

UiT

THE ARCTIC  
UNIVERSITY  
OF NORWAY

# Regional Cooperation for the Protection of the Marine Environment The Arctic Model

Singapore, January 15 2019  
Associated Professor Elise Johansen  
KG Jebsen Center for the Law of the  
Sea  
Faculty of Law  
UiT the Arctic University of Norway.

# Outline

---

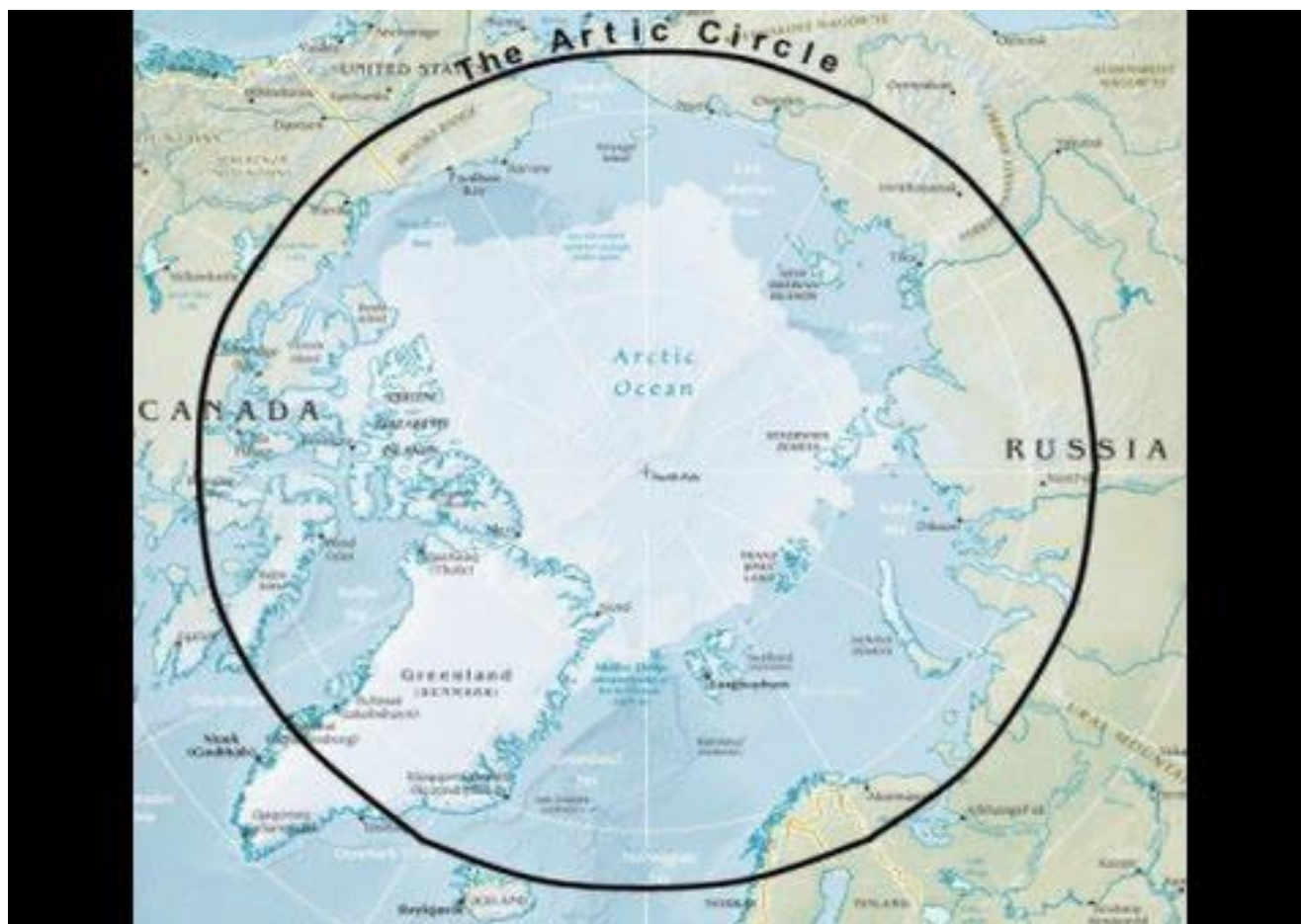
- Facts about the Arctic region
- The legal framework
- Cooperation for the protection of the marine environment
- Today's challenges
- The way forward



