

THE ARCTIC GOVERNANCE PROJECT

www.arcticgovernance.org

INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

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Text of letter sent to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the members of the Arctic Council on 15 April 2010.

Arctic Action Agenda

The Steering Committee of the Arctic Governance Project has the honor of presenting to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the members of the Arctic Council the enclosed *Arctic Action Agenda* together with the report entitled "*Arctic Governance in an Era of Transformative Change: Critical Questions, Governance Principles, Ways Forward.*" These materials are also being sent to the leaders of the Permanent Participants.

The Arctic Governance Project (AGP) is an initiative rooted in civil society and drawing on the expertise of a group of prominent policymakers, scientists, and indigenous leaders who have long been involved in Arctic affairs. The members of the AGP team (listed to the left) have spent the last year exploring the roles that governance systems can play in guiding the future of the Arctic. The *Arctic Action Agenda* and the report also reflect productive discussions among 70 well-connected individuals from all the Arctic countries who participated in an AGP Conference and Dialogue held in January 2010 in Tromsø.

In addition, the AGP has created an *Arctic Governance Compendium* accessible at the project's website - www.arcticgovernance.org - and containing a wide range of information pertaining to perspectives and proposals relating to Arctic governance. Compendium users are able to locate both existing and proposed arrangements by (i) governance type (e.g. international convention or treaty, regional agreement, national law, local ordinance), (ii) subject matter (e.g. fish, shipping, pollution), and (iii) source (e.g. regional governments, indigenous peoples' organizations, environmental NGOs, nation states).

Members of the AGP team would welcome an opportunity to brief you and members of your staff about the details of the *Arctic Action Agenda* and the practical steps needed to carry it forward.

It is our sincere hope that the *Arctic Action Agenda* will serve as an inspiration in your thinking about ways to strengthen Arctic governance and to promote the pursuit of stewardship in an era of transformative change.

On behalf of the AGP Steering Committee:

Yours sincerely,



Oran Young
Project Chair



Robert C. Corell
Project Co-Chair

Cc.: Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council

Enclosed:

An Arctic Action Agenda

Report: *Arctic Governance in an Era of Transformative Change: Critical Questions, Governance Principles, Ways Forward*