



**ONLINE
MODEL ARCTIC
COUNCIL**

DELEGATE GUIDE

DECEMBER 2021



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1. Welcome

On behalf of Polar Aspect, the Secretariat of the Online Model Arctic Council (OMAC) warmly welcome you to the second OMAC conference.

Polar Aspect design and run the world's only Model Arctic Council simulations for secondary-school pupils. Before becoming a teacher, Polar Aspect founder and Managing Principal Dr Anthony Speca lived and worked in the Canadian Arctic as a senior civil servant. Inspired to share his experience and love of the Arctic with youth, in 2016 he created and launched NORMAC at Norwich School in the UK. Other MACs for secondary schools have followed since then, including OMAC, which convened for the first time in 2020.

OMAC is a simulation of the real-world Arctic Council. Established in 1996 as a high-level international forum, the Arctic Council is devoted to advancing international cooperation and good governance across the circumpolar North. What makes the Arctic Council unique amongst intergovernmental organisations is also what makes the OMAC unique amongst diplomatic simulations—the full participation of Arctic Indigenous peoples alongside Arctic states, and the rule of consensus for all decisions.

In today's divided and hyper-partisan political climate, this emphasis on inclusive consensus makes OMAC and other Polar Aspect MACs special. Delegates must rise to the challenge of negotiating the bridging solutions that bring Arctic states and peoples together over difficult issues, in full unanimity and with no recourse to a majority vote.

We hope you are looking forward to the opportunity to meet this challenge together with your fellow OMAC delegates. This Delegate Guide, as well as the accompanying Research Guide, will help you to prepare for the upcoming conference, and to make the most of your learning. Please read both guides carefully.

Now more than ever, as the global climate changes, the Arctic is one of the most fascinating and important regions on the planet. Much more than a vast and pristine wilderness, or a storehouse of great natural wealth, it is an ancient homeland for peoples living on the front lines of some of the most pressing challenges the world faces today. By preparing for and participating in OMAC, you will learn much from your in-depth exposure to a part of the world that few of your peers have discovered.

We wish you an enjoyable OMAC experience.

2. Timetable

OMAC is a two-day simulation, taking place for approximately four hours each day. Our timetable will run as follows (all times UTC):

| Pre-conference (asynchronous) | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Discussion papers | Discussion papers are due by email to the OMAC Secretariat (omac@polaraspect.com) no later than 12.00 UTC on Saturday 4 December 2021, so they may be circulated to all delegates |
| Videos | Delegates will be invited to watch pre-conference videos from the following speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OMAC Director (Dr Anthony Speca)• OMAC Honorary Chair (Prof Ketil Lenert Hansen)• OMAC Secretariat |

| Saturday 11 December 2021 | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 16.00 – 16.15 | Welcome and plenary briefing |
| 16.15 – 17.45 | Senior Arctic Officials meeting (including opening statements) |
| 17.40 – 18.15 | Break |
| 18.15 – 19.30 | Senior Arctic Officials meeting |
| 19.30 – 19.45 | Arctic State debriefing |
| 19.45 – 20.00 | Permanent Participants debriefing |
| 20.00 – 21.00 | Online 'Arctic pub-quiz' social event (optional) |

| Sunday 7 March, 16.00 – 20.00 UTC | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 16.00 – 16.15 | Welcome and plenary briefing |
| 16.15 – 18.00 | Senior Arctic Officials meeting |
| 18.00 – 18.30 | Break |
| 18.30 – 19.30 | Ministerial meeting (including closing statements) |
| 19.30 – 20.00 | Plenary debriefing |

3. Participating in OMAC

OMAC will take place via Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) on Polar Aspect's online platform. Polar Aspect use MS Teams for OMAC because it enables delegates to mix freely in small groups for informal negotiating. Delegates will be invited to join Polar Aspect on MS Teams as temporary guests, and they will be added to the OMAC Conference team, in which all the conference sessions will take place.

Joining instructions

Delegates will be able to join the OMAC Conference team by following these instructions:

1. As the conference date approaches, you will receive a welcome email at the email address you provided when you registered for OMAC. This email contains an invitation to join Polar Aspect on MS Teams. Please select the 'Accept Invitation' link in the email.
2. Even if you already have an MS Teams account with the email that you provided when you registered for OMAC, you will still need to create a new account, because we have linked your email to a temporary '@omac.polaraspect.com' email address to ensure your privacy:
 - a. Select 'Next', then create a password, then select 'Next' again.
 - b. Verify your identity using the security code in the verification email that you automatically receive.
 - c. Enter the 'CAPTCHA' characters, and select 'Accept'.
3. You will then receive an email indicating that you have been added to the OMAC Conference team. Please select the 'Open Microsoft Teams' link in this email, which will allow you to access the conference team using MS Teams in your browser, or by downloading the MS Teams app onto your computer.

