



# BAUMUN'24 UNSC Study Guide

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BAUMUN'24 | 3 - 5 MAY  
#WelcomeToBosphorus



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# Letter from the Secretary General



Dear Participants,

On behalf of the Secretariat and the entire Organization Team, it is my honor to extend a warm welcome to you all for the BAUMUN'24. As Secretary-General, I am thrilled to see intelligent, driven people from diverse organizations come together to have fruitful discussions and diplomatic engagements.

You will have the chance to participate in inspiring debates, negotiation sessions, and social events during the conference. There is no doubt that the diverse range of experiences and perspectives that each delegate brings to the table will enhance the success and energy of this conference.

Our dedicated team has put in endless hours to make sure that every detail of the conference is well thought out to give every participant a fulfilling and unforgettable experience. Through our committees and social events, we hope to establish an atmosphere that promotes friendship, teamwork, and a profound understanding of the UN's principles.

I invite you to approach each session of this intellectual experience with an open mind, a cooperative spirit, and a dedication to finding common ground. Your enthusiastic and active participation is what will make this conference a success, and I do not doubt that your efforts will make it something remarkable.

Once again, welcome back to the BAUMUN'24 and Welcome Back to Bosphorus. May your time here be filled with meaningful discussions, lasting connections, and a sense of accomplishment as we work together to empower tomorrow.

Sincerely,

**İlgim Mina ABAT**

*Secretary-General of BAUMUN'24*

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# Letter from the Chairboard

Dear delegates,

We hope this message finds you well. As a member of the UNSC committee, we wanted to take a moment to extend a warm greeting to you for the upcoming Model United Nations conference. We're thrilled to have you on board and can't wait to see the incredible contributions you'll make during the event.

Throughout the conference, you'll have the chance to delve into the topic of refugee repatriation, a crucial issue that demands our attention and collective efforts. By exploring the complexities of this challenge and brainstorming effective strategies, we can work towards creating a better future for displaced individuals.

Remember, your voice matters. Your insights, ideas, and perspectives will contribute to shaping the resolutions and policies discussed during the conference. So, don't hesitate to share your thoughts, engage in fruitful debates, and collaborate with your fellow delegates.

If you have any questions or need any assistance leading up to or during the conference, please don't hesitate to reach out: to [dilayyrng@gmail.com](mailto:dilayyrng@gmail.com), or [islamossama223@gmail.com](mailto:islamossama223@gmail.com). We're here to support you every step of the way.

Wishing you all the best in your preparations. Get ready for an unforgettable experience filled with growth, learning, and impactful discussions. We can't wait to see you shine!

Best Regards,

**Dilay Örüng & Islam Ossama**



# Key Vocabulary

- **Arctic:** The northernmost region of Earth, located above the Arctic Circle at 66.33° north latitude.
- **Militarization:** The buildup and deployment of military forces, equipment, and infrastructure in an area.
- **Climate Change:** Long-term shifts in temperature and typical weather patterns in a place. Climate change could refer to a particular location or the planet as a whole.
- **Polar Ice:** The ice caps and glaciers found in the Arctic and Antarctic regions.
- **Shipping Route:** A designated path followed by ships at sea, often the most efficient route between two points.
- **Natural Resources:** Resources found in nature that are valuable for human use, such as oil, gas, minerals, and fish.
- **Stakeholder:** A person or group with an interest in a situation or decision. In the Arctic, stakeholders include Arctic nations, indigenous peoples, and the international community.
- **Diplomatic Solutions:** Peaceful methods are used by countries to resolve disputes, often involving negotiations and agreements.
- **International Agreements:** Formal documents creating rights and obligations between countries.
- **Cooperation Mechanisms:** Formal or informal systems that allow countries and organizations to work together for a common goal.
- **UNSC:** United Nations Security Council committee

# Focused Overview

The melting of polar ice due to climate change is revealing new possibilities in the Arctic. Previously inaccessible shipping routes and potential reserves of natural resources are becoming available. This has sparked growing interest from various nations, leading to an increased military presence in the region.



## Why is this an issue?

- Increased military activity raises concerns about potential conflicts and an arms race in the Arctic.
- Militarization could hinder scientific research and cooperation vital for understanding climate change.
- The fragile Arctic environment is vulnerable to damage from military activities.