Fridtjof Nansen

# The Arctic Region

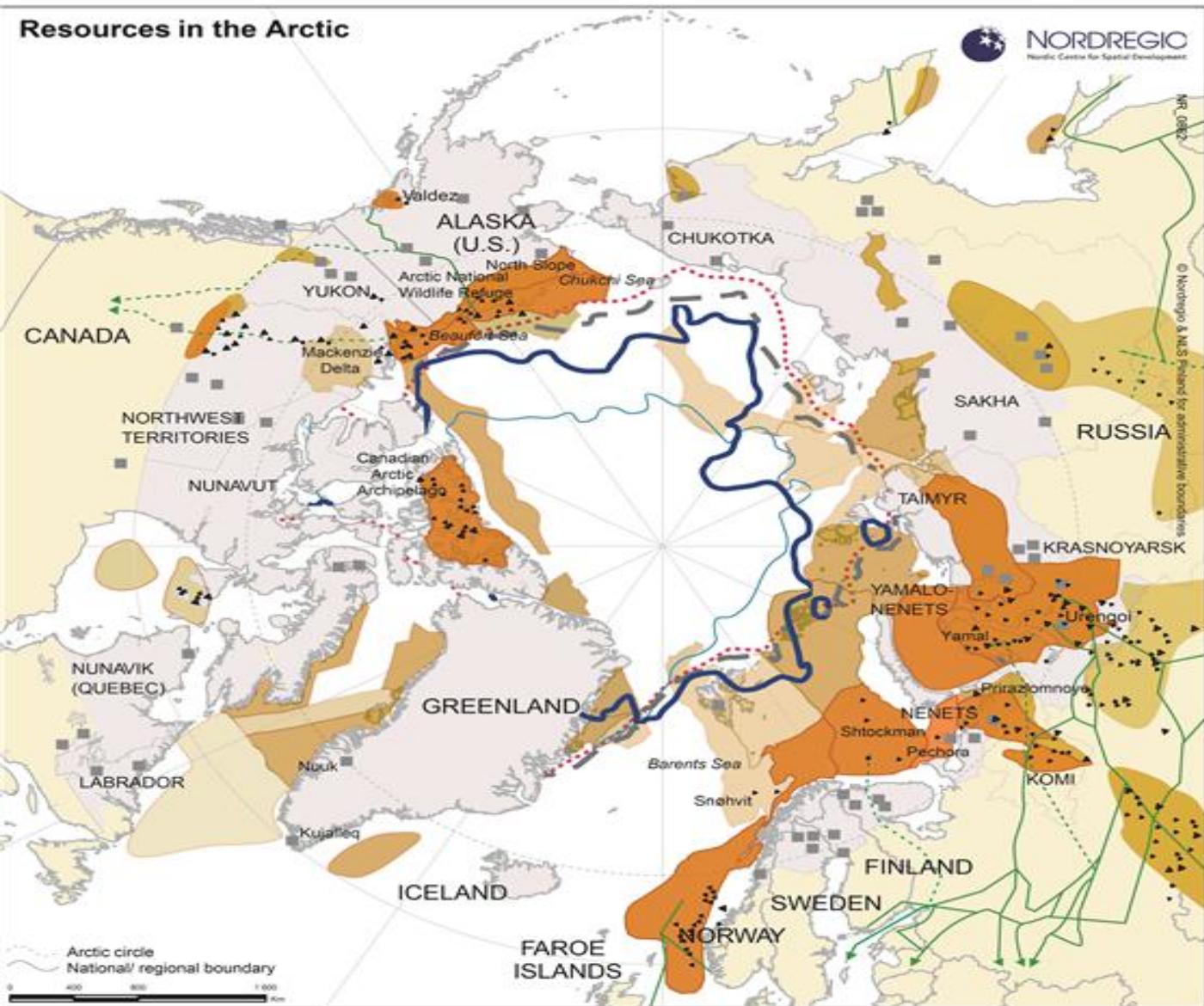
---







Resources in the Arctic



Oil & gas in the Arctic

- Gas/oil: prospective areas & reserves
- Gas/oil exploration and production
- Main mining sites
- Main existing gas/oil pipeline
- Main projected gas/oil pipeline
- Potential oil and/or gas field (Probability that at least one accumulation over 50 million barrels of oil or oil-equivalent gas exist after USGS)
- High (above 50%)
- Medium (30 - 50%)
- Sea ice extent in September 2012\*
- Sea ice extent in September 2014
- Average sea ice extent for September in 1979 - 2000
- Average sea ice extent for September in 1960 - 2010

Arctic region defined as in Arctic Human Development Report  
Data source: Grid-Arendal, ACIA, AMAP, Gaz de France, East European Gas Analysis, NSIC, United States Geological Survey, University of Lapland, Nordregio  
\*) Minimum sea ice extent was measured in September 2012 (of available data 1979-2014)

Source: [Nordregio](#), 2015.  
(Designer/Cartographer:  
Johanna Roto and José  
Sterling)