Should you have any trouble joining the OMAC Conference team, contact the OMAC Secretariat for help. If you have not done so already, please make sure that you have added the OMAC Secretariat email address (omac@polaraspect.com) to your list of safe senders. Please also check your 'junk' or 'spam' email folder to ensure you have not missed any emails from us.

Delegates are requested to join from a location with as stable an internet connection as possible, and to use a laptop or desktop computer rather than tablet or mobile phone.

However, we do realise that some delegates will not have access to a laptop or desktop computer, and that internet connection reliability can vary greatly from location to location, or even day to day. No delegates will be excluded due to technical limitations, so long as they are able to connect and take part.

The OMAC experience

Just as the Arctic Council is unique amongst international organisations, OMAC is unique amongst diplomatic simulations. Four characteristics make OMAC special:

- **Consensus.** All decisions of OMAC, whether substantive or procedural, must be made unanimously. There is no option for a majority vote even if consensus is elusive. For this reason, OMAC delegates do not debate pre-prepared resolutions, nor lobby for signatures as at Model United Nations. Rather, they rise to the challenge of negotiating mutually agreeable declarations in real time.
- **Collaboration.** The Arctic Council has a reputation for collegiality. The OMAC Secretariat exists only to facilitate cooperation between delegates, who are encouraged to use their privilege to discuss issues and negotiate solutions informally. There will also be time for spontaneous interaction with other delegates between meeting rounds and during breaks. Cultivating positive working relationships with other delegates is important.
- **Indigenous participation.** Unusually in model diplomacy, OMAC delegates have the opportunity to play the roles of Arctic Indigenous peoples' organisations, as well as Arctic States. Playing such a role illuminates what small but determined group of people aware of their rights can achieve on the international stage. It also reveals the Arctic as a homeland—and even delegates representing Arctic States should be aware of what it means to be an Indigenous person and to have Indigenous rights.
- **Thematic focus.** Unlike Model United Nations, which can be thematically diffuse, OMAC offers delegates an in-depth engagement with one of the world's most fascinating and fast-changing regions. There are only eight Arctic States and six Arctic Indigenous peoples' organisations, so OMAC conferences are also small and intimate. Delegates get to know the issues, and their fellow delegates, more closely.

Your role as an OMAC delegate

There are two parts to an OMAC conference. The first and longer part simulates the work of Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) as they draft a political declaration on an issue assigned in advance. The second and shorter part simulates a Ministerial meeting at which the political declaration is decided, should the SAOs have been successful. (For more information on the structure and work of the Arctic Council, see the *OMAC Research Guide*.)

SAO meeting

For much of the conference, you will play the role of an SAO from one of the Arctic States, or a high-level representative from one of the Permanent Participant organisations. SAO meetings are often thought of as ‘Arctic ambassador’ meetings, and indeed some SAOs officially hold ambassadorial rank. Whilst in reality there is only one such person representing each Arctic State or Permanent Participant, all OMAC delegates represent their respective delegations equally.

Having exchanged discussion papers on the issue with other delegations in advance of the conference, you or one of the other members of your delegation will begin the conference with an opening statement briefly setting out your delegation’s approach. After all delegations have made opening statements, you will begin to negotiate the political declaration.

SAO meetings are formal in nature, so that every delegate who wishes to speak can be heard. However, you may pause proceedings at any time to negotiate more informally. Considerable ‘word-smithing’ is involved in negotiating a declaration, and you are encouraged not to get caught up in procedural formalities. The OMAC Secretariat record the declaration in real time as you draft it.

Ministerial meeting

The final session of the conference will simulate a brief Ministerial meeting, in which you will play the role of a foreign minister from one of the Arctic States, or the leader of one of the Permanent Participant organisations. Whilst in reality there is only one such person representing each Arctic State or Permanent Participant, all OMAC delegates will represent their respective delegations equally.

In this high-level political meeting, you or one of the other members of your delegation will give a closing statement indicating your delegation’s final decision on the

declaration, should the SAOs have been successful in drafting one. If all Arctic State delegations agree on the declaration, Arctic State ministers may then formally adopt it as the final ‘OMAC Declaration’.

Should SAOs not have been successful in drafting a declaration, then each delegation gives a closing statement reflecting on the lack of agreement. It is possible—though arguably highly diplomatically embarrassing—for a Ministerial delegation to withhold agreement to a declaration previously agreed at the SAO level.

