



Resolution
on the results of the II International Scientific and Practical Conference
"Security of Arctic frontiers: ecology, history, images of the future"
October 27, 2021

The II International Scientific and Practical Conference "Security of the Arctic Frontiers: ecology, history, images of the future" was held on October 27, 2021 in the Federal Research Center "Kola Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences" (KSC RAS) in Apatity, Murmansk region, as well as online, using the ZOOM platform. Murmansk Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society (MRB RGS) was the main organizer of the event. The event was dedicated to the Year of Science and Technology in Russia. The conference was taking into account the priorities of Russia's current chairmanship in the Arctic Council 2021-2023. Special attention was paid to the issues of preserving the historical memory of the events of the Great Patriotic War, including those related to the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the first Arctic convoy "Dervish".

Due to the new coronavirus infection COVID-19 and national anti-epidemic restrictions, participation in the conference was organized in a mixed mode of both online and offline participation. The conference was broadcasted online and the recordings were posted on the YouTube video hosting platform. The expert community and the general public were kept updated through the media, as well as social networks: Facebook and Telegram. Russian, English, Norwegian were the working languages of the conference.

A total of 263 experts took part in the conference including specialists from Russia, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, USA, Canada, Great Britain and France.

The structure of the conference included 2 sections: "The Arctic – a region of sustainable development, dialogue and cooperation. Environmental security in the Arctic" and "Topical issues of the history of the Arctic".

Among the partners and participants were representatives of R&D institutions, governmental organizations and NGOs of Russia, Norway and other Arctic states including MMBI RAS, FRC KSC RAS, Whale Protection Foundation, a number of environmental organizations, MMBI RAS, Norwegian research company "Akvaplan-niva", Partisan Museum in Kiberg, Norwegian Pomor Academy, etc.

The conference was opened with a joint report by Vladimir Dyadik, First Deputy Director General of the KSC RAS, and Grigory Ilyin, analyst of the Scientific and Organizational Department of the KSC RAS, dedicated to the role of science in the exploration and development of the Arctic on the example of the KSC RAS. KSC RAS celebrated 90 years since its official foundation in 1930 and 100 years since the beginning of systematic continuous research beyond the Arctic Circle on the territory of the Kola Peninsula. Alexey Bambulyak, a representative of Akvaplan-niva, noted that with the century-old experience of the Kola Scientific Center, international cooperation between the Center and other scientific organizations engaged in the study of the Arctic is of great importance.

The scale and relevance of the problems of sustainable development, dialogue and cooperation in the Arctic was fully reflected in the report of the head of Arctic Development AS Arild Vollan. In his report, he showed the way the policy of "searching for enemies" and the "new Cold War" carried out by the United States and contradictory demands from the EU leadership regarding ecology and energy destabilize the situation in the Arctic region.

Ekaterina Serova, a representative of St. Petersburg State University, talked about the prospects of attempts to include hard security issues in the agenda of the Arctic Council.

Mikhail Uksusov, Russian Chairmanship Youth Envoy for International Cooperation in the Arctic, spoke in detail about the role of the "youth dimension" in the modern international Arctic agenda.

International experts commented on the prospects of holding the largest NATO military exercises in the Arctic scheduled for 2022 in the territory of the Barents Euro-Arctic region, with Norway being the organizer, as well as the new EU Arctic Strategy, asserting the EU's right as a full-fledged Arctic player to dictate the rules of conduct in the Far North.

The head of the Norwegian Pomor Academy Remi Strand made a comment regarding the deployment of NATO military contingents in the border territories of Northern Norway.

Of great interest was the speech of the Scientific Director of the Whale Protection Foundation Vladimir Latka, dedicated to the need to develop new international approaches aimed at preserving and increasing whale populations as there is objective data indicating the contribution they make to the well-being, richness and biodiversity of the Arctic marine ecosystems. R. Strand and A. Bambulyak highlighted the importance of in-depth research in this area, as well as finding a balance between fishing and nature conservation.

Denis Moiseev, Chairman of the MRB RGS, Deputy Director of the MMBI RAS, together with Alexey Babmulyak, representative of Akvaplan-niva, presented information on joint Russian-Norwegian scientific research on marine debris problems, as well as radioecology in the Arctic.

The historical section of the conference was opened with a detailed report by Olga Bodrova, leading public relations specialist at the KSC RAS. She talked about the topical issues related to the history and culture of the indigenous peoples of the Far North, and, in particular, the Sami of the Kola Peninsula.

The representative of the Partisan Museum in the Norwegian city of Kiberg, military historian Steinar Borch Jensen, discussed a little-known topic of the participation of Norwegian sailors and ships in Polar convoys. In his report he talked about his personal experience as well, as one of his relatives participated in the war.

The Norwegian historian and regional specialist Arnt Bjarne Aronsen made a report on the contribution of the partisans of Finnmark to the fight against the Nazi occupiers and their participation in the Arctic convoys.

The head of the Norwegian Pomor Academy Remi Strand made a number of important additions on both topics mentioned above. He also publicly appealed to the Russian side with a request for help in accessing Russian historical documentary sources in order to use them in the exhibition of the Partisan Museum in Kiberg for a more complete and accurate disclosure of the role and significance of the of the partisan patriotic movement in the occupied territory of Northern Norway that was organized with the help of the USSR in 1940 - 1944.

