

Comments from Canada on Draft Concept Paper (Agenda Item 8.1):

Engagement of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples in Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Activities

- Canada thanks the United States for its efforts to prepare a Draft Concept Paper for consideration and discussion by PAME.
- If PAME decides that this project is to move forward, it is important that Permanent Participants play an active / possibly co-leadership role in this project.
- Domestic legislation, regulations and policies define how States engage indigenous (aboriginal) organizations and local communities in oil and gas exploration and development activities.
- Drawing from the possible project frameworks identified in the Draft Concept Paper, Canada could see value in the following approach:

Part I:

- Identify **relevant Arctic Council recommendations** related to Oil and Gas (drawing from existing Table).
- Compile an **inventory or compendium of existing regimes** (legislation, regulations and policies) related to engagement in oil and gas activities in each Arctic State.
- Compile **sample industry guidance / practices** to engage with aboriginal organizations and local communities as it relates to oil and gas activities.
- Compile **sample guidance from aboriginal organizations** on how they want to be engaged with the oil and gas industry?

***NOTES :**

- 1) It will be important to collaborate with other AC Working Groups to build on what has already been done, and minimize any duplication of work in ongoing or new initiatives.
- 2) Project will need to define key terminology and approach to be used, so as to guide information gathering by each State to ensure consistency and comparability.
- 3) Project specific timelines to be confirmed as Part I project scope is defined.

Part II:

- With the stocktaking completed, review / analyze information on lessons learned and select sample practices for engagement.
- Consider making recommendations to industry and other stakeholders.

***NOTES :**

- 1) Collaboration with AC Working Groups to be continued as project proceeds into Part II.
- 2) Project specific timelines to be confirmed as Part II project scope is defined.