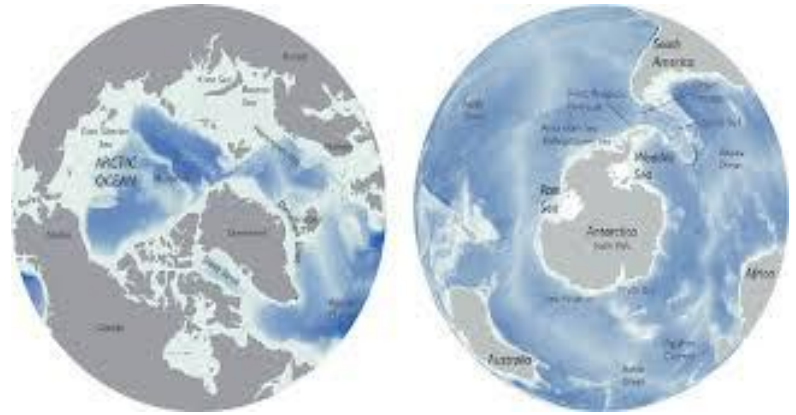
# The Legal Framework

---

- THE ILULISSAT DECLARATION

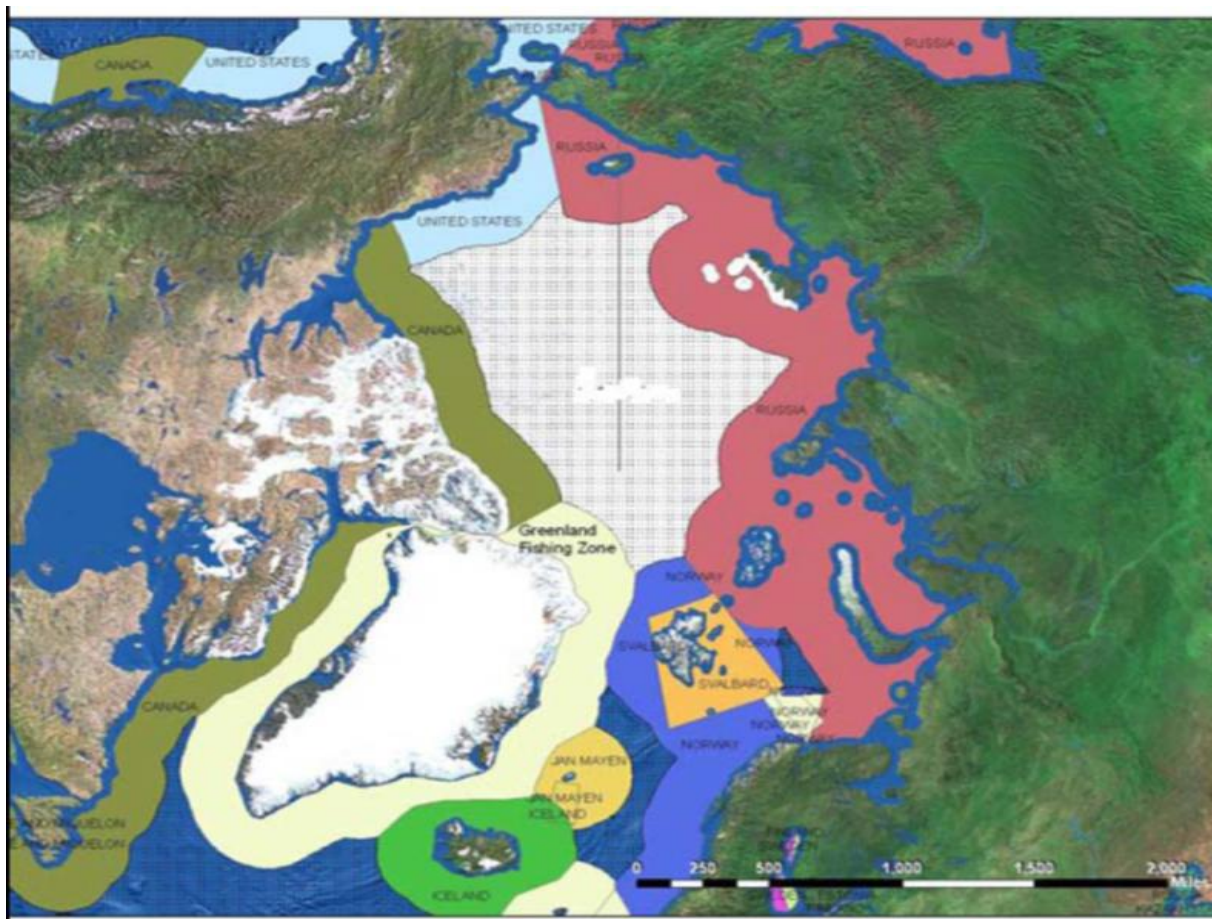
“In this regard, we recall that an extensive international legal framework applies to the Arctic Ocean ... We therefore see no need to develop a new comprehensive international legal regime to govern the Arctic Ocean.”

