

Preface

Meeting in Washington, D.C., on 1 December 1959, 12 nations came together to adopt the Antarctic Treaty in the interest of all mankind. The elegance of the treaty was in its simplicity of only 14 articles that would provide the basis for the governance of nearly 10% of the Earth “for peaceful purposes only.” Territorial issues were set aside. “Substantial research” activities became the criterion for nations to consult on “matters of common interest” and to make decisions by consent of all parties.

The 1959 Antarctic Treaty has succeeded remarkably well during its first 50 years. Scientific and technical advice has become a central element of the Antarctic Treaty System, especially from the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. Institutional offspring have emerged, most notably the 1980 Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. Divisive issues, particularly potential mineral resources, have been successfully addressed. In 1991, the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties adopted a comprehensive Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty to safeguard the continent for future generations as the largest conservation area on Earth.

Following the International Geophysical Year of 1957–1958, with science as a tool of diplomacy, the Antarctic Treaty System has provided lessons that are relevant to the governance of transboundary systems as well as the other international spaces beyond sovereign jurisdictions (i.e., outer space, the deep sea, and the high seas) that together cover nearly 70% of the Earth’s surface. With vision and hope for the future, the challenge of the Antarctic Treaty Summit was to identify and assess these science-policy lessons of international cooperation that have enabled both the flexibility and the resilience of the Antarctic Treaty since it was adopted at the height of the Cold War.

The Antarctic Treaty Summit was convened in the spirit of being international, interdisciplinary, and inclusive. Discussions were open, engaging, and collaborative. Participants came from 27 nations and included diplomats, scientists, legislators, administrators, lawyers, historians, artists, writers, educators, entrepreneurs, students, and other members of civil society. The Antarctic Treaty Summit involved plenary presentations with panel discussions during the

first three days followed by a final day of topical workshops. The plenary sessions were

1. Origin of the Antarctic Treaty,
2. Development of the Antarctic Treaty System,
3. Antarctica's Role in Global Science,
4. Scientific Advice in the Antarctic Treaty System,
5. International Cooperation in Antarctica,
6. Interactions Between the Antarctic Treaty System and other International Regimes, and
7. Governing International Spaces: Lessons from Antarctica.

The topical workshops on the fourth day considered (1) Arctic Governance—Lessons from Antarctica and (2) History of International Spaces, with a luncheon dialogue on Building Bridges: Communicating Science with Policy Makers. Authors of this book include key contributors to the Antarctic Treaty System along its timeline over the past half century.

The Antarctic Treaty Summit adopted the Forever Declaration, which was finalized with participant contributions in open discussion and made available for signature via the internet for anyone anywhere in the world (<http://www.atsummit50.aq>). A concurrent resolution (Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Signing of the Antarctic Treaty) was adopted with unanimous consent by the U.S. House of Representatives (H. Con. Res. 51) and the U.S. Senate (S. Res. 365) during the first session of the 111th Congress in 2009, encouraging “international and interdisciplinary collaboration in the Antarctic Treaty Summit to identify lessons from 50 years of international cooperation under the Antarctic Treaty that have legacy value for humankind.” In addition, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon (Secretary-General of the United Nations) delivered a video address to the Antarctic Treaty Summit on 1 December 2009, celebrating 50 years of international cooperation and peace promoted by the Antarctic Treaty.

There have been many summits, generally seen as important government meetings and usually involving heads

of state. We were, indeed, fortunate to have the participation of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco in this summit. The notion of summit also involves climbing and overcoming challenges. During the past half century, humankind has been climbing together along the route blazed by the original 12 Antarctic Treaty signatories, who have welcomed increasing participation in Antarctic governance from many other nations, which now include nearly 50 signatories. Importantly, summits offer special vistas, not only of the mountain climbed, but of all that surrounds. Such perspective was the central goal of the Antarctic Treaty Summit.

This volume brings together key elements of the Antarctic Treaty Summit (the plenary lectures, discussion panels, and workshops) to examine lessons we can learn for the future governance of the Antarctic and other international spaces beyond sovereign jurisdictions, as well as for resources that cross the boundaries of nations. The book is organized to highlight lessons about science-policy interactions in the origin, design, development, and applications of the Antarctic Treaty System as a governance case study that has global relevance. Chapters from the keynote speakers, complemented by the shorter vignettes from other experts involved with the summit, illustrate these lessons with international and interdisciplinary balance. The final conclusions provide a further synthesis of Antarctic lessons for science diplomacy and good governance, offering hope and inspiration for us all.

“With the interests of science and the progress of all mankind,” on behalf of the International Board and our benefactors, patrons, sponsors, endorsing organizations, and participants in the Antarctic Treaty Summit, we invite you to share our challenge and opportunity in assessing the lessons of international cooperation promoted by the Antarctic Treaty during its first 50 years.

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