Applying a Diplomatic Toolkit to Advance One Health: The Case of the Arctic Council

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ABSTRACT:
Since 2015, the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group has supported Operationalizing One Health, a project to strengthen human-animal-environmental health collaboration in the circumpolar region. Because the Arctic Council is a diplomatic forum rather than a technical body, it is an unorthodox One Health stakeholder. Nonetheless, the project has drawn from a unique array of diplomatic tools to advance One Health. Specifically, the project has created avenues for information sharing and exercises among Arctic Council member states and Permanent Participant organizations, while also identifying areas for collaborative investigations. This presentation will explain the origins of the project, delineate the methods used to implement it, and specify results to date. It will conclude by elucidating lessons learned for operationalizing One Health in the Arctic region, and lessons for other diplomatic fora seeking to advance One Health.