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Science Diplomacy in the Arctic and Antarctic

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Abstract. The article studies the phenomenon of science diplomacy with regard to the Arctic and Antarctic. These two polar regions are similar because of high importance of international scientific activity and science diplomacy based on it. Science diplomacy is understood as a kind of synthesis of scientific and political-diplomatic activities, in which state and non-state actors can take part. The conditions for science diplomacy in the Arctic and Antarctic are very different due to the history of development, legal status and established practice of international relations in these regions. The challenges faced by international scientific activity and science diplomacy in the two regions are considered. It is shown that in the Arctic and Antarctic, science diplomacy as a political tool is objectively in demand and cannot be “cancelled” due to the political context. In the current situation, science diplomacy can contribute to de-escalation of the conflict in relations between Russia and the West. At the same time, science diplomacy is not a panacea for creating international relations based on the principles of peace and cooperation. Like any political instrument, it protects national interests and not only serves to solve global problems arising in the Arctic and Antarctic.

Keywords: *Arctic, Antarctic, science diplomacy, international scientific cooperation, international relations*

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Introduction

In the modern world, the concept of science diplomacy attracts many scientists and politicians due to the fact that global development trends “narrow” all known spaces of interaction between states. On the one hand, competition for control of land territories, air, water, cyberspace, natural resources, and transport routes is intensifying; on the other hand, mechanisms of international cooperation are becoming in demand. Scientific activity is becoming increasingly involved in politics as the time between a scientific idea and production has been significantly reduced, and science has become part of the production cycle. At the same time, the impact of human activity on nature has devastating consequences and requires scientifically based solutions and technologies.

The role of scientific activity is especially pronounced in two polar regions: the Arctic and Antarctic. This is due to their special status, since international treaties have explicitly stated the need for coordinated and scientifically based human activity in all areas, primarily because of the uniqueness and vulnerability of natural-ecological complexes. In addition, no state can carry out

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