10-11
DECEMBER
– 2026 –
St. Petersburg

ARCTIC
TODAY AND THE FUTURE

FORUM ORGANIZER

ASPOL

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION
ASSOCIATION OF POLAR EXPLORERS

XVI INTERNATIONAL FORUM
ARCTIC: TODAY AND THE FUTURE
NAMED AFTER A. N. CHILINGAROV

YOUTH FORUM
ARCTIC, WAIT FOR ME!

ARCTIC: TODAY AND THE FUTURE

What actions must be taken and put into practice now to determine the Arctic's future trajectory?

MEETING OF GENERATIONS

What activities can we engage in today?

ARCTIC, WAIT FOR ME!

What vision of the Arctic do future generations aspire to build and shape?

KEY AREAS OF THE «ARCTIC: TODAY AND THE FUTURE» FORUM:

ARCTIC
TODAY AND THE FUTURE

December 10–11, 2026
St. Petersburg

Significant Arctic Initiatives Reshaping the Region

In what ways can investment be channeled to foster the long-term growth and advancement of the macroregion?

The Arctic's Climate and Environment: Challenges, Responses, and Ethical Obligations

What strategies can be implemented to develop the Arctic region responsibly, considering climate change risks and safeguarding its ecosystems?

Northern Sea Route: Cargo, Routes, Economics

What will serve as the foundation for advancing the Northern Sea Route in its subsequent phase?

Arctic Cities: A Place to Live

What features define an ideal modern Arctic city for both residents and professionals?

Connected North: Supply, Energy, Connectivity

How should Arctic life-support systems develop?

People of the Arctic: Awareness, Education, Career Pathways

How can the Arctic become a choice for professional fulfillment?

Technology and Innovation for the Arctic

How are approaches to solving Arctic challenges changing?

Local Economy: Entrepreneurship and New Opportunities

How can conditions for entrepreneurship development in the Arctic be created?

PUBLIC FOCUS

- ***Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic: Partners Rather Than Objects***
- ***Special Military Operation (SVO) Veterans: New Career Paths***
- ***Health in the Arctic: Healthcare, Accessibility, and Technology***
- ***Family in the Arctic: Conditions for Living and Building the Future***

SPECIAL FORUM TOPIC

Arctic: A New Geography of Cooperation

BEYOND THE HORIZON

Signs of the Future Already Transforming the Arctic

ARCTIC: TODAY AND THE FUTURE

What actions must be taken and put into practice now to determine the Arctic's future trajectory?

MEETING OF GENERATIONS

What activities can we engage in today?

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ARCTIC
TODAY AND THE FUTURE

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TRACKS OF THE YOUTH FORUM «ARCTIC, WAIT FOR ME!»

DISCOVER THE ARCTIC: HISTORY, REALITY, PROSPECTS

How can the Arctic be introduced to the younger generation in all its diversity?

DISCOVER → GET INTERESTED → SEE THE OPPORTUNITIES

FOKUS *History of Arctic exploration, culture and identity, expeditions, science and discoveries, alongside the legacy of Arctic pioneers, the contemporary Arctic landscape, and its future potential.*

CHOOSE THE ARCTIC: EDUCATION, CAREER, LIFE

What circumstances drive the conscious decision to reside and labor in the Arctic?

INTEREST → EDUCATION → PROFESSION → DECISION TO LIVE AND WORK IN THE ARCTIC

FOKUS *High-demand roles and skills, academic pathways, internships, professional trajectories, workplace environments, assistance programs, lifestyle quality, urban settings, and firsthand accounts of choosing the Arctic.*

CREATE THE ARCTIC: IDEAS, PROJECTS, PRACTICE

How can a young person's concept be transformed into a tangible outcome for the Arctic?

CONCEPT → DEVELOPMENT → PROJECT → IMPLEMENTATION

FOKUS *Engineering and technology solutions, applied research, hackathons and corporate case studies, entrepreneurship and startups, project support programs, pilot initiatives, real-world youth projects, and stories of success.*

TRANSFORMING THE ARCTIC: INITIATIVES, DIALOGUE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In what ways can youth engage in defining the Arctic's future?

