

Seven of Eight Arctic Nations Have Pledged to Consider Environmental Factors to Commercial Activities in Arctic

Details on the U.S.-Nordic Leader Summit Joint Statement



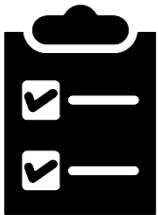
A Pledge for Environmental Standards and Climate Goals in Arctic

- Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, and Norway join the United States and Canada in the attempt to include environmental standards and climate change goals as conditional factors before pursuing commercial activities in the Arctic
- With the seven nations now vowing to consider climate factors, they combine to represent more than half of the Arctic's territorial waters with Russia being the only significant power that is not a member



Cooperation on Clean Energy

- Clean Energy Ministerial: An initiative that all five countries agreed to support that encourages the acceleration of clean energy deployment by 23 of the world's major economies
- Denmark and the United States announced a partnership to address specifically developing offshore wind as a clean and sustainable energy source



Further Commitments by Leaders

- Phasing down HFC's as part of the Montreal Protocol HFC Amendment
- Emphasizing efforts to reduce climate impacts from the international aviation industry
- Reducing methane emissions through development of national methane reduction plans
- Supporting the role of forests in combatting climate change through fighting deforestation and illegal logging

Analysis

- The agreement between the United States and Denmark that will harmonize regulations for offshore wind energy will make it **easier to manufacturers to produce for both markets** consequently scaling up the market.
- With all other countries now engaged in the pledge, **efforts can be focused on how Russia can be engaged** as a part of Arctic policy.
- The size of this agreement is **a good indicator of progress that can be made at larger climate accords** and economic agreements that contain environmental and climate stipulations.

Sources: Juliet Eilperin, "Obama and Nordic Leaders: Economic Activity in the Arctic Must Pass Climate Test," *The Washington Post*, May 13, 2016; White House, "Fact Sheet: U.S.-Nordic Collaboration on Climate Change, the Arctic, and Clean Energy," May 13, 2016; NounProject, Ted Grajeda, Drahomir Hajek, Sasha Willins, Creative Stall.