Debriefing sessions

At the end of both days of the OMAC conference, delegates gather for ‘debriefing sessions’ with the OMAC Director and the OMAC Honorary Chair. At these sessions, you reflect on the progress of discussions and negotiations, aiming to transform your experience into new knowledge about the Arctic, about diplomacy and international affairs, and about yourself as an effective communicator and collaborator. There are two debriefing sessions at the end of the first day, one for Arctic State delegates and one for Permanent Participant delegates. The debriefing session after the Ministerial meeting is a plenary session involving all delegates.

You are strongly encouraged not to think of OMAC as a game that you win only if you and your fellow delegates are able to agree and adopt a declaration. It is not easy to negotiate mutually agreeable solutions to the complex problems that Arctic faces, and consensus may prove elusive for reasons that you as an individual delegate cannot control. Instead, you are encouraged to think of your participation as its own reward, together with what you will have learned about the Arctic, the Arctic Council, Indigenous peoples, public speaking, negotiation, consensus building and so on. Simply put, you will get out of OMAC what you put into it.

4. Social media

The OMAC Secretariat will use social media during OMAC to keep in touch with our followers about the programme. Delegates are encouraged to do the same, and to tag us in your posts!

OMAC social media

Follow OMAC and other Polar Aspect MACs on our website, Twitter timeline and Instagram feed—and please use our handles and hashtag in your posts:

- Website: **omac.polaraspect.com**
- Twitter: **@PolarMACs**
- Instagram: **polarmacs**
- Hashtag: **#OMAC**

Related social media

If you post to social media about your OMAC experience, you may wish to tag one or more of the following institutions (English-language accounts listed wherever available):

| Related Twitter and Instagram handles | |
|--|---|
| <i>Arctic Council and affiliated organisations</i> | |
| Arctic Council | @ArcticCouncil arcticcouncil |
| Arctic Contaminants Action Program | @ACAP_Arctic |
| Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program | @AMAP_Arctic |
| Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna | @CAFFSecretariat caff_arctic_biodiversity |
| Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response | @EPPR_Arctic eppr_arcticcouncil |
| Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment | @PAMESecretariat |
| Sustainable Development Working Group | @sdwgsecretariat @SDWG_Chair sdwg_arcticcouncil |
| Indigenous Peoples Secretariat | indigenous_peoples_secretariat |

Related Twitter and Instagram handles (cont'd)

Arctic State Foreign Ministries

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Canada | @CanadaFP gacanada.amcanada |
| Denmark | @DanishMFA udenrigsministeriet |
| Finland | @Ulkoministerio |
| Iceland | @MFAIceland |
| Norway | @NorwayMFA utenriksdept |
| Russian Federation | @mfa_russia mid.rus |
| Sweden | @SwedenMFA swedishmfa |
| United States of America | @StateDept statedept |

Permanent Participant organisations

| | |
|--|--|
| Aleut International Association | @aleut_aia aleutinternationalassociation |
| Inuit Circumpolar Council | @ICC_Alaska @ICC_Canada @ICC_Greenland icc_alaska icc_canada |
| Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North | raiponofficial |
| Saami Council | @SaamiCouncil saamicouncil |

Other Arctic governments

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Faroe Islands | @Tinganes |
| Greenland | @GreenlandMFA |

Other organisations or people

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Anthony Speca (OMAC Director) | @anthonyspeca |
| Polar Aspect | @polaraspect @PolarMACs polarmacs |
| MUN Impact | @munimpact mun_impact |
| Polar Educators International | @polareducators |

5. OMAC Policies

Polar Aspect take very seriously the safety of our conferences, and the enjoyment of our delegates. Delegates, teachers and guests participating in or observing OMAC are kindly requested to respect the following policies.

Online protocols

In order to participate effectively online, you are requested to follow certain simple protocols when taking part in OMAC:

- Please leave your microphone muted at all times in order to eliminate background noise, unless you have been asked or recognised to speak.
- Please use the 'raise hand' button and wait to be recognised if you wish to speak, or use the online 'chat' function to ask a question of the Secretariat.
- Please turn your camera on whenever possible whilst participating, and especially whilst speaking. Delegates are trying to build consensus together, so it will be best for you to see each other!

Code of good conduct

As a pupil representing your school and country, you are expected to behave maturely. In particular, you must adhere to the following code of good conduct, any breach of which may result in exclusion from OMAC:

- You must not question the authority of the OMAC Director and Secretariat, or any deputies the OMAC Director may appoint.
- You must treat all participants, whether delegates, Secretariat staff or guests, with tact and respect. Bullying, insults or abuse of any kind is strictly forbidden, whether openly in speech, in general chat, or in private chat.
- You must respect the privacy rules outlined below, and you should avoid general sharing of your personal information with other participants.
- You must dress appropriately for an educational setting, especially as you are encouraged to be visible to fellow participants. Whilst there is no enforced dress code, smart casual clothing would be most appropriate.
- No attempt to imitate or wear national or Indigenous dress will be tolerated of any delegates who are not themselves of that nationality or Indigenous status.

- You are expected to be on time for all meetings. Your fellow delegates live in widely different time zones, and some will be awake early or late in order to take part. Meetings will begin promptly out of respect for delegates in these circumstances.

Privacy

All participants must maintain confidentiality for themselves and for other participants. Delegates will be assigned identities on the OMAC online platform that do not reveal surnames or other personal information.

Delegates may choose to share their surnames, email addresses or other personal information with each other, should they wish to stay in contact outside the conference. However, no delegate should feel obliged to do so, and it is possible to conduct all necessary conference-related communication with other delegates through the online platform. Should delegates choose to share personal information with each other, they should do so through private message only. No personal information of any delegate should be published openly via the online platform.

Participants must not make any attempt to record proceedings, whether through the online meeting platform itself, or using some other device such as a mobile phone or camera.

Publicity

Whilst in general OMAC will not be recorded, please note that OMAC Secretariat staff may record or take screenshots of certain elements of the conference, including images of participants, for purposes such as publicity, website content and social media content. Any participants who do not wish to appear in recordings or screenshots should please inform the OMAC Director or Secretariat.

Teachers and other observers

At the discretion of the OMAC Director, teachers, other educators or special guests may observe OMAC. OMAC may be observed by an Arctic expert, who will help delegates to reflect on their experience in special debriefing sessions.

6. OMAC rules of procedure

Rule 1. General provisions

Delegations from all Arctic States and Permanent Participants may participate in all parts of any OMAC meetings. All decisions taken by delegations, whether substantive or procedural, shall be by consensus of all Arctic State delegations present (Rule 15), provided a quorum of at least six Arctic State delegations exists. However, Permanent Participant delegations should also indicate their agreement or disagreement with any matter, and delegations are encouraged to respect the ideal of full consensus. Matters of military security may not be discussed at OMAC meetings.

Rule 2. Director and Secretariat

The Director shall oversee OMAC, appoint and supervise the Secretariat, and act as the final arbiter of any delegate appeals. The Director shall have the sole right to suspend or expel any delegate from OMAC for a breach of OMAC policies, especially policies regarding good conduct and delegate privacy. Delegates shall not question the authority of the Director.

The Secretariat shall be responsible for the formal, proper and orderly functioning of all OMAC meetings in accordance with these rules. Members of the Secretariat shall serve as Chair and Rapporteur to manage and document OMAC meetings. The Director may also serve as Chair of any OMAC meeting.

The role of the Chair is to facilitate delegate discussion, not to dictate the pace or substance of the meeting. Delegations shall have extensive freedom to determine how meetings proceed, but the Chair reserves the right, in the most exceptional circumstances and only to preserve the orderly progress of the meeting, to assume control of procedure temporarily. Decisions of the Chair shall be subject to the oversight of the Director, to whom delegates may appeal.

OMAC meetings shall take place online under the supervision of the OMAC Director or Secretariat. Delegates shall not hold OMAC meetings offline or without the supervision of the Director or Secretariat.

Rule 3. Official language

English shall be the working language of OMAC. Delegates who wish to speak or table documents in another language shall provide interpretation or translation into English.

Rule 4. Discussion papers

Prior to an OMAC conference, all delegations should write a discussion paper on the matter to be discussed. Delegations shall submit their papers to the Secretariat by the deadline specified, so that they may be circulated to other delegations in good time ahead of the conference. Late discussion papers may not be circulated.

Delegations shall format papers using Arial, Helvetica or Helvetica Neue 11-pt font, single-spaced, with 2.54-cm margins on all sides. The title of the paper shall be the issue to be discussed, followed by the identity of the submitting delegation. Delegates may refer to the OMAC Research Guide for help with discussion papers.