POSITION → PROPOSAL → DEBATE → CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOLUTION

FOKUS *Youth initiatives, participation in the adoption of the Forum's resolution, cooperation with government and business, and follow-up on the Forum's results.*

BUSINESS PROGRAM OF THE FORUMS

PRELIMINARY*

December 10-11, 2026
St.Petersburg

XVI International Forum **"ARCTIC: TODAY AND THE FUTURE"** named after A. N. Chilingarov

PLENARY SESSIONS

- "A Strategic Framework for the Arctic: Pillars and Drivers of Growth"
- *"Straight from the Source: A Conversation About Opportunities in the Arctic"*

INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

- "The Arctic: A New Geography of Cooperation"

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

- "AI and Unmanned Systems in the Arctic: Practical Applications"
- "From Mineral Resources to High Tech: Equipment and Startups for the Mining Industry"

ARCTIC CITIES

- *"Reimagining Arctic Cities: Transforming Urban Environments and Finding a New Identity"*
- "The Ground Is Shifting: Living in the Arctic as Permafrost Thaws"
- *"Family Life and the Future: Social Infrastructure in Arctic Cities"*
- "Healthcare in the Arctic: Access, Technology and Staffing"

* *Joint Events of the "Arctic: Today and the Future" and "Arctic, Wait for Me!" Forums*

NORTHERN SEA ROUTE

- "The Trans-Arctic Transport Corridor: A New Global Trade Route"
- "Arctic Shipping and Shipbuilding: Ice-Class Vessels, Specialized Ships and River Fleet Modernization"
- "Arctic Shipping: Safe Operations and Digital Innovation"

PEOPLE OF THE ARCTIC

- "The Arctic Voice: How Indigenous Peoples Are Becoming Co-Creators of the Arctic's Future"
- *"Who to Educate and Why: Education for the Arctic's Real-World Needs"*
- "Veterans of the Special Military Operation: New Career Paths"
- *"A Magnet for the North: Talent and Quality of Life in the Arctic"*

CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- "Balancing Environmental Protection and Development in the Arctic: From Commitments to Sustainable Growth"
- "Building Resilience: Managing Climate Risks in Arctic Regions"
- *"The Arctic's Conservation Code: Biodiversity, Grants and Volunteer Engagement"*

MAJOR ARCTIC PROJECTS

- "The Arctic Megaproject: Turning Major Projects into a Unified Development Strategy"
- *"Transformation of Preferential Regimes: A Starting Point for Entrepreneurs"*
- "Beyond Natural Resources: How Industrial Investment Can Build a Self-Sustaining Local Economy"

CONNECTED NORTH

- "Arctic Digital Sovereignty: Connecting Remote Areas"
- "Northern Supply vs. Local Production: Cutting Costs and Building Local Brands"
- "Sovereign Space: Building Satellite Infrastructure for the Arctic"

LOCAL ECONOMIES

- "Survival or Growth: Strategies for SME Development in a Changing Environment"
- "Experiential Tourism: Balancing Infrastructure, Distinctiveness and Environmental Protection"
- "Made in the Arctic: The Creative Economy of the North"

Youth Forum **"ARCTIC, WAIT FOR ME!"**

YOUTH FORUM OPENING

"The Arctic of Discovery: Experience Across Generations and New Horizons"

PRACTICAL FORMATS

"Try the Arctic"
Introduction to expedition and research activities and to engineering, technology, environmental, and media projects in the Arctic

"Arctic Opportunities Navigator"
Charting your own path in the Arctic: from education and first practical experience to career launch and professional development

Project Lab "Build the Arctic"
Teamwork on real-world challenges faced by companies, regions, research institutions, and civic organizations, with guidance from experts and mentors

"Youth Initiatives for the Arctic"
Collecting and refining participants' proposals for discussion on the joint agenda of the two forums, with the most substantive initiatives to be included in the final resolution

SESSIONS

"Telling the Arctic's Story: Who Is Shaping a New Image of the North?"