JCLOS / K.G. Jebsen Centre for the Law of the Sea



# Arctic Coastal States' maritime zones

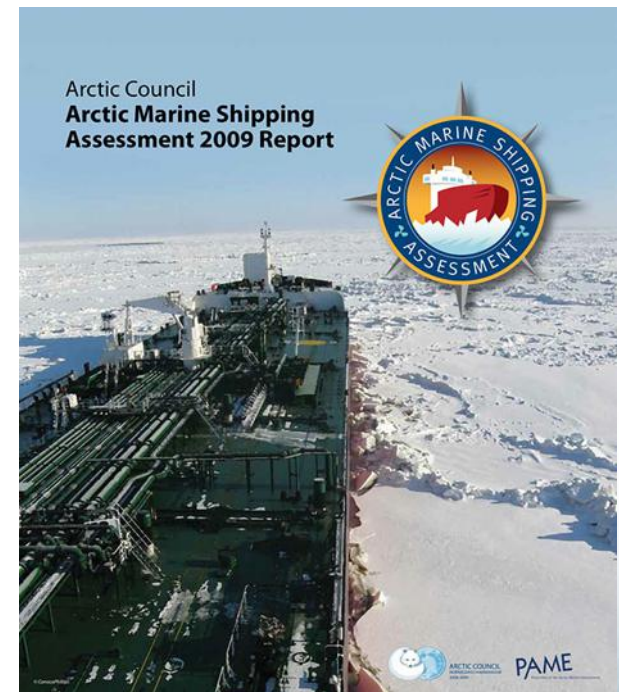
---



# Cooperation for the protection of the marine