Rule 5. Diplomatic courtesy and communication

Delegates shall be diplomatic and respectful at all times, and they shall not interrupt one another except to rise to a point of order (Rule 10). Delegates shall address the Chair as ‘Mister Chair’ or ‘Madame Chair’ as appropriate. Delegates shall address other delegates as ‘The delegate (from...)', or by using the other delegate’s preferred pronouns of the form ‘he’, ‘she’ or ‘they’. Delegates shall refer to themselves by the name of the Arctic State or Permanent Participant they represent—e.g. ‘Canada believe that...’ or ‘The AIA propose that...’, or by using the pronoun ‘we’. Delegates shall not use the pronouns ‘I’ or ‘you’ of themselves or one another.

Delegates may exchange private messages with one another, or with the Director or Secretariat, by using the online ‘chat’ function. Private messages may serve various purposes, such as policy coordination, private requests, expressions of thanks or apology, proposal of a matter, etc, but in general such purposes should be germane to the conference. Private messages shall be just as respectful as open speech.

Rule 6. Senior Arctic Officials meetings

The initial meetings of an OMAC conference shall always be meetings of SAOs. At SAO meetings, delegations will make opening statements (Rule 8), engage in formal and informal discussion (Rules 9 and 11), and collaborate on drafting a declaration on

the issue to be discussed at that conference (Rule 12). It is possible for delegations to collaborate on more than one draft declaration at a time, so long as consideration of all but one draft declaration has been postponed (Rule 13). The Rapporteur shall colour-code multiple draft declarations to allow delegates to distinguish them easily. Ideally, SAO meetings should end with consensus agreement (Rule 15) to submit a single draft declaration to a following Ministerial meeting (Rule 7).

Rule 7. Ministerial meetings

The final meeting of an OMAC conference shall always be a Ministerial meeting. Should the preceding SAO meetings (Rule 6) have produced an agreed draft declaration (Rule 12), Ministerial delegations shall review the draft declaration received, engage in formal and informal discussion (Rule 9 and 11) if desired, decide by consensus (Rule 15) whether to adopt the draft declaration as a final declaration (Rule 16), and make closing statements (Rule 17). Should the preceding SAO meetings not have produced a draft declaration, Ministerial delegations shall engage in formal and informal discussion if desired, and make closing statements.

Rule 8. Opening statements

At the start of an OMAC conference, the Chair shall invite delegations to make brief opening statements. Arctic State delegations shall give their opening statements in alphabetical order, followed by Permanent Participant delegations in alphabetical order. Opening statements should introduce a delegation's views on the issue to be discussed, and they may also include expressions of good faith about the upcoming negotiations. Delegations shall limit their opening statements to no longer than one minute, and they should not simply recite their discussion papers.

Rule 9. Formal discussion

Delegations wishing to speak during an OMAC meeting must first request recognition by using the online 'raise hand' function. The Chair shall keep a list of such requests, fulfilling them in the order that the Chair deems most appropriate. Any delegation that wishes to speak shall be recognised to do so. Speeches should be relevant to the matter under discussion, otherwise the Chair may call a delegate to order.

Only one delegate may speak at a time, and only one delegate from the same delegation may speak at a time when a delegation is recognised by the Chair to speak. The Chair reserves the right to limit the speaking time of delegates, either in general or

at specific instances, although such limits are rarely imposed. Additionally, the Chair reserves the right to manage the total length of delegate discussion time order to maintain the timetable set by the Director.

Rule 10. Points of order

Delegates may interrupt other delegates in formal discussion (Rule 9) only to rise to a point of order, which shall be adjudicated immediately by the Chair in accordance with these rules. A point of order shall only be used for procedural purposes, for instance when a delegate cannot hear proceedings, or when a delegate believes that proper procedure has not been followed. A delegate shall not use a point of order to pose a question to, or to debate with, another delegate.

Delegates have no formal right of reply. Concerns about insulting language directed towards an Arctic State, Permanent Participant, delegation or a delegate's own person should be reported directly to the Chair or Director.

Rule 11. Informal discussion

At any time outside of an OMAC meeting, including when a meeting is suspended (Rule 14), delegations may informally discuss any issues on the OMAC agenda. Informal discussion is not governed by the rules applying to formal discussion (Rule 9) or points of order (Rule 10). However, delegations may not informally discuss issues on the OMAC agenda before the OMAC conference begins, even if the delegations come from the same school or know each other socially.

Rule 12. Draft declarations

Delegations shall draft declarations jointly during OMAC meetings. Draft declarations shall be documented in real time by the Rapporteur, who shall make them visible to all delegates and observers using the online 'share screen' function. Delegates may not edit draft declarations themselves.

