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Luonnos Suomen arktisen politiikan strategiaksi

Lausunnonantajan lausunto

Voitte kirjoittaa lausuntonne alla olevaan tekstikenttään

UK Response to Finland's Arctic Strategy Consultation

12 March 2021

The UK is grateful for the consultation on Finland's draft Arctic policy strategy. Whilst we recognise that Arctic stewardship rests with the Arctic States, the UK is the Arctic's nearest neighbour. The UK Arctic Policy Framework, *Beyond the Ice* (2018), outlines our approach to the Arctic through the principles of respect, cooperation and appropriate leadership. The UK supports Arctic States' efforts to ensure a sustainable future in the region. This will be achieved by appropriate leadership for good governance, protecting peoples, the environment and vital ecosystems, and by promoting prosperity to ensure the people whose livelihoods rely on the Arctic can remain for generations to come.

The Arctic is on the frontier of global climate change. The UK welcomes the approach by Finland's Arctic policy strategy to place climate change issues at the heart of the Arctic strategy, particularly in the context of the UK's COP26 presidency this year. Changes in the region directly affect the weather, environment and biodiversity of the UK. Furthermore, we warmly welcome the emphasis on international cooperation, especially engagement with Arctic Council Observer States. As the pre-eminent intergovernmental regional forum of the Arctic, the UK is pleased to be able to contribute to the work of the Arctic Council. We hope our Observer Status is reaffirmed this year.

Furthermore, the UK welcomes opportunities for ongoing collaboration with Finland in Arctic science including through the Arctic Council Working Groups. The UK research community has a strong record of collaborating internationally and delivering high impact Arctic research. Over 70 UK universities and research centres undertake multidiscipline research into the Arctic. Only the US, Canada and Russia produces more Arctic science publications than the UK. But this is an international effort - nearly two-thirds of the UK Arctic papers have international co-authors. The

recent multi-national MOSAiC (Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate) Arctic expedition, including researchers from Finland and from the UK, demonstrated that international collaboration is essential to tackle the global science issues of the day.

The UK also welcomes the Strategy's consideration of regional security. A stable and peaceful Arctic is in all of our interests. This same principle underpins all UK Government policies in the region. The strategy notes increased regional tensions and activity, as well as the continued growth of China's interest and investment in the region. The UK agrees that the Arctic's development must be seen as part of a broader security policy context.

The UK welcomes the Strategy's approach to strengthen commercial and economic development in the Arctic, if conducted in a sustainable and responsible manner.

The UK also values close cooperation with Finland through the Antarctic Treaty System.

The UK is grateful for the chance to contribute to this consultation and looks forward to continued close cooperation with Finland on Arctic issues.

Degerman Rosa
UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office