"Gigabit on Permafrost: The Arctic Macroregion as an IT Testbed"

"Youth Entrepreneurship: From Idea to Execution"

YOUTH FORUM TRACKS:

DISCOVER THE ARCTIC | BUILD THE ARCTIC | CHOOSE THE ARCTIC | SHAPE THE ARCTIC

BUSINESS PROGRAM STRUCTURE

of the 16th International Forum "ARCTIC: Today and the Future" named after A. N. Chilingarov and the "ARCTIC, WAIT FOR ME!" Youth Forum

December 10

10:00 — 12:00	PLENARY SESSION "A Strategic Framework for the Arctic: Pillars and Drivers of Growth"				
13:00 — 14:30	"The Arctic Megaproject: Turning Major Projects into a Unified Development Strategy"	"Balancing Environmental Protection and Development in the Arctic: From Commitments to Sustainable Growth"	"The Trans-Arctic Transport Corridor: A New Global Trade Route"	"The Arctic: A New Geography of Cooperation"	"AI and Unmanned Systems in the Arctic: Practical Applications"
15:00 — 16:30	"Transformation of Preferential Regimes: A Starting Point for Entrepreneurs"	"The Arctic Voice: How Indigenous Peoples Are Becoming Co-Creators of the Arctic's Future"	"Arctic Shipping and Shipbuilding: Ice-Class Vessels, Specialized Ships and River Fleet Modernization"	Рассказывать Арктику: кто создаёт новый образ Севера	"Who to Educate and Why: Education for the Arctic's Real-World Needs"
17:00 — 18:30	"Building Resilience: Managing Climate Risks in Arctic Regions"	"Survival or Growth: Strategies for SME Development in a Changing Environment"	"Arctic Digital Sovereignty: Connecting Remote Areas"	"Veterans of the Special Military Operation: New Career Paths"	"Healthcare in the Arctic: Access, Technology and Staffing"

December 11

10:00 — 12:00	OPEN DIALOGUE "Straight from the Source: A Conversation About Opportunities in the Arctic"				
12:30 — 14:00	"Arctic Shipping: Safe Operations and Digital Innovation"	"Reimagining Arctic Cities: Transforming Urban Environments and Finding a New Identity"	"The Arctic's Conservation Code: Biodiversity, Grants and Volunteer Engagement"	"Youth Entrepreneurship: From Idea to Execution"	"From Mineral Resources to High Tech: Equipment and Startups for the Mining Industry"
14:30 — 16:00	"Gigabit on Permafrost: The Arctic Macroregion as an IT Testbed"	"The Ground Is Shifting: Living in the Arctic as Permafrost Thaws"	"Northern Supply vs. Local Production: Cutting Costs and Building Local Brands"	"A Magnet for the North: Talent and Quality of Life in the Arctic"	"Made in the Arctic: The Creative Economy of the North"
16:30 — 18:00	"Experiential Tourism: Balancing Infrastructure, Distinctiveness and Environmental Protection"	"Sovereign Space: Building Satellite Infrastructure for the Arctic"	"Family Life and the Future: Social Infrastructure in Arctic Cities"	"Beyond Natural Resources: How Industrial Investment Can Build a Self-Sustaining Local Economy"	*To submit a proposal for a presentation in the business program, please email* ***expert@aspolrf.ru***

** The structure of the business program is subject to change*

THEMATIC AREAS OF THE FORUM:

- PLENARY SESSION
- INTERNATIONAL AGENDA
- LOCAL ECONOMIES
- TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
- MAJOR ARCTIC PROJECTS
- NORTHERN SEA ROUTE
- ARCTIC CITIES
- CONNECTED NORTH
- CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- PEOPLE OF THE ARCTIC

YOUTH FORUM TRACKS:

- DISCOVER THE ARCTIC
- CHOOSE THE ARCTIC
- BUILD THE ARCTIC
- SHAPE THE ARCTIC

BUSINESS PROGRAM OF THE FORUMS

PRELIMINARY*

10-11 DECEMBER – 2026 – St. Petersburg

XVI International Forum
ARCTIC: TODAY AND THE FUTURE
named after A. N. Chilingarov

YOUTH FORUM
ARCTIC, WAIT FOR ME!

December 10 | 10:00–12:00

PLENARY SESSION

"A Strategic Framework for the Arctic: Pillars and Drivers of Growth"

The Arctic is entering a new stage of development, in which large-scale projects, a changing geopolitical landscape, technological opportunities, and climate challenges are shaping a new reality for the region. The focus is shifting not only to the implementation of standalone strategic initiatives, but also to how they connect with one another and whether they can ensure long-term development of the territories, the resilience of the regional economy, and the preservation of the Arctic's unique natural environment.

People remain at the center of it all. The future of the Arctic is determined not only by its industrial potential and infrastructure projects, but also by how attractive it will become to new generations as a place to live and build a career.

Which pillars can the Arctic rely on, and what will determine the main drivers of its continued growth? These themes set the strategic framework for the first plenary session.

December 11 | 10:00–12:00

PLENARY SESSION

Open Dialogue "Straight from the Source: A Conversation About Opportunities in the Arctic"

Each Arctic region has its own path of development, its own growth areas, and its own vision of the future. Large-scale projects, new production facilities, and infrastructure development are opening up opportunities to study, pursue a career, and live in the North. What can draw young people to the North and inspire them to build their future there?

At the heart of the open dialogue is a meeting of two perspectives on the Arctic. Regional leaders speak about development prospects for their territories and opportunities for the younger generation. Students and young professionals can ask questions directly about what matters most to them, from career prospects to living conditions in the North. Their questions offer insight into how young people perceive the Arctic, which opportunities they find attractive, and what raises doubts as they plan their future.

What can interest the new generation in the Arctic today, and what must it become for young people to choose the North deliberately and for the long term? Representatives of Arctic regions, students, and young professionals come together to come together to address these questions.

* *Joint Events of the "Arctic: Today and the Future" and "Arctic, Wait for Me!" Forums*

MAJOR ARCTIC PROJECTS TRANSFORMING THE REGION

December 10 | 13:00–14:30

"The Arctic Megaproject: Turning Major Projects into a Unified Development Strategy"

Questions for discussion:

- *How can major projects be coordinated to support the sustainable development of the Arctic region?*
- *Which instruments are effective for long-term co-financing?*
- *How can transport, energy and workforce development be coordinated to support the Arctic's long-term development?*
- *What measures are needed to modernize aging power grids and ensure tariff balance?*
- *What mechanisms can help offset the high costs associated with operating in the Arctic?*
- *How can corporate and regional planning be aligned to support the development of the region?*

December 10 | 15:00–16:30

"Transformation of Preferential Regimes: A Starting Point for Entrepreneurs"

Questions for discussion:

- *What exactly will change in business support starting January 1, 2027?*
- *What entry requirements can attract investment into the Arctic Priority Development Territories (APDTs)?*
- *Can entry requirements be differentiated, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)?*
- *Which tax and social insurance rates are attractive to business?*
- *What special regulatory frameworks will be introduced?*
- *How can the necessary infrastructure be provided for APDTs entrepreneurs?*
- *How can the interests of existing residents of the Russian Arctic Zone be protected?*

December 11 | 16:30–18:00

"Beyond Natural Resources: How Industrial Investment Can Build a Self-Sustaining Local Economy"

Questions for discussion:

- *How can Arctic communities reduce their dependence on a single major employer?*
- *Which types of local businesses have the potential for sustainable growth?*
- *How can major industrial companies support the growth of creative industries, local brands and services in Arctic cities?*
- *What examples of the transition from a resource-based economy to a diversified local ecosystem can be scaled up?*
- *How can projects move from a subsidized model to financial self-sufficiency?*
- *How can corporate demand create markets for local suppliers and service providers?*

* *Joint Events of the "Arctic: Today and the Future" and "Arctic, Wait for Me!" Forums*

THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE: CARGO, SHIPPING ROUTES AND ECONOMICS

December 10 | 13:00–14:30

"The Trans-Arctic Transport Corridor: A New Global Trade Route"

Questions for discussion:

- *How can the Trans-Arctic Transport Corridor become the backbone of integrated socio-economic development across the Russian Arctic?*
- *How can the development of the Northern Sea Route, Arctic ports, river and rail infrastructure be coordinated with the expansion of Russia's domestic shipping fleet?*
- *Which infrastructure projects need investment to develop the corridor?*
- *What cargo volumes and types are needed to ensure the corridor's long-term economic viability?*
- *What tariff and tax incentives are needed to attract private shippers to the Northern Sea Route?*
- *How can regular shipping along the Northern Sea Route become economically attractive to international commercial shippers?*

December 10 | 15:00–16:30

"Arctic Shipping and Shipbuilding: Ice-Class Vessels, Specialized Ships and River Fleet Modernization"

Questions for discussion:

- *What are the key challenges facing Russia's shipbuilding industry today?*
- *What innovative engineering solutions are needed to ensure safe, year-round navigation along the Northern Sea Route in extreme conditions?*
- *Who should drive demand for specialized vessel construction and serve as the main customer?*
- *Are current support measures sufficient to accelerate the modernization of the river-sea fleet?*
- *What new subsidy schemes and financial incentives are needed?*
- *Is switching Arctic and river vessels to alternative fuels technically and economically viable under stricter environmental regulations?*

December 11 | 12:30–14:00

"Arctic Shipping: Safe Operations and Digital Innovation"

Questions for discussion:

- *What should a unified, sovereign digital logistics system look like to enable end-to-end cargo tracking across the Trans-Arctic Transport Corridor?*
- *How up to date are hydrographic data, and how can they be updated promptly along the entire Northern Sea Route?*
- *Where can AI already deliver practical benefits in Arctic shipping management and ice reconnaissance?*
- *What are the real prospects for autonomous navigation and uncrewed systems, and what regulatory barriers stand in the way?*
- *How can crucial port and navigation infrastructure be protected against cyber threats as logistics become increasingly digitalized?*
- *How can emergency response and rescue centres along the Trans-Arctic Transport Corridor be better located and equipped?*

THE ARCTIC'S CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT: RISKS, ADAPTATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

December 10 | 13:00–14:30

"Balancing Environmental Protection and Development in the Arctic: From Commitments to Sustainable Growth"

Questions for discussion:

- *Which environmental issues require the most urgent attention today?*
- *How can federal environmental priorities be put into practice through concrete projects led by regional authorities and businesses?*
- *What mechanisms can accelerate the cleanup of legacy environmental damage?*
- *How can the impact of industrial development on water and air quality be reduced in the Arctic?*
- *Does the environmental impact fee (NVOC) incentivize businesses to reduce pollution, or is it simply another tax?*
- *How can environmental commitments be integrated into major investment projects?*

December 10 | 17:00–18:30

"Building Resilience: Managing Climate Risks in Arctic Regions"

Questions for discussion:

- *Which climate changes are already creating practical risks?*
- *What adaptation measures do regions, cities and businesses need?*
- *What climate and geotechnical monitoring systems are needed to support decision-making?*
- *How do climate adaptation goals align with plans to reduce carbon emissions?*
- *Is decarbonization a real priority or merely a matter of image? What carbon neutrality pilot projects are already underway in Arctic regions?*
- *How can insurers and banks improve their assessment of climate and infrastructure risks?*

December 11 | 12:30–14:00

"The Arctic's Conservation Code: Biodiversity, Grants and Volunteer Engagement"

Questions for discussion:

- *What are the main threats to biodiversity, and where is cooperation needed?*
- *How can protected areas, industry and tourism coexist in the same territory?*
- *What joint projects involving businesses, researchers and NGOs are already underway?*
- *How can Indigenous people be involved in environmental monitoring?*
- *How can conservation projects secure funding through grants and corporate programmes?*
- *How can volunteering move beyond one-off events to become a long-term effort, and how can young people get involved in the Arctic?*

* *Joint Events of the "Arctic: Today and the Future" and "Arctic, Wait for Me!" Forums*

PEOPLE OF THE ARCTIC:
AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND CAREERS

BUSINESS PROGRAM OF THE FORUMS
"ARCTIC: TODAY AND THE FUTURE"
"ARCTIC, WAIT FOR ME!"

December 10 | 15:00–16:30

"The Arctic Voice: How Indigenous Peoples Are Becoming Co-Creators of the Arctic's Future"

Questions for discussion:

- *How can Indigenous Small-Numbered Peoples of the North move towards genuine partnership and shared governance of the Arctic?*
- *How can success be measured by the quality of life in communities rather than by the amount of grant funding?*
- *How can markets be created for Indigenous peoples without making them dependent on contractors or undermining their traditions?*
- *Which professions can bring IT jobs to the tundra without forcing people to abandon traditional livelihoods?*
- *How can AI help turn Indigenous languages from archived records into living, evolving languages?*
- *Who owns datasets and AI models trained on Indigenous cultures?*

December 10 | 15:00–16:30

"Who to Educate and Why: Education for the Arctic's Real-World Needs"

Questions for discussion:

- *Which professions and qualifications will be most in demand across the Arctic in the coming years?*
- *How can industry attract skilled workers amid labor shortages?*
- *How can major companies' and regional authorities' investment plans help predict future workforce needs?*
- *Non-financial incentives as part of the education agreement*
- *How can career guidance, training and first employment be linked for young people in the Arctic?*
- *Transferring the skills of special military operation veterans to civilian roles: from military experience to Arctic jobs*

December 10 | 17:00–18:30

"Veterans of the Special Military Operation: New Career Paths"

Questions for discussion:

- *How can veterans find the right career path when they return to civilian life?*
- *How can veterans present their experience and skills in a way that clearly demonstrates their value to employers?*
- *What retraining opportunities are needed, and which jobs are actually in demand in the Arctic?*
- *How can employers support veterans as they return to the workplace, including through mentoring and workplace adjustments where needed?*
- *What career opportunities are available in the Arctic in industry, infrastructure, social services and public administration?*
- *How can veterans be supported in starting and growing a sustainable business, from initial training and funding to long-term support?*

December 11 | 14:30–16:30

"A Magnet for the North: Talent and Quality of Life in the Arctic"

Questions for discussion:

- *How can the Arctic become a place people actively choose to live and build their careers, rather than a place defined by stereotypes?*
- *Urban living conditions as a key tool for attracting talent: why do comfort and connectivity matter more than northern pay bonuses?*
- *Beyond salary: how can employers create a support system that helps people settle in and stay in the Arctic?*
- *From rotational work to a long-term career: how can Arctic benefits and mortgage programmes open up real opportunities for social mobility?*
- *The paradox of urban renewal and rotational work: who are we really building Arctic cities for?*
- *From quotas to careers: how can formal support for veterans of the Special Military Operation translate into real career opportunities?*

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ARCTIC CITIES: PLACES TO LIVE

BUSINESS PROGRAM OF THE FORUMS
"ARCTIC: TODAY AND THE FUTURE"
"ARCTIC, WAIT FOR ME!"

December 10 | 17:00–18:30

"Healthcare in the Arctic: Access, Technology and Staffing"

Questions for discussion:

- *How can people in the Arctic access modern healthcare regardless of distance and staff shortages?*
- *What healthcare infrastructure do Arctic cities and remote communities need?*
- *Which medical services can be effectively delivered digitally or remotely?*
- *Where does telemedicine genuinely improve access to care, and where is an in-person doctor still essential?*
- *What health challenges arise from living in the Arctic, and what specialized medical approaches are needed to address them?*
- *How can Arctic regions attract and retain doctors and other healthcare professionals?*

December 11 | 12:30–14:00 *

"Reimagining Arctic Cities: Transforming Urban Environments and Finding a New Identity"

Questions for discussion:

- *What principles should guide the development of a modern Arctic city?*
- *What criteria should define an Arctic Quality of Life Standard?*
- *How should a master plan integrate housing, public spaces, social services and transport infrastructure?*
- *Which architectural and urban design solutions can improve everyday life?*
- *How can a smart city become a practical tool for improving safety and resource efficiency in the Arctic?*
- *How can residents be involved in urban planning and shaping the future of their city?*
- *What could define the contemporary identity of an Arctic city?*

December 11 | 14:30–16:00

"The Ground Is Shifting: Living in the Arctic as Permafrost Thaws"

Questions for discussion:

- *Which permafrost degradation risks pose the greatest threat to existing infrastructure, and how can early monitoring be improved?*
- *Which permafrost stabilization technologies are cost-effective for upgrading existing municipal utility facilities, utility networks and roads?*
- *How should building codes be adapted to new climate conditions and permafrost thaw projections?*
- *How can permafrost risks be quantified financially and incorporated into insurance and banking products?*
- *Which financing models can help move from emergency repairs to systematic, preventive infrastructure upgrades?*
- *Which new professions should Arctic universities train students for?*

December 11 | 16:30–18:00 *

"Family Life and the Future: Social Infrastructure in Arctic Cities"

