forward?
- Capacity to adapt
  - Need to understand why/how systems remain over time without collapse. What sustains them? Collapse versus transformation into new positive paths...
  - Concern that “trump” issues can create rigid traps making it more difficult to adapt to new conditions. Challenge of finding a balance.
  - Governance can facilitate flexibility and adaptability (active voice)

# Foundation in space

- Respect for the Arctic as a homeland  
(self-determination, UN Decl. on Indigenous Rights)
  - Settling land claims and honoring agreements as a foundation for dialogue and sense of security
- Respect for existing international law
  - Settling outstanding issues to enhance security
- Acknowledging a diversity of legitimate voices within the Arctic
  - indigenous peoples, states, settlers, regional actors, commercial interests
- Acknowledging global connections and need for dialogue with non-Arctic actors
  - Engage rather than buffer
  - Because of legitimate interests
  - To enhance understanding about the Arctic

# Need to articulate common goals

- Well-being
  - as a fundamental right to be protected
- Sustainability: concept needs to be clarified
  - Economic, social-cultural, and environmental aspects
  - Envisioning a new economic framework that incorporates ethical values
  - Relationship to justice; not necessarily trade-off
- Example list from one table:
  - improve quality of life of inhabitants of the Arctic
  - minimize environmental risks to vulnerable areas in the Arctic
  - empower Arctic residents' ability to control their own destiny
  - ensure biodiversity in the Arctic
  - ensure peace in the Arctic
  - *also address resource development(?)*
- Relate performance standards to goals (discussion of justice as a performance standards vs. a fundamental principle for the process for reaching the goals)

# Means and tools

- Formulating common goals and visions can be done in **dialogues** in a range of fora at different levels and in new constellations
- Why dialogue?
  - increased knowledge exchange, awareness and understanding

# Means and tools

- Ensure a **diversity of arenas** for dialogue
  - Enhancing role of Northern Forum, regional dialogue across national borders
  - Engaging larger number of Arctic parliamentarians to reach policy audiences
  - Youth parliament to engage for the future
  - Arctic Council:
    - emphasizing dialogue role
    - a wider mandate that includes tough issues, e.g. security
    - role of non-Arctic observers to communicate with non-Arctic actors; to discuss both interests and responsibilities
    - formal links to global regimes, e.g. UNFCCC

# Means and tools

- Using and respecting existing governance arrangements at multiple levels
  - Adaptive governance requires that we also **enhance capacity for interactions across levels**, including local-global links (special note on Russia)
  - Network governance
- Clarify relationship is discussing holistic governance:  
spatial  $\leftrightarrow$  sectoral
  - “Meet sectoral challenges holistically and avoid fragmentation”
- Ensuring that all have capacity to participate in dialogues
  - need for funding
  - attention to education and training
  - “Can’t have confidence or good policy without the exchange of knowledge and capacity to understand”



# Means and tools

- Using UN for broader examination of standards, e.g. respect for human rights, UN Decl. on Indigenous Rights
- Facilitate cooperation across knowledge systems
  - Supporting indigenous research institutes
  - Facilitate development of local research projects
- Role of corporate responsibility, mentioned in relation to communities but relevant also in relation to sectoral holistic approaches

