

**Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials
Copenhagen
16-17 March 2011
Final DRAFT AGENDA**

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Opening of Meeting and Welcoming Words**
- 1.2. Introduction of new SAOs/ PP HoDs**
- 1.3. Approval of the Agenda**
- 1.4. Approval of Ad-hoc Observers**

Thematic Areas

2. Administrative Issues/ Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Arctic Council

2.1. Information about the Ministerial meeting 12 May 2011 in Nuuk

Information from the Chair on the process towards the Ministerial meeting and on the framework plans for the meeting itself.

2.2. Communication and outreach (*presentation by Chair of Contact Group*)

Background: At the last SAO meeting in October 2010, the SAOs endorsed the objectives of the strategic communications plan and the hybrid approach as the basis to proceed further. It was also agreed that the Guidelines be prepared for approval by Ministers. The Contact Group was tasked to suggest next steps. The Chair of the Contact Group will now present the latest version of the Communications and Outreach Guidelines, and will provide an update on efforts to present a Strategic Communications Plan to SAOs during the Swedish Chair.

Action: SAOs are asked to review the updated Communications and Outreach Guidelines with a view to obtaining approval at the Nuuk Ministerial Meeting.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> Updated AC Communications and Outreach Guidelines (2-2-SAO-MAR2011)</p>

3. Climate Change

3.1. SWIPA-Climate Change and the Cryosphere – Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic (*presentation by AMAP*)

Background: SWIPA is one of the major deliverables for the 2011 Ministerial meeting. At the last SAO-meeting SAOs were informed on the progress and plans for the finalization of the project. The project will deliver a peer-reviewed science-document, an overview report (the so-called layman report + summary for policy-makers) and three films. Based on the findings of the science report, the draft overview report, including its summary and recommendations, was circulated December 22, 2010. The overview report has been signed off by the lead contributing authors of the SWIPA assessment. The summary and its recommendations (i.e., the summary for policy-makers) was agreed to at the 24th AMAP WG meeting held in Tromsø, January 18-21, 2011. A brief progress report will be given and the draft SWIPA films on changes in the cryosphere and effects on livelihood in the Arctic will be shown.

Action: SAOs to comment on films and endorse plan for delivery of products to Ministerial Meeting in Nuuk.

<u>Documentation:</u> SWIPA Overview report including the summary for policy-makers (3-1-AC-SAO-MAR2011).
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3.2. Short-lived Climate Forcers (SLCF)

3.2.1. SLCFs Science Report Results (*presentation by AMAP*)

Background: As background for the report of the SLCF Task Force, AMAP will present a brief overview of the latest science report from the SLCF Expert Group. The report focuses on black carbon but includes plans to extend and enhance the SLCF Expert Group to develop more comprehensive coverage of the full suite of SLCFs. The major science-based recommendations from the SLCFs Expert Group will be presented, and SAOs are invited to comment on these recommendations and plans, especially regarding priorities and timelines. The full science report will be delivered at the Ministerial Meeting in Nuuk, 12 May 2011.

Action: SAOs may wish to comment on science report recommendations and future plans.

<u>Documentation:</u> none

3.2.2. SLCF Task Force (*presentation by Task Force Co-Chairs*)

Background: At the last SAO meeting in October 2010, the SAOs received an update on both the technical work and emerging key messages and recommendations from the Task Force. The SAOs provided feedback and guidance to the Task Force to help it work towards finalization of its products. Since then, the Task Force held an additional meeting in Oslo in February 2011, made

progress on its technical report, further collaborated with the AMAP Expert Group, and has produced its draft Progress Report and Recommendations for SAO consideration.

Action: SAOs may wish to comment on the Task Force's draft Progress Report and Recommendations, and give further guidance and comments to the plan for finalization of the Task Force's products in time for the Ministerial meeting in May 2011. Furthermore, SAOs may decide whether to recommend to Ministers extension of the Task Force mandate or other means of continuing this work.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> SLCF Draft "Progress Report and Recommendations" (3-2a-SAO-MAR2011) High Level Summary of Recommendations (3-2b-SAO-MAR2011)</p>

4. Biodiversity

4.1. Short status update on CAFF activities and deliverables to Ministers

Background: CAFF will give a short report on the deliverables for the Ministerial, the plans for 2011-2013 and results from participation at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP10. CAFF has signed an MoU with the CBD and has been participating closely in CBD activities. A result of this has been that for the first time in the CBDs Global Outlook report released late last year there was a specific Arctic section. CAFF also held a side event at the recent COP10 held in Japan which was very successful. The resolutions from the COP10 under „New and emerging issues“ now contain specific requests and mention of CAFFs activities. CAFF will report on current developments.

Action: SAOs may wish to approve the CAFF deliverables for the Nuuk Ministerial and comment on progress and future plans.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> None</p>

5. Human Development

5.1. Report from the Arctic Health Ministers Meeting (SDWG)

Background: The first Arctic Health Ministers' Meeting took place on 16 February in Nuuk, Greenland. The meeting was titled: "Shared Challenges, Different Solutions: Arctic Health Cooperation in the 21st Century". Key issues of the meeting are to strengthen and develop health collaboration between the Arctic Countries. Greenland's Minister of Health Agathe Fontain and Denmark's Minister for the Interior and Health Bertel Haarder hosted the meeting, which was attended by delegations from Arctic countries and Arctic indigenous peoples' organizations. The outcome of the meeting is a declaration, which will secure future

health cooperation between the Arctic States, for example in the areas of knowledge sharing, health promotion and research.