Questions for discussion:

- *What matters most to families when deciding whether to stay and live in the Arctic?*
- *What educational facilities and services do children and teenagers need?*
- *How can education, career guidance and first jobs be linked to help young people find work in their home region?*
- *What type of housing best meets the needs of young families?*
- *How can Arctic cities provide family-friendly public spaces, leisure activities and services in northern conditions?*
- *What role should the government, local authorities and employers play in supporting families?*

* *Joint Events of the "Arctic: Today and the Future" and "Arctic, Wait for Me!" Forums*

LOCAL ECONOMIES: ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

December 10 | 17:00–18:30

"Survival or Growth: Strategies for SME Development in a Changing Environment"

Questions for discussion:

- *What changes to business regulations are needed?*
- *How can federal tax thresholds be adapted to Arctic conditions?*
- *Which regional SME support programmes have proved most effective?*
- *What measures are needed to ensure the sustainable development of small and medium-sized enterprises?*
- *How can local businesses increase their participation in procurement by major corporations?*
- *Which types of local industries and products can be competitive?*

December 11 | 14:30–16:00

"Made in the Arctic: The Creative Economy of the North"

Questions for discussion:

- *Which creative industries have the greatest potential in northern regions?*
- *How can content production, film, design, digital products and local brands be developed in the Arctic?*
- *What institutional, financial and infrastructure support is needed to help creative businesses grow at scale?*
- *What business models can help creative entrepreneurs generate a stable income from Arctic content without relying on one-off grants?*
- *Which digital platforms and logistics solutions can help local Arctic brands reach national and international markets?*
- *Can the creative economy help young people build fulfilling careers and put down roots in the Arctic?*

December 11 | 16:30–18:00

"Experiential Tourism: Balancing Infrastructure, Distinctiveness and Environmental Protection"

Questions for discussion:

- *What natural, cultural, ethnic and culinary experiences can form the basis of a competitive tourism offering?*
- *Which infrastructure gaps pose the biggest barriers to tourism development?*
- *Which public-private partnership models and preferential financing mechanisms are most needed to launch tourism projects in the North?*
- *What measures are needed to reduce costs and make tourism infrastructure more accessible?*
- *How can digital technologies enhance the visitor experience and promote Arctic travel routes?*
- *How can tourist numbers in the Russian Arctic Zone be increased without damaging its fragile ecosystems?*

CONNECTED NORTH:
SUPPLIES, ENERGY AND CONNECTIVITY

December 10 | 17:00–18:30

"Arctic Digital Sovereignty: Connecting Remote Areas"

Questions for discussion:

- *Which areas remain the most difficult to connect to modern communications networks?*
- *Which technological solutions can bridge infrastructure gaps?*
- *What economic and regulatory conditions are needed to develop communications infrastructure?*
- *How should terrestrial, satellite and other communications technologies be combined to ensure reliable coverage?*
- *What additional government support is needed to reduce the high cost of fiber-optic bandwidth for businesses?*
- *How can efforts to connect small settlements be integrated with the digitalization of the Northern Sea Route, port logistics and industrial clusters to create a unified, cost-effective digital backbone for the Russian Arctic Zone?*

December 11 | 14:30–16:00

"Northern Supply vs. Local Production: Cutting Costs and Building Local Brands"

Questions for discussion:

- *How can the mismatch between treasury loan terms and the operational and logistics cycles of northern supply operations be addressed?*
- *What role does the Unified Maritime Operator play in optimizing transport costs and managing an ageing fleet?*
- *What changes to transport and warehousing infrastructure could significantly improve the efficiency of northern supply operations?*
- *How can digitalizing the northern supply system improve price transparency and reduce logistics costs?*
- *Which areas of Arctic agriculture and food production are more cost-effective alternatives to traditional northern supply operations?*
- *How can the adoption of innovative Arctic agricultural technologies be supported while ensuring a reliable supply of fresh produce to the regions?*

December 11 | 16:30–18:00

"Sovereign Space: Building Satellite Infrastructure for the Arctic"

Questions for discussion:

