

Russia: Arctic should be a zone of peace and security

By [Global Research](#)

Global Research, March 26, 2009

[Voice of Russia](#) 25 March 2009

Region: [Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

Russia favours that the Arctic should be turned into a zone of peace and security. The statement was made by the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in the wake of his talks with his Norwegian counterpart Jonas Gar Stere.

The move appears timely bearing in mind the so-called "battle over Arctic" begun in recent years. This implies rivalry between regional states striving to expand zones of their continental shelves in the Arctic Ocean. Interest in the matter was aroused by an unprecedented Russian deepwater expedition to the North Pole which collected evidence to support Russia's claims for part of the Arctic. The United States, Great Britain, Denmark and some other countries followed suit. This is clear since the region is rich in oil and gas and other raw materials. In conditions of global warming sea ice is melting faster providing an easier access to raw materials. As matters stand now, a number of states, such as the US, Canada and NATO countries, have announced their plans for increased military presence in the Arctic region. This is fraught with greater tension and confrontation in the region. Here is an opinion from Sergei Lavrov.

Regional states are responsible for stable development of the Arctic. Russia and Norway confirmed their loyalty to the agreements reached at the conference of 5 Arctic states in May 2008. They stipulate that all disputable issues should be resolved in keeping with norms of international law. On April 28-29 a regular session of the Arctic Council will be held in the Norwegian city of Troms. Russia hopes that the session will approve its initiative for the creation of security systems and implementation of economic and infrastructural projects in the Arctic.

This approach gives rise to the hope that the Arctic can be turned into a region of cooperation, not confrontation. And all disputable issues in the region, including claims for expanding the continental shelf zones, will be resolved jointly by good neighbours without whipping up the tension and demonstration of military might.

The original source of this article is [Voice of Russia](#)

Copyright © [Global Research](#), [Voice of Russia](#), 2009

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca