MULTILATERAL AUDIT OF THE ARCTIC STATES' NATIONAL AUTHORITIES' WORK WITH THE ARCTIC COUNCIL
Arctic Council

• Established 1996

• High level intergovernmental forum

• Promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among Arctic states with the involvement of Arctic indigenous peoples’ organizations

• Six working groups
Arctic Council

• Members: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and United States

• Permanent participants: Six indigenous peoples’ organizations

• Observers: 12 non-arctic Countries, 9 Intergovernmental or Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, 11 NGOs
The audit

- Participants: Denmark, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and United States
- Observers: Canada, Finland and Iceland
- Coordinators: Russian Federation and Norway
- Basis: Strategic Plan, signed by the Auditors General
- Process: National reports, joint memorandum
Audit Objectives

Based on the current environmental challenges and economic opportunities

• To evaluate the efficiency of the Arctic Council member states within the Council in their respective response to the challenges and opportunities in the Arctic
Audit Results

• The Arctic Council has made the Arctic region into an area of unique international cooperation.

• Changes in the Arctic have elevated the importance of cooperation in the region.

• The Arctic Council has contributed to enhanced cooperation, governance and scientific knowledge.
The Arctic Council faces the following challenges:

- The organizational structure
- Prioritizing the work
- Funding
- Follow-up on the voluntary recommendations to the member states
- Participation of the indigenous peoples’ groups
Lessons learned

• A Strategic Plan signed by the head of each SAI is essential to secure a joint framework and resources.

• The impact of the joint effort is larger than national audits alone.

• Regular meetings of the participants create confidence and respect for the different cultures and audit traditions.
The Office of the Auditor General of Norway

Multilateral meeting of the participating SAIs in Salekhard (3 - 5 April 2013)
THANK YOU!!!