



Policy Brief 5: Recommendations

Climate Change Factors in Multi-Regulatory Responses in the North

Climate change is transforming the Arctic.

The region is heating up faster than any other part of the world, permafrost is thawing, and the ice cap is melting at an unprecedented rate. The impacts are felt broadly across Arctic societies, ranging from growing food insecurity, more natural hazards and the opening of new maritime shipping routes. In any discussion about Arctic futures, climate change – and climate policy – needs to be placed center stage.

While there is a number of vital regulatory frameworks and tools, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the European Climate Law Regulation, our research suggests that there is a need for new and sharper instruments to address the region's climate challenges. One particular shortcoming concerns a lack of adequate regulatory responses to climate justice. It is also clear that measures and support for adaptive responses are weak or even non-existent.

Our research presents several policy recommendations that could enhance the regulatory framework for climate change in the Arctic, including:

- 1** A comprehensive multilevel, cross-sectoral Arctic climate mitigation and adaptation strategy to better connect different levels of governance and actors
- 2** The integration of climate change in all new Arctic-country regulatory instruments and policy tools to “climate change proof” these mechanisms
- 3** A more rigorous inclusion of Arctic concerns in the EU's climate strategies
- 4** New mechanisms to better merge policy instruments that do not explicitly concern climate change but which may nevertheless affect it. This includes, for instance, the International Labour Organization's Convention No. 169 which has significant bearing on oil and gas exploration