At any time during a meeting, delegations may propose to discuss an addition or amendment to the draft declaration. To make such a proposal, delegations should use the online 'chat' function to submit to the Rapporteur the exact wording of the addition or amendment they are proposing to discuss. The Rapporteur shall bring all such submissions to the Chair's attention. The Chair shall deal with such submissions in the order received, after any current matters for discussion have been concluded.

Delegations may also orally propose to discuss an addition or amendment to the draft declaration whenever they are recognised to speak by the Chair (Rule 9), so long as there is not already a matter under discussion. If there is already a matter under discussion, the delegation that wishes orally to propose to discuss an addition or amendment to the draft declaration must first propose to postpone the matter currently under discussion.

All Arctic State delegations must agree by consensus (Rule 15) to discuss an addition or amendment to the draft declaration, whether written or oral. Should they agree to discuss the addition or amendment, the Chair shall invite the delegation that proposed the discussion to speak about their addition or amendment. All subsequent formal discussion must pertain to that addition or amendment, until it is either adopted into the draft declaration by consensus or postponed (Rule 13).

A delegation that has proposed to discuss an addition or amendment to the draft declaration may change the wording of their addition or amendment, or withdraw it entirely, by written notice to the Rapporteur at any time, or whenever they are recognised to speak by the Chair.

Rule 13. Postponement

Delegations may propose to postpone discussion of the matter currently under discussion whenever recognised to speak by the Chair. All Arctic State delegations must agree by consensus (Rule 15) to the postponement. A proposal to postpone may also be accompanied by a proposal to discuss another matter, but if so, all Arctic State delegations must agree by consensus to both proposals as though they were a joint proposal, otherwise neither proposal is agreed.

Delegations may propose to reintroduce any previously postponed matter whenever recognised to speak by the Chair, so long as there is not already a matter under discussion. If there is already a matter under discussion, the delegation that wishes to propose a reintroduction of a previously postponed matter must first propose to postpone the matter currently under discussion. All Arctic State delegations must agree by consensus to the reintroduction.

Rule 14. Suspension

Delegations are encouraged to suspend OMAC meetings whenever desired in order to allow for informal discussion (Rule 11) to take place. It is normally much more

efficient to negotiate informally, including over the wording of draft declarations, than to do so formally. However, no decisions may be taken whilst a meeting is suspended, even if consensus exists. All decisions must be taken in meetings.

Delegations may propose to suspend a meeting whenever recognised to speak by the Chair, regardless of whether a matter is currently under discussion or not. Delegations should specify a duration for the suspension, not to exceed the time allocated to the meeting on the OMAC timetable. The Chair may limit the duration of a suspension in order to maintain the timetable set by the Director. All Arctic State delegations must agree by consensus (Rule 15) to the suspension.

Rule 15. Consensus agreement

There are three situations in which the Chair will determine whether consensus agreement exists:

- Whenever a delegation makes an orderly proposal—whether to discuss an addition or amendment to the draft declaration, to postpone discussion of a matter, or to suspend a meeting;
- Whenever a delegation requests the Chair to ascertain whether consensus exists on an addition or amendment to the draft declaration, or on all or part of the draft declaration itself; and
- Whenever no delegations wish to speak further on an addition or amendment to the draft declaration, or on all or part of the draft declaration itself.

Delegations should demonstrate agreement using the online 'raise hand' function.

In the case of a procedural matter, should consensus exist, the proposal is adopted, and the Chair shall immediately invite the proposing delegation to speak on the proposal. Should consensus not exist, the Chair shall immediately invite a maximum of two delegations to speak in favour of the proposal, and two against. After these speeches, the Chair shall again immediately ascertain whether consensus exists on the proposal. Should consensus of the Arctic State delegations exist, the proposal is adopted, and the Chair shall immediately invite the proposing delegation to speak on the proposal. Should consensus of the Arctic State delegations continue not to exist, the proposal is not adopted. Delegations may reintroduce unadopted proposals, but they are encouraged to do so only when there is reason to believe that the proposal will be met with a more favourable response upon reintroduction.

In the case of a substantive matter, should consensus exist, either the addition or amendment is adopted into the draft declaration, or all or part of the draft declaration is adopted, as the case may be. Should consensus not exist, the matter is not adopted.

After any ascertainment of consensus, whether on a proposal or on a substantive matter, delegations may provide an explanation of their positions.

Rule 16. Final declaration

A draft declaration (Rule 12) will be considered the final declaration once it has been agreed by consensus (Rule 15) at a Ministerial meeting. Only one final declaration can be agreed per OMAC conference. After the conclusion of the OMAC conference, the final declaration shall be made available to all delegations.

