

A photograph of an Arctic landscape. In the foreground, there is a body of water with concentric ripples. Several large, white icebergs are scattered across the water. The background shows a flat, icy horizon under a pale, overcast sky. The overall color palette is cool, dominated by blues, greys, and whites.

# ARCTIC INTERESTS AND COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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# CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ARCTIC

- The Arctic is warming at a faster-than-average-rate compared to the rest of the world
- Rapid ice sheet melting
- It is happening now - not just in a distant future
- Severe consequences on peoples living conditions and possibilities to make a living, not at least indigenous peoples
- Large effects on the rest of the world, "trigger" to climate change

# COP21 AND THE ARCTIC COOPERATION

- The Arctic states do not negotiate together but have raised the Arctic dimension in different contexts, Iceland and Norway arranged side events on the COP21
- For the first time a global deal on climate is being put in place
- The COP21 agreement needs to be strengthened to reach the 2 degree target (1,5 degree)
- The work on adaptation needs to be carried out in close collaboration with indigenous people

# SHORT LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANTS

- SLCPs: such as black carbon, methane etc are greenhouse gases much more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> but with a much shorter lifetime in the atmosphere
- SLCPs have a great impact on the warming and ice melting in the Arctic, for example the black carbon reduces the ice's albedo (capacity to reflect sunlight)
- The emissions of SLCPs have basically the same sources as the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, and although a lot of the emissions affecting the Arctic is global the Arctic states stand for a big part of them themselves

# EXPLOITATION OF OIL AND GAS IN THE ARCTIC

- A big part of the worlds fossils fuel reserves is to be found in the Arctic. About 13% of the oil and 30% of the gas, according to estimations from the U.S. geological survey (2008). 84% offshore.
- The vulnerable environment of the Arctic and the lack of techniques to handle an oil spill in such environment makes the drilling a big risk.
- A majority of the worlds fossil fuel resources needs to be kept in ground if we are to reach the 2 degree target (or less)

# BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE ARCTIC

- The Arctic is facing rapid changes, due to climate change and to social and economic processes.
- Resilience is a system's (or individual's) capacity to handle changes and still continue to develop, and focus on social-ecological interaction and securing the ecosystem services that human life depends on.
- The Arctic Resilience Report calls for adaptive capacity and participatory processes.
- Building resilience is a local work, in a larger framework.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Organize an Arctic Council meeting between the ministers responsible for climate change to take new initiative to reduce emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and short-lived climate pollutants
- Intensify multidisciplinary research concerning the role of the Arctic in the global climate system
- Raise a strong Arctic message to communicate the consequences of climate change in the Arctic at all relevant international meetings
- Emphasize the importance of including and working close together with the indigenous peoples of the arctic
- Take action to protect areas in the Arctic from oil and gas exploitation and to secure the use of best available techniques for drilling in the Arctic as well as the development of techniques to contain and clean up oil spill in the Arctic
- Support the development of renewable energy in the Arctic states
- Continue the analysis of resilience in the Arctic and support the establishment of a framework for local decision making for adaptation