## Dimensions of the Issue

- **Geographical:** The Arctic is a vast and challenging environment with limited infrastructure. Increased military activity presents logistical difficulties and environmental risks.
- **Economic:** Access to potential resources and new trade routes creates economic opportunities for Arctic nations. However, competition and resource exploitation could have negative consequences.
- **Military:** Several countries have existing territorial claims in the Arctic and maintain military bases and patrols in the region. Increased militarization could lead to heightened tensions and security dilemmas.

## Background Information

In the past two centuries, territorial expansion into the Arctic has taken place without the kind of wars and friction that has characterized the expansion of national sovereignty in the world's temperate zones. The underlying reason is that for a long time, this polar region was regarded as having limited economic value. However, in the present era, the warmer climate, new technologies for the extraction of hydrocarbons and increasing interest in northern maritime routes are igniting a new great game in the Arctic. It was with this background that in 2007, the Arctic littoral countries woke up to the shocking news that Russia had planted a titanium flag on the Arctic seabed. This planting of the Russian flag by two mini-submarines named Mir-1 and Mir-2 that had dived 4,200 meters below the North Pole was a symbolic move aimed at showcasing Russia's claim to the territory by proving that Russia's continental shelf spreads to the North Pole.

Five different countries border the Arctic but only two international borders, namely the Russian-Norwegian and the US Canadian, run overland, and none of them are disputed.



There are, however,

disagreements concerning the extension of coastal state sovereignty in the Polar Sea. There is also divergence over Norway's claim to the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around the Svalbard islands and between Canada and the US in the Beaufort Sea. In addition, the maritime border between Canada and Denmark in the Nares Straits (i.e. between Ellesmere Island and Greenland) is disputed.

The situation is especially dangerous because there are currently no broad political agreements or comprehensive legal structures that can provide for the orderly development of the region or mediate political disagreements over Arctic resources or sea lanes. The Arctic Council formed in 1996 exists to address environmental issues, but has remained silent on security and territorial concerns. Even within the Arctic community, not all nations are perceived as equal. As a case in point, when the Arctic nations met in Ilulissat (Greenland) in 2008, only five were invited. Two Arctic nations, Sweden and Finland were excluded because they do not have Arctic coastlines. Iceland, which lies just below the Arctic Circle, but would play a large role in the Arctic shipping routes development, was also not invited. The Ilulissat meeting was a reminder of the symbolic divide between the Arctic nations, in so far as the future of the Arctic Ocean is concerned.

If the Arctic events have the potential to increase tensions over Jurisdictional Control of the Arctic resources, it would surely result in aggressive postures by nations in the region. The situation, left to it, could mutate into an analogy of the Spratly Islands dispute (in the South China Sea), where numerous states claim sovereignty but no clear picture of ownership exists. A 2021 study estimated that undiscovered oil resources could exist in the Arctic Ocean. Shipping traffic through the Northern Sea Route (a potential Arctic shipping route) has increased significantly in recent years.



## History of Events

- **1982:** The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) establishes a legal framework for the oceans and seas, including exclusive economic zones (EEZs) for coastal states.
- **1987:** The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) is established to assess the environmental state of the Arctic.
- **2007:** Five Arctic coastal states (Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia, and the United States) sign the Ilulissat Declaration, agreeing on a cooperative approach to Arctic issues outside national jurisdiction.
- **2008:** The Arctic Council is formed as an intergovernmental forum for cooperation among Arctic states and indigenous peoples' organizations.
- **2011:** The Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Arctic is signed by eight Arctic states.
- **2013:** The United States releases its first national Arctic strategy, emphasizing cooperation, scientific research, and environmental protection.
- **2015:** Several Arctic states conduct large-scale military exercises in the region.



# Major Parties Involved

## Arctic States

- **Canada:** Emphasises peaceful cooperation, scientific research, and sustainable development in the Arctic.
- **Denmark (including Greenland):** Focuses on protecting Greenland's autonomy and promoting responsible resource development.
- **Finland:** Advocates for a rules-based approach and peaceful resolution of disputes.
- **Iceland:** Opposes increased militarization and prioritizes environmental protection.
- **Norway:** Balances security concerns by promoting peaceful cooperation and sustainable development.
- **Russia:** Views the Arctic as a strategic region and has been increasing its military presence.
- **Sweden:** Supports a cooperative approach and emphasizes the importance of international law.
- **United States:** Aims to maintain a stable and secure Arctic while promoting scientific research and resource development.