Yuri Voloshchenko, head of the K-21 Museum (a part of the Naval Museum of the Northern Fleet) made a report on the monuments demonstrating the recognition of the contribution of the Northern Fleet and its allies in the Anti-Hitler Coalition to the victory over Nazi Germany in the naval battles in the Arctic during the World War II.

Based on the reports presented at the conference, the experts recommend the interested international and national organizations of the Arctic countries to:

1. Recognize the relevance and practical significance of the main topic of the conference and the issues considered in the sections.
2. Support the need for the conference dedicated to the stated topics to take place on an annual regular basis.
3. Recognize that the results of the conference can be applied within the framework of international cooperation in the Arctic, cross-border and interregional dialogue between

representatives of the Arctic countries and other stakeholders in order to address common challenges.

4. Among the issues that, based on the expert data and public opinion, are of great practical importance for the sustainable development of the Arctic and require the attention of interested structures, the following should be highlighted:

4.1. Today, the US policy in the Arctic is increasingly based on forming a coalition of forces around Washington that consider Russia and China "enemies", thus creating a threat of a "new Cold War" and, to a large extent, complicating dialogue and sustainable international cooperation in the Arctic in the field of scientific research, environmental protection and other areas;

4.2. The public approval of the new EU Arctic Strategy on the right of Brussels to regulate the economic activities of representatives of the Arctic states should be regarded as an unacceptable claim on the resources of the Arctic zone by non-regional players;

4.3. Taking into account the assessments of the prospects and results of the Ministerial Meeting of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, held on October 25, 2021 in Tromsø (Norway), we should recognize its great importance and effectiveness, along with the Arctic Council, for the sustainable development of the circumpolar territories and countering attempts to undermine and compromise this format;

4.4. Significant forces in Norway consider it unacceptable to deploy NATO military contingents in the border territories of Northern Norway, East of the locality of Lakselv (Lakselv, 70°3' N 24°58' E), which has been the key to peace and stability in the region since the 50s of the last century;

4.5. Attempts to include hard security in the agenda of the Arctic Council should be considered unnecessary, unreasonable and undermining the existing format of international cooperation;

4.6. Russia's initiative to include the "youth dimension" among the main priorities of the Arctic Council's work should be supported as an important measure of human development and countering demographic challenges in the Arctic;

4.7. Every effort should be made to reduce and minimize the negative impact of anthropogenic activities (including active fishing) on the welfare of whales and cetaceans, and to save a number of the most vulnerable animals of the Arctic territories from the threat of dying out and becoming completely extinct. Taking into account the current negative situation, the vaquita should be considered among the most vulnerable species at the moment;

4.8. The increase in the population of large whales should be considered a factor directly affecting the ecology, biological diversity, richness and economic potential of the Arctic marine areas;

4.9. Based on the experience of Russian-Norwegian researchers, it is necessary to expand the practice of conducting research on marine debris and radioecology in the Arctic, including through the tourist potential of sea cruises and coastal expeditions;

4.10. Recognize the uniqueness and significance of the Russian Sami's contribution to the establishment and development of the Arctic scientific research in the Kola Arctic;

4.11. Preserving the national language and dialects of the Kola Sami and countering attempts to blur and distort the original ethnic culture of the indigenous population of the Kola Peninsula should be considered among the pressing issues requiring comprehensive measures to improve the negative situation;

4.12. Due to the long period of oblivion and lack of actual recognition, increased attention should be paid to restoring the historical memory of the contribution and role of Norwegian sailors and the partisans of Northern Norway in providing Arctic convoys and the victory over Nazi Germany in the North during the Second World War;

4.13. The public appeal of the participant of the conference Remi Strand for assistance in creating an exhibition in the Partisan Museum in Kiberg in the form of obtaining Russian historical documentary materials on the partisans of Finnmark who were trained in the

Murmansk region and fought the Nazi occupiers under the leadership of the Soviet command during the Second World War should be taken as an official request of the authorized representative of the Norwegian side to interested Russian organizations;

4.14. It is proposed to organize an International campaign honoring the memory of the Murmansk convoys at the site of the monument in honor of the Military Commonwealth of the countries of the Anti-Hitler Coalition "Palms Holding the World" located in Murmansk (opened in 1975), using the materials from the unique Soviet-American documentary project "The Great Patriotic War" (The Unknown War, 1978, Film 6: "War in the Arctic") as an example of the ability of countries and nations to rise above the political conjuncture and private disagreements in the name of security of the Arctic frontiers.

5. Ensure the publication of text and multimedia materials of the conference on the MRB RGS website (murmansk.rgo.ru) and the KSC RAS website (www.ksc.ru), as well as on the official page in the public social network Facebook: facebook.com/SafeArctic and on YouTube video hosting platform.

6. Send this resolution to the Arctic Council Secretariat, the International Barents Secretariat, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Barents Regional Council, as well as to relevant working groups and other interested international and national structures for information and consideration.

7. Express gratitude to the participants of the conference, as well as to the heads of organizations and their departments who delegated their representatives to participate in the conference.

Broadcast recordings are available here:

1. Русский язык: https://youtu.be/f8YaBhr_yxE
2. English: <https://youtu.be/1azXa8J7nyk>
3. Norsk: <https://youtu.be/T77GmtGcSX0>

Information about the conference in the media:

<https://www.rgo.ru/ru/article/zavershilas-ii-mezhdunarodnaya-nauchno-prakticheskaya-konferenciya-bezopasnost-arkticheskikh>
<http://fondwhale.ru/bezopasnost-arkticheskikh-rubezhey>