environment

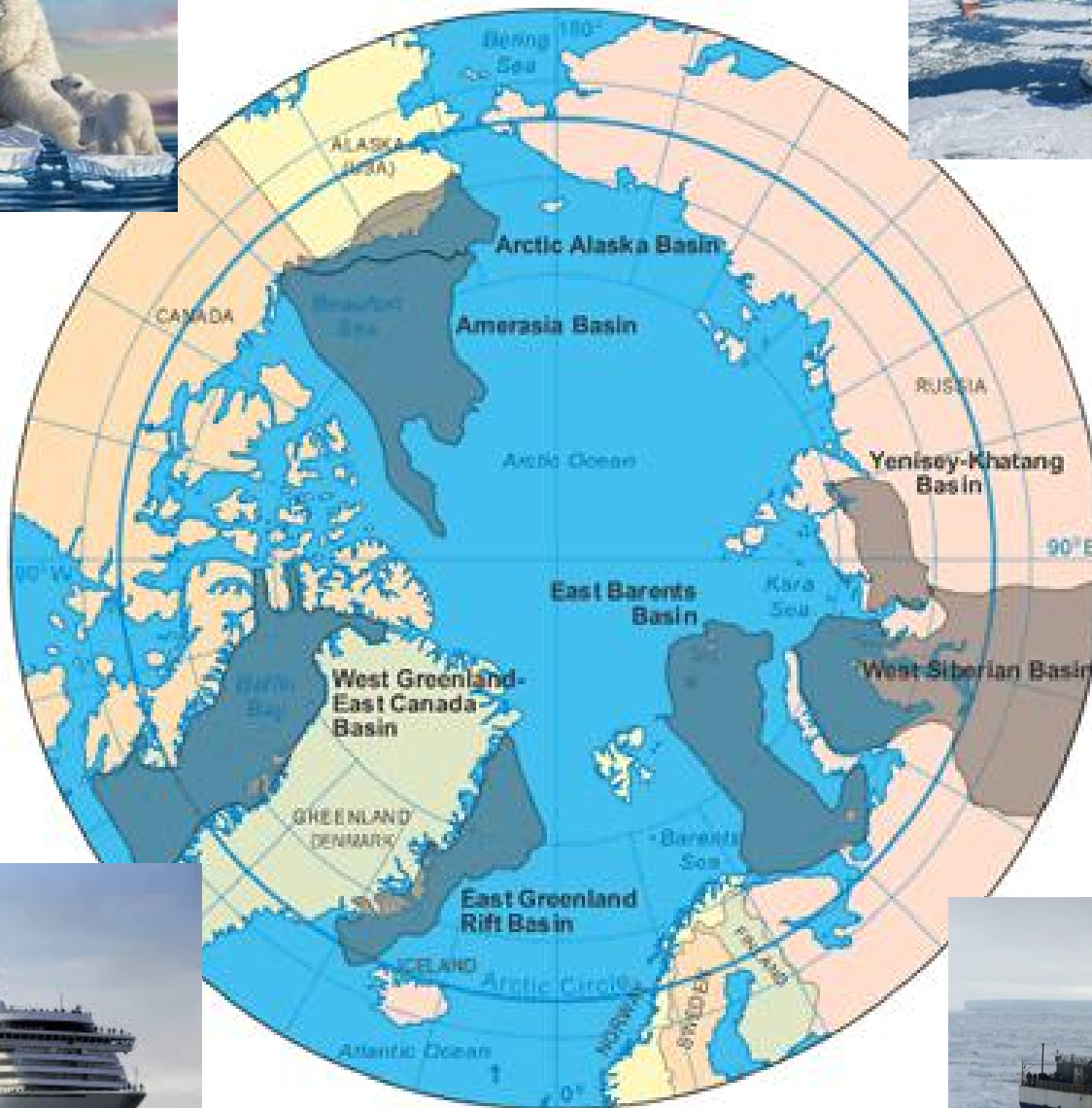
---

- 1991- The Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy
- 1996 - The establishment of the Arctic Council