- *What needs of Arctic communities and businesses require the development of dedicated space infrastructure?*
- *How can Earth observation data and satellite monitoring be integrated into unified digital platforms for managing Arctic logistics?*
- *What requirements must satellite navigation and communications systems meet to ensure safe, year-round vessel navigation along Arctic routes?*
- *How can the needs of Arctic resource companies be aligned with the capabilities of the space industry?*
- *Which co-financing mechanisms offer the greatest potential to attract private investment in the development of dedicated Arctic satellites?*
- *What role can private-sector space initiatives play in complementing government satellite constellations?*

INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

December 10 | 13:00–14:30

"The Arctic: A New Geography of Cooperation"

Questions for discussion:

- *How does international cooperation in the Arctic evolve, and which diplomatic mechanisms sustain dialogue today?*
- *What types of youth and educational programs are most effective for maintaining international engagement?*
- *How can educational exchanges lead young people to practical research collaborations?*
- *Which scientific challenges in the Arctic genuinely require researchers from different countries to join forces?*
- *What barriers stand in the way of joint research, and what tools can help overcome them?*
- *How can international cooperation grow into a long-term partnership that outlasts any single project?*

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR THE ARCTIC

December 10 | 13:00–14:30

"AI and Unmanned Systems in the Arctic: Practical Applications"

Questions for discussion:

- *Where have AI and unmanned systems already demonstrated their practical value and reached the point where they can be scaled up for industrial use in the Arctic?*
- *What barriers prevent the transition from pilot projects to regular operational use?*
- *Who should fund the transition from experimental technology to a commercially viable product for industrial-scale deployment?*
- *What safety and liability requirements need to be addressed?*
- *How ready are Russian-made hardware components and software for operating in extremely low temperatures and under degraded signal conditions?*
- *How can successful solutions be scaled across companies, industries and regions?*

December 11 | 12:30–14:00

"From Mineral Resources to High Tech: Equipment and Startups for the Mining Industry"

Questions for discussion:

- *Which engineering solutions are essential for adapting heavy mining equipment to Arctic conditions?*
- *Where are autonomous mining vehicles and transport systems ready to replace human operators?*
- *How can technological sovereignty be ensured in equipment diagnostics, spare parts supply and repairs during the polar night?*
- *How realistic is the shift from conventional capital construction to modular and mobile mining facilities?*
- *Which new materials are essential for manufacturing equipment and building infrastructure for the Arctic?*
- *Which energy technologies are most effective for ensuring an uninterrupted power supply to remote mining operations in the Arctic?*

SESSIONS OF THE "ARCTIC, WAIT FOR ME!" YOUTH FORUM

December 10 | 15:00–16:30

"Telling the Arctic's Story: Who Is Shaping a New Image of the North?"

Questions for discussion:

- *Who shapes the image of the Arctic today?*
- *Which common perceptions of the North no longer reflect reality?*
- *How can we tell the stories of the people, cities, nature, science and industries of the modern Arctic in a contemporary way?*
- *Which formats resonate most naturally with young people?*
- *How can Arctic residents be empowered to tell the stories of their own communities and regions?*
- *Can contemporary content influence a person's decision to visit the Arctic, study, work or settle there?*

December 11 | 12:30–14:00

"Youth Entrepreneurship: From Idea to Execution"

Questions for discussion:

- *Which federal and regional programmes can support young entrepreneurs?*
- *Which sectors of the Arctic economy offer the best opportunities for small start-ups?*
- *What are the most common mistakes when launching a first business, and how can they be avoided?*
- *How can entrepreneurs test whether a business idea is viable before making a significant investment?*
- *How can a business move from its first one-off order to a sustainable, scalable enterprise?*
- *Which alternative sources of funding are most accessible to early-stage Arctic projects?*

December 11 | 14:30–16:00

"Gigabit on Permafrost: The Arctic Macroregion as an IT Testbed"

Questions for discussion:

- *How can the Arctic become a national testbed for new technologies?*
- *What financial and regulatory incentives would encourage major companies to open up their infrastructure for testing?*
- *How can a seamless transition be created from research and development and field trials to commercial-scale industrial deployment?*
- *How is digitalization changing the way Arctic cities are managed?*
- *How can successful solutions be replicated at scale?*
- *What cybersecurity requirements arise as autonomous systems and digital platforms are widely deployed across the North's critical infrastructure?*

** The preliminary business program of the forums is subject to change*