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Theme -Theme 5: Arctic Observations in the context of Global Observing initiatives

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Poster title (brief) Sino-Nordic and Sino-Russian Cooperation in Arctic Observing: Prospects for Joint Knowledge, Issues of Dual-Use.

Abstract - text box

From the first steps in the Arctic, China strives to participate in the study of climate change and ocean observing. Currently, the PRC is engaged in research at three levels. First, within the majority of international initiatives, including the International Arctic Science Committee. Secondly, in the work of joint laboratories, in the course of joint research and sharing data with the Arctic states. The tightest bonds in the field are with the Nordic States and Russia. Thirdly, the active independent research of Chinese scientific institutes, laboratories, and icebreakers as far as satellite launching is of help for developing and accumulating observation experience.

In this regard, two perspectives arise. On one hand, all the above establish a reliable institutional and legal basis. The adoption by the PRC of key documents regulating Arctic activities, as well as the extensive involvement of Chinese scientists in Polar research, help China to hold the title of an important stakeholder who is needed for joint planning and work. On the other hand, the insufficient political awareness of the true capacities of high technologies leads to an underestimation of the possible ways of cooperation or an overestimation of dual-use. Low political dialogue prevents the Arctic states from easily involving China in observations in the region. In this regard, as part of my political research, I strive to find out what the institutional and legal capacity is to turn challenges into a mutual advantage in the case of China's participation in Arctic Observing. I want to determine what we learn from the experience of Sino-Russian and Sino-Nordic cooperation in the field? What is China capable of contributing to Arctic Observing? How to attract China to a mutually beneficial and secure scientific partnership, and what is the role of Russia and Nordic countries in this process?