## The Indigenous Peoples

- Indigenous organizations advocate for self-determination, protection of their traditional ways of life, and a central role in decision-making regarding the Arctic.
- They are concerned about the environmental impacts of militarization and resource development.



## Non-Arctic States

- Some non-Arctic states such as the United Kingdom, France, Germany, China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and India have expressed interest in Arctic issues due to potential economic opportunities and global shipping routes.
- They may advocate for a role in Arctic governance and decision-making.

## Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Several international agreements and frameworks address the Arctic, but none directly prohibit militarization. However, they provide a foundation for cooperation and peaceful resolution of disputes.

- **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):** Defines the legal status of maritime zones, including exclusive economic zones (EEZs) for coastal states. This helps manage potential resource disputes in the Arctic.
- **Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP):** Provides scientific data and assessments on the environmental state of the Arctic, which can inform decision-making.
- **Ilulissat Declaration:** Establishes a cooperative framework for managing Arctic issues outside national jurisdiction.
- **Arctic Council:** Provides a forum for dialogue and cooperation on a range of Arctic issues, including scientific research, environmental protection, and sustainable development. However, it lacks enforcement power.
- **Arctic Council Meetings(1996):** The Arctic Council holds meetings with the participation of eight Arctic countries. These meetings address the reduction of military activities, environmental protection, and cooperation in the region.

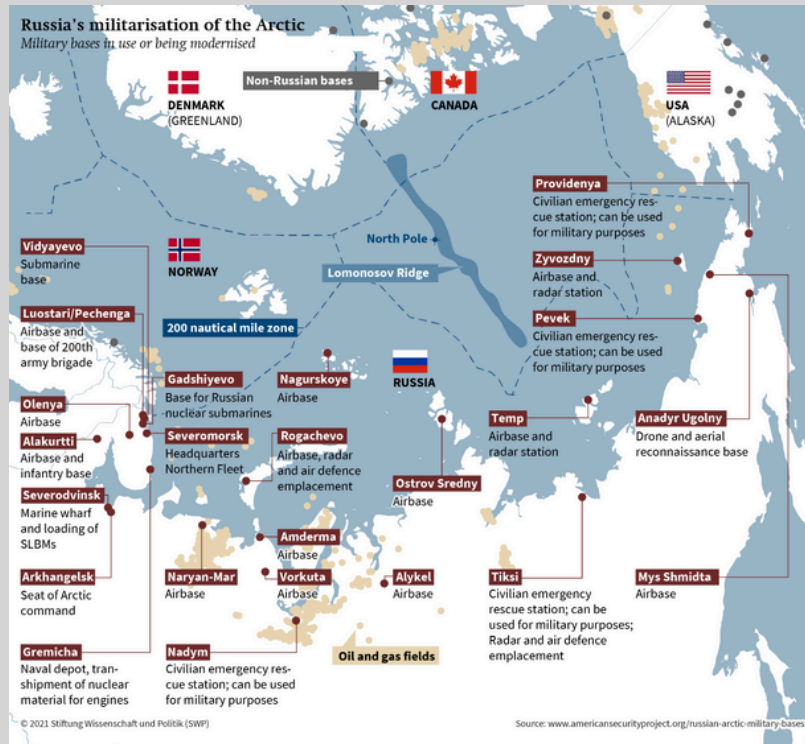
- **Barents Sea Cooperation(1993):** Barents Sea Cooperation involves countries such as Norway, Russia, Sweden, and Finland, which are located in the Arctic region. It covers military matters as well as environmental protection, energy cooperation, and civil society participation.
- **Canada-Denmark Border Dispute(1973):** Diplomatic negotiations between Canada and Denmark regarding the sovereignty of Hans Island in northern Greenland have taken place to prevent military activities and establish boundaries.