ow of the Sea

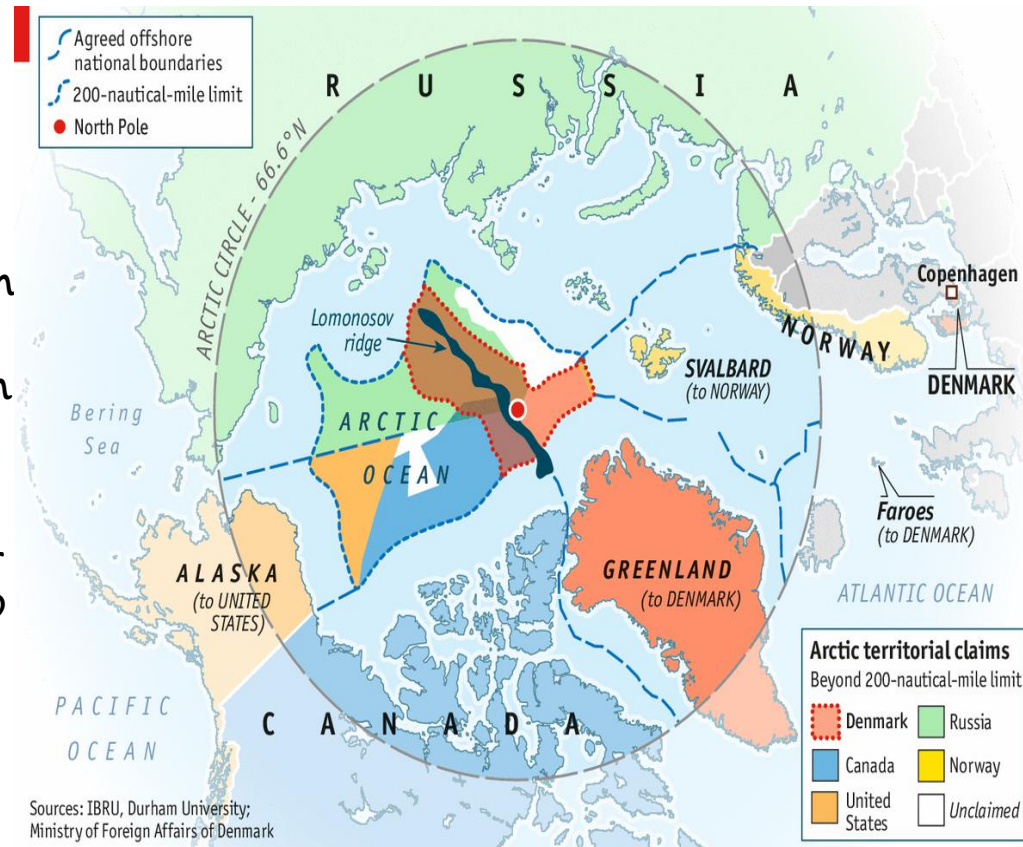
# Regulating Arctic activities

## 1. Navigation:

- The Polar Code (amending MARPO and SOLAS)
- LOSC Article 234

## 2. Hydrocarbon activities:

- Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic (MOPPR)
- Regional arrangements (e.g. the Norwegian-Russian 1994 Agreement on Cooperation to Combat Oil-Spills in the Barents Sea )





# Regulating Arctic activities (continues)

---

## 3. Resource management:

- RFMOs and bilateral or regional organizations/arrangements (e.g. ICCAT, NAFO, NAFCO and NEAFC)
- Agreement on Unregulated Fishing in the Arctic Ocean
  - A moratorium on fishing
  - A precautionary approach



# Future Challenges

---

- The development of new legal mechanisms to protect the Arctic marine environment (Arctic regional model? BBNJ process?)
- Applicability of the Spitsbergen treaty
- Arctic Coastal States obligations in relation to impacts of climate change



# Thank you for your attention

[elise.Johansen@uit.no](mailto:elise.Johansen@uit.no)