Rule 17. Closing statements

At the end of an OMAC conference, the Chair shall invite delegations to make brief closing statements. Arctic State delegations shall give their closing statements in alphabetical order, followed by Permanent Participant delegations in alphabetical order. Closing statements should express a delegation's views on the final declaration, or on the failure to agree a final declaration. Delegations shall limit their closing statements to no longer than two minutes.

Rule 18. Certificates

After the OMAC conference, all delegates who completed the conference will receive a certificate of participation electronically. At the discretion of the Director, and in consultation with the Secretariat, special commendation certificates will be awarded electronically to all delegates in one Arctic State and one Permanent Participant delegation. Special commendations will be awarded on the following criteria:

- Constructive contributions to meetings that helped build consensus amongst fellow delegates;
- Knowledge of the Arctic, of the Arctic State or Permanent Participant represented, and of the issue discussed; and
- Credibility 'acting' the role of diplomat from an Arctic State or Permanent Participant.

7. Delegates

The following 20 delegates from three home countries are registered to take part in the second OMAC conference. As a group, delegates represent four schools from the United Kingdom.

| OMAC Delegates – December 2021 | |
|--|---|
| <i>Delegation</i> | <i>Delegates (including school and countries)</i> |
| Arctic State Delegations | |
| Canada | Vasilisa G (Russia), St Ives School (UK) |
| Denmark | Lorenzo del F (UK/Italy), Reading Blue Coat School (UK) |
| Finland | May Maclennan (UK), Norwich School (UK) |
| Iceland | Dan G (UK), Reading Blue Coat School (UK) |
| Norway | Milly C (UK), St Ives School (UK) |
| Russia | Nicki N-Z (UK), Cardiff Sixth Form College (UK) |
| Sweden | Miles M (UK), St Ives School (UK) |
| USA | Ella R (UK), St Ives School (UK) |
| Permanent Participant Delegations | |
| AIA | Lucas J-R (UK), Reading Blue Coat School (UK) Oliver J-R (UK), Reading Blue Coat School (UK) |
| AAC | Crina C (UK), Cardiff Sixth Form College (UK) Hirra Y (UK), Cardiff Sixth Form College (UK) |
| GCI | Isabella C (UK), St Ives School (UK) Alex C (UK), St Ives School (UK) |
| ICC | Maddie B (UK), St Ives School (UK) Morien S (UK), St Ives School (UK) |
| RAIPON | Pippa G (UK), Norwich School (UK) Flossy W (UK), Norwich School (UK) |
| SC | Bibi B (UK), Norwich School (UK) Octavia U (UK), Norwich School (UK) |

8. Secretariat

Prof Ketil Lenert Hansen (OMAC Honorary Chair)

Prof Lenert Hansen is a public-health expert at the University of Tromsø in Norway. He specialises in the psycho-social health of the Indigenous Sámi people, including questions of discrimination, bullying, health inequality, violence, disability, resilience, child welfare and mental health. In addition to his teaching and research, he is a member of the international Lancet Commission on Arctic Health, as well as a Fulbright Arctic Initiative Scholar focusing on Indigenous Arctic childhood. Prof Lenert Hansen is himself of Indigenous Sámi heritage, and his family continue Sámi reindeer-herding traditions. Follow his work at <https://blogg.uit.no/kha004/>.

Dr Anthony Speca FRGS FRSA (OMAC Director)

Dr Speca is founder of Polar Aspect, a consultancy focused on Arctic education and public policy. Formerly, he lived and worked in the Canadian Arctic as a senior policy official with the Government of Nunavut, and he continues to publish and speak on Arctic-related topics. He currently teaches Politics and Economics at Norwich School in the UK, and he is also Adjunct Professor of Canadian Studies at Trent University in Canada. Dr Speca created Polar Aspect MACs to share his enthusiasm for the Arctic with youth, and in the hope of inspiring them to learn more about this unique region and its peoples. Follow his Arctic work at www.polaraspect.com.

Mr Joshua Gray

Since 2018, Mr Gray has participated in a range of diplomatic simulations, including MAC, MUN and Model US Senate. He has been a delegate or served on the Secretariat of three Polar Aspect MACs—NORMAC, OMAC and TRYKOMAC. He has a passionate interest in the Arctic, especially issues facing Arctic Indigenous peoples, and he is keen to share this interest with other students and pupils. Mr Gray is currently reading Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford in the UK.

Miss Olivia Silk

With family background in Yukon Territory, Miss Silk's research interests include the Canadian North, and the impact of international Arctic governance on Indigenous communities. She has been a delegate or Secretariat staff in four MACs, including Polar Aspect's NORMAC, OMAC and TRYKOMAC conferences, and she is keen to

make such simulations accessible to a wider audience. Miss Silk is currently reading for a Masters in Canadian and Indigenous Studies at Trent University in Canada.