- **Iran Nuclear Deal(2015):** The negotiations surrounding the Iran Nuclear Deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), involved multiple countries and aimed to address concerns about Iran's nuclear program.
- **Paris Agreement(2016):** The Paris Agreement is a landmark international treaty that was negotiated by nearly all countries in 2015. It focuses on combating climate change and aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius.
- **Korean Peninsula Peace Talks(1953):** Diplomatic negotiations between North Korea, South Korea, and other involved parties have been ongoing to promote peace and denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula.

# Addressing the Security Concerns

When it comes to the militarization of the Arctic, security concerns loom large in the icy expanse.



For instance, Russia has been increasing its military presence in the region by reopening and modernizing old Soviet-era military bases. In 2018, they conducted large-scale military exercises in the Arctic involving tens of thousands of troops. This has raised concerns among other Arctic nations about Russia's intentions and the potential for territorial disputes.

In addition, the United States has also been actively engaged in the Arctic, with the establishment of the Arctic Strategy in 2019. They have conducted military exercises, increased patrols, and invested in infrastructure development in the region. This has led to a growing competition for control and influence between Russia and the United States.

Furthermore, the melting Arctic ice has opened up new shipping routes, such as the Northern Sea Route, which allows for faster and more direct access between Europe and Asia. This has sparked interest from countries like China, which has declared itself a "near Arctic" state and has started investing in icebreaker ships to navigate these routes. This increased activity and competition for resources and trade routes further contribute to the security concerns in the region.

While specific statistics on military build-up in the Arctic may vary, it is clear that the militarization of the region has been on the rise. This trend raises concerns about potential conflicts, territorial disputes, and the need for international cooperation to ensure stability and security in the Arctic.

## Strategic Importance of the Matter

When it comes to the militarization of the Arctic, security concerns loom large in the icy expanse.

### Natural Resources

The Arctic is rich in natural resources, including oil, gas, minerals, and fish stocks. According to the United States Geological Survey, the region is estimated to hold vast reserves of untapped energy resources. For example, it is believed that the Arctic contains about 13% of the world's undiscovered oil reserves and 30% of its natural gas reserves. The militarization of the Arctic allows countries to protect and secure their access to these valuable resources.

### Trade Routes

The melting ice in the Arctic has opened up new shipping routes, such as the Northern Sea Route and the Northwest Passage. These routes offer shorter and more cost-effective paths for maritime trade between Europe and Asia. For instance, the Northern Sea Route can reduce the shipping distance between Northeast Asia and Europe by up to 40%. With the militarization of the Arctic, countries can ensure the safety and security of these trade routes, which are becoming increasingly important for global commerce.



## Scientific Research

The Arctic serves as a unique laboratory for scientific research, particularly in the fields of climate change, biodiversity, and geology. The militarization of the region enables countries to support and protect their scientific activities in the Arctic. For example, research stations and icebreakers can be utilized to conduct studies on the impacts of climate change, monitor environmental changes and explore the region's geological formations.



## Geopolitical Influence

The Arctic holds significant geopolitical implications. As countries increase their military presence in the region, they aim to assert their influence and strengthen their claims over disputed territories. For instance, Russia has been actively expanding its military infrastructure in the Arctic, including the reopening of Soviet-era bases and the deployment of advanced weaponry.



This militarization allows countries to project power, protect their interests, and shape the geopolitical landscape of the region.



# Questions to be Addressed

- The lack of a binding agreement specifically prohibiting militarization in the Arctic.
- Balancing security concerns with promoting peaceful cooperation and sustainable development.
- How to ensure the voices and interests of indigenous peoples are heard and respected.
- Discuss potential risks and challenges associated with increased military activity.
- Explore ways to promote peaceful cooperation and prevent conflicts.
- Encourage transparency and responsible behavior among Arctic nations.
- Consider options for strengthening existing agreements or developing new frameworks to address the issue.

## Further Readings

- <https://www.spsnavalforces.com/story/?id=227>
- [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news\\_219529.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_219529.htm)
- <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/12/21/europe/russia-arctic-military-intl/index.html>
- <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/citations/AD1159937>
- <https://www.thearcticinstitute.org/the-history-and-future-of-arctic-state-conflict-the-arctic-institute-conflict-series/>
- <https://www.unclosdebate.org/keywords/arctic-militarization>
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