

# AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

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## **American Geographical Society Endorses World Economic Forum Report on Arctic Investment**

*Description: The World Economic Forum (WEF), at its recent annual meeting, issued a report, “Arctic Investment Protocol: Guidelines for Responsible Investment in the Arctic”. The American Geographical Society, which is one of the original international organizations to support Arctic exploration and research, announced that it is endorsing the WEF report.*

[New York City, NY] – [February 29, 2016] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced today that it is endorsing the recent report issued by the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Agenda Council on the Arctic, “Arctic Investment Protocol”. The report was originally issued in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland following its presentation at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos. This is the second WEF Arctic report endorsed by the Society.

The report outlines critical principles for responsible development in the recently accessible and sought-after Arctic region. The six principles include building resilient societies through economic development, respecting local communities and indigenous peoples, pursuing measures to protect the environment, practicing responsible and transparent business methods, consulting and integrating science and traditional ecological knowledge, and to strengthen pan-Arctic collaboration and sharing of best practices. Chair of the Global Agenda Council on the Arctic, Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, states “the Arctic is a region of increasing geo-political interest. To contribute to economic development that is well balanced with environmental and other concerns, the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Arctic has developed an Arctic Investment Protocol with key principles to respect in the Arctic. I am thankful that such a distinguished organization as the American Geographical Society now has endorsed this protocol, as it will aid us in promoting a sustainable development of the Arctic”.

AGS Councilor Dr. Lawson Brigham, of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks played an integral part in the development of the principles as part of the Global Agenda Council on the Arctic. Chairman of the AGS Endorsement Committee Mr. Jared Novick added, “In geographic areas rich in potential like the Arctic, economic growth is an inevitability. AGS stands behind the goal of the WEF Arctic Investment Protocol as they set a standard across both human and environmental interests for responsible and sustainable growth in the region.”

The full report can be found at: [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Arctic\\_Investment\\_Protocol.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Arctic_Investment_Protocol.pdf)

Established in 1851, the American Geographical Society is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education in geography for over 163 years. The mission of AGS is to advance geographic knowledge and the recognition of its importance in the contemporary world. AGS promotes the use of geography in business, government, science, and education with a goal to enhance the nation's geographic literacy so as to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS is the only organization focused on bringing together academics, business people, those who influence public policy (including leaders in local, state and federal government, not-for-profit organizations and the media), and the general public for the express purpose of furthering the understanding of the role of geography in our lives. AGS provides leadership to frame the national discussion of the growing importance of geography and geospatial tools. The Society maintains its headquarters in Brooklyn Heights, New York.

The World Economic Forum is an independent international organization committed to improving the

state of the world by engaging business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas. Incorporated as a not-for-profit foundation in 1971, and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the Forum is tied to no political, partisan or national interests.

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