Miss Rosemary Tregenza

Since 2017, Miss Tregenza has participated in various MACs and MUNs, both as a delegate and a member of the Secretariat, including Polar Aspect's MAC Bilbao, NORMAC and OMAC conferences. Her interest and focus now are on the art of 'behind-the-scenes' management of diplomatic simulations, so that other students and pupils can enjoy them as much as she does. Miss Tregenza is currently reading Security Studies at Leiden University in the Netherlands.

9. Frequently asked questions

Q: How do we better advance discussions towards consensus?

A: It is often most effective to suspend the formal meeting to allow for informal discussion, through the process outlined in Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure (Section 6), and then to reconvene formally to ratify any consensus tentatively reached. Whilst it may seem at first that the views of different delegations are opposed to each other, it is often possible to reframe issues in terms of common concerns. This sort of reframing requires active and reciprocal communication focused on interests and needs, and it is often difficult to communicate in this way using formal meeting procedures.

Q: How can we most effectively draft a declaration?

A: Delegates usually make most effective progress on the declaration during informal discussion, when they can freely discuss ideas without the constraint of time-consuming formal meeting procedures. It is also often helpful to draft preambulatory clauses that lay out common views on the issue before drafting operative clauses. Delegates should also remember that Arctic States can commit to somewhat different national policies that follow a common approach. Purposeful ambiguity in the wording of the declaration can help to build consensus, because it allows Arctic States and Permanent Participants to interpret the words of the declaration in a slightly different ways that suit their own interests in the context of a common approach.

Q: How can we make most effective use of preambulatory clauses?

A: Preambulatory clauses can be vital to agreement on a declaration. It is often best to draft preambulatory clauses first, as they lay out common views on the issue and provide a basis for operative clauses. It can be hard for delegates to agree how to tackle an issue before agreeing what that issue is and why it is important. Preambulatory clauses should therefore indicate agreement on what the issue is, what its impacts are, why it is important, who it most affects, and what the Arctic Council or other international bodies have already agreed about it. The *OMAC Research Guide* offers a list of suggested introductory words for preambulatory clauses.

Q: How do we signal a desire to speak, or indicate agreement or disagreement with a matter, when asked to do so by the Chair?

A: Delegates should use the 'Raise Hand' feature on Microsoft Teams, which is found under the 'Show Reactions' button at the top of the screen of the desktop app, or on the menu at the bottom of the screen on the browser app. In line with the principles of international diplomacy between sovereign states, as well as with Arctic Council principles of full consultation with Indigenous peoples, any Arctic State or Permanent Participant delegation that wishes to speak will be recognised. Once delegates have spoken, or once the Chair has determined whether or not consensus on a matter has been reached, they should please use the 'Lower Hand' function to ensure that there is no confusion. If there are multiple delegates in a delegation, only one delegate should use the 'Raise Hand' feature at a time.

Q: How do we make a proposal for discussion, such as a new clause or an amendment?

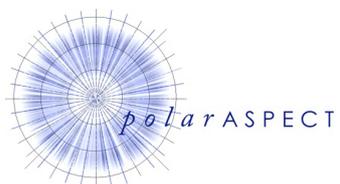
A: As per Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure, delegates can propose matters for discussion by sending a proposed clause or amendment in writing to the Rapporteur using the 'Chat' feature on Microsoft Teams, or by seeking recognition from the Chair to speak. Whilst the Chair will ordinarily deal with proposals in the order in which they are received, remember that the Chair is a facilitator, and delegates can agree to discuss proposals in any order they wish. However, delegates can discuss only one matter at a time, so it may first be necessary for a delegation to propose to postpone discussion of the current topic, in accordance with the process outlined in Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure (Section 6).

Q: Is there a dress code for OMAC?

A: Whilst there is no strict dress code, delegates should remember that OMAC is a simulation of international diplomacy, and they should dress appropriately. Formal dress is not necessary, but clothing should be smart. Please note that any attempt to imitate national or Indigenous dress will not be tolerated of any delegates who are not themselves of that nationality or Indigenous status.

Q: How can we contact the OMAC Secretariat before the conference, including to submit our discussion papers?

A: Delegates and educators can contact the OMAC Secretariat by email at omac@polaraspect.com. Any questions, concerns or comments are most welcome. Delegates should also send discussion papers to the same email address by the due-date specified in the conference timetable (Section 2).



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