



DANISH INTERESTS IN THE ARCTIC

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- Key definitions
- The Danish/Greenlandic interests
- The challenges and the answers
- Denmark/Greenland and the The Continental Shelf



KEY DEFINITIONS

- The Kingdom of Denmark: three entities: Denmark, Greenland and the Faroese Islands
- Pre 1953-constitution: Greenland a colony
- From 1953-constitution: equal partner in the Kingdom.
- 21 June 2009: new law on Self Rule: Greenlandic ownership of resources, including in the Continental Shelf



- But only one subject of international law, one party to UNCLOS
- foreign affairs remains the competence of the Realm = Copenhagen in cooperation with Nuuk.
- Note: Greenland is not a member of the EU.
- A point on geography



THE INTERESTS

- Danish interests in the Arctic = Greenlandic interests in the Arctic + Danish interests.
- Resources: yes
- Environmental protection: YES
- Protecting the indigenous people and their way of life: YES
- SAR: YES – here and now.
- Security policy: yes



THE CHALLENGES AND THE ANSWERS

- THE CHALLENGES:
 - A strategy
 - Environmental protection
 - SAR



THE ACTORS

- The Arctic States
 - The 8
 - The 5
 - "who will they look to?"
- The non Arctic States
- The EU
- The IMO



The answers

- The strategy
 - With Greenland, with the 8 and the 5
 - In the Arctic Council – a positive development but more needed
 - Not necessarily all the way with the EU



- The content:
 - The Ilulissat Declaration
 - Rule of law (UNCLOS)
 - Cooperation
 - Not just words – operative cooperation on all levels



- The environmental protection
 - IMO: yes – but
 - takes time,
 - role of non Arctic States?
- Regional arrangements/Arctic Council
- National measures:
 - UNCLOS 234
 - Surveillance and control



- SAR
 - Cooperation – yes (MFA, MoD etc)
 - Costs – Ministry of Finance: ?!; non Arctic States?!
 - > Prevention is key

- Conclusion I: A question of political will - and diplomacy.



HANS ISLAND

- The history:
 - "facts" – as seen from Copenhagen
 - Importance?
- The way ahead:
 - 2005 declaration: discussions and cooperation
 - A best practice!



DENMARK/GREENLAND AND THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

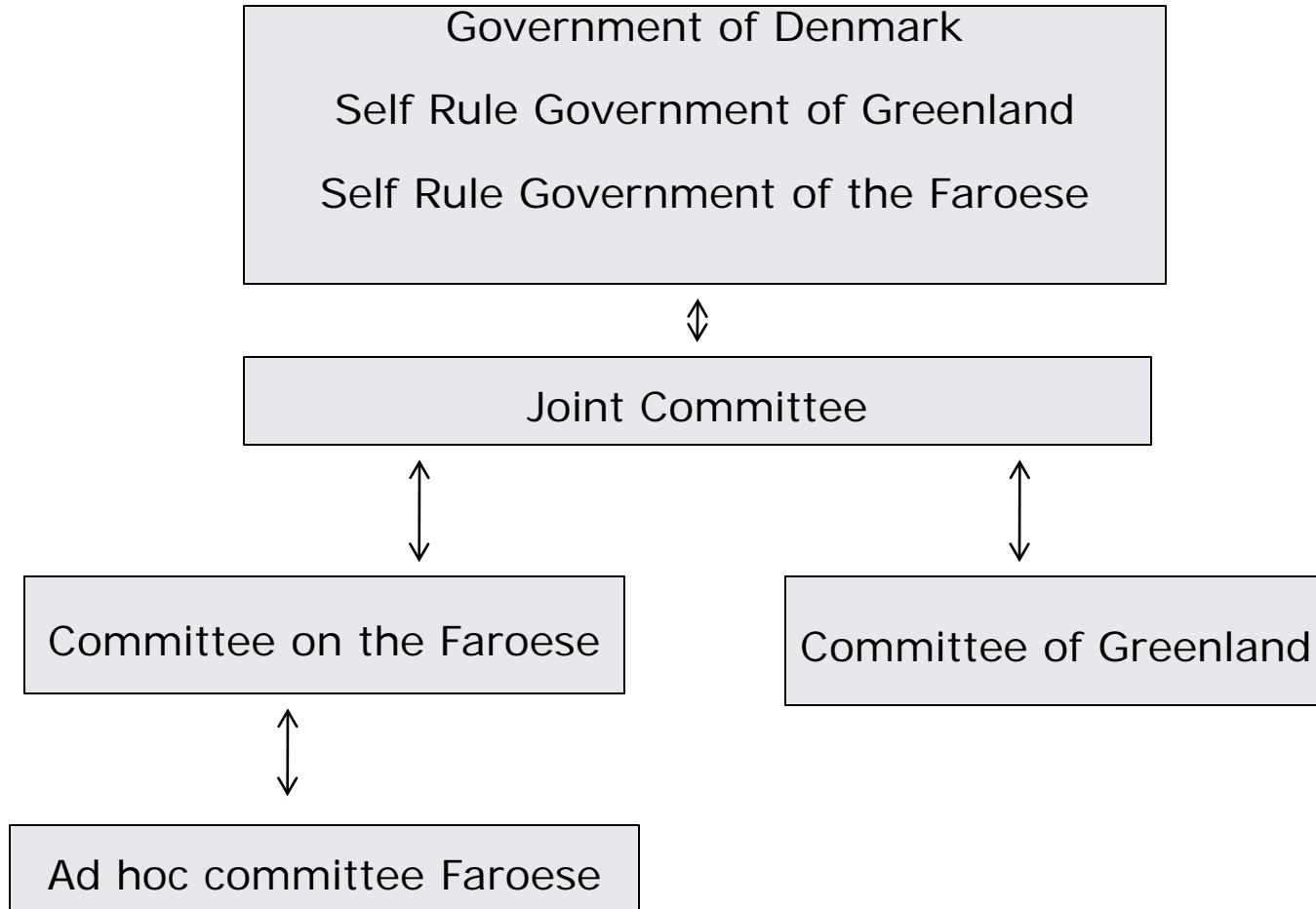
- 16 December 2014 – plenty of time?
- The areas:
 - North and South of the Faroese
 - North, North East and South of Greenland
- Data-collection, negotiation, submission, CLCS-discussions, negotiation



- Data- collection: Ministry of Science and Technology, GEUS – Continental Shelf Project
 - In cooperation with Canada and Russia
- Negotiation: MFA with Greenland
- Submission: The scientists and the MFA–with Greenland/Faroese
- CLCS-discussions and negotiations:
MFA with Greenland



THE SET UP – collection and submission





THE SET UP - negotiation

- A specially appointed team – MFA with Greenland and the Faroese (and participation of the Faroese and Greenland)



THE FIRST SUBMISSION

- Area North of the Faroese Islands – the Banana Hole
- Partial submission
- To the CLCS on 28 April 2009
- The overlapping claims:
 - The "Agreed Minutes" between Norway, Iceland and Denmark/Faroese



THE NOW KNOWN ISSUES

- One or more submissions?
- The political interest
- The work load!
- The lawyers and the scientists



THE FUTURE ISSUES

- The data collection in the Arctic: a special regime?
- 2014 is not that far away.
- The peaceful settlement of overlapping claims



CONCLUSION

- The legal framework is in place
- The Arctic States are cooperation on both operational and political level
- Need for more political cooperation
- The Continental Shelf delineation in the Arctic Ocean a test case for the peaceful settlements of disputes
- The diplomats and the politicians have to work hard!