Action: SAOs may wish to discuss how to convey the message from the Arctic Health Ministers to the Nuuk Ministerial.

Documentation: Arctic Health Ministers Meeting Declaration (**5-1-SAO-MAR2011**)

5.2. Short status update on SDWG activities and deliverables to Ministers (SDWG)

Background: At their recent meeting held in Copenhagen on February 28-March 1, the SDWG reviewed and confirmed the status of its deliverables for the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Nuuk, Greenland 12 May 2011. In addition, the Working Group completed drafting SDWG 2009-11 Report to SAOs, and its 2011-13 Work Plan for the upcoming Swedish Chairmanship biennium. The SDWG Chair will provide a brief report on the status of its 2009-11 deliverables.

Action: SAOs may wish to welcome the progress made, and raise questions, if needed, under this agenda item.

Documentation: SDWG Working Group Progress Report (**9-1-SDWG- SAO-MAR2011**)

6. Oceans

6.1. The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Recommendations (PAME)

Background: The work on the AMSA follow-up matrix as coordinated by PAME is progressing well. The following documents are for submission to the Nuuk Ministerial Meeting: AMSA I(B) Phase I Report on Reducing Risks of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) Spills from Vessels in the Arctic (HFO Phase I Report) and AMSA status report on the AMSA follow-up Recommendations.

Action: SAOs might wish to agree to the AMSA deliverables, welcome its progress in the reporting to the 2011 Ministerial meeting and support proposals for further work with reference to the PAME 2011-2013 Work Plan. and support the Phase II of the HFO project proposal with reference to the PAME 2011-2013 Work Plan,

Documentation:

1) AMSA I(B) Phase I Report on Reducing Risks of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) Spills from Vessels in the Arctic (HFO Phase I Report) (**6-1a-SAO-MAR2011**)

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| 2) AMSA status report on the AMSA follow-up Recommendations, (6-1b-SAO-MAR2011) and
3) PAME Progress Report to SAOs (9-1-PAME-SAO-MAR2011) |
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6.2. Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) (PAME)

Background: The finalizing of AOR Phase I Report and the development of AOR Phase II project plan has progressed according to plan through consultations and inputs received to date. PAME will submit the AOR Phase I Report to the Nuuk Ministerial meeting. The AOR Phase II project plan is presented in the 2011-2013 PAME Work Plan. Other AOR-related documents that will be available at the Nuuk Ministerial are the AOR Communication and Outreach Plan and the AOR 13-14 September Workshop Summary Report.

Action: SAOs might wish to approve the AOR products for delivery to Ministers, welcome its progress in the reporting to the 2011 Ministerial meeting and support the AOR Phase II proposal for further work with reference to the PAME 2011-2013 Work Plan.

<u>Documentation:</u> Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) Project Phase I Report (6-2-SAO-MAR2011)
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6.3. SAR Task Force (*Presentation by Russian Co- Chair*)

Background: After five rounds of negotiations the text of the intergovernmental Agreement on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic has been agreed. The technical issues remaining after the last round of negotiations in Reykjavik in December have also been solved according to the agreed plan. Currently the translations of the English text into Russian and French are being prepared and verified. The delegations are now also working within their governments to perform the necessary procedures to assure that the Agreement - the first ever legally binding agreement among all Arctic Council states - could be signed in Nuuk by Ministers.

Action: SAOs may wish to note the progress made and endorse that the agreement is being prepared for delivery to and signing by Ministers in Nuuk.

<u>Documentation:</u> none

6.4. Behavior of Oil and other Hazardous Substances in Arctic waters (BoHaSa) project (*EPPR*)

Background: the BoHaSa project was developed in response to a request in the Salekhard Declaration to synthesize knowledge and expertise on the behavior of oil and other hazardous

substances in Arctic waters and to promote the development and use of technologies and working methods that improve the capability to respond to accidents. The BoHaSa project, led by Norway, analyzes how the properties of oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) (e.g., physical state; density; solubility; vapor pressure) will behave when exposed to temperatures prevalent in the Arctic and the associated implications and impacts on the response to spills involving HNS. The conclusions and recommendations identify issues and challenges in responding to oil or HNS spills in the Arctic.

Action: SAOs may wish to approve the report for delivery to the May Ministerial meeting.

<p>Documentation: Final draft of the Behavior of oil and other hazardous substances in Arctic waters (BoHaSa) Report (6-4-SAO-MAR2011 BoHaSa).</p>

6.5. Short update on EPPR deliverables to Ministers

Background: The EPPR Chair will give a short report to SAOs on EPPR deliverables to Ministers, and on the draft work plan for 2011-13

Action: SAOs may wish to approve the deliverables, and comment on future plans.

<p>Documentation: EPPR Working Group Progress Report (9-1-EPPR- SAO-MAR2011)</p>

7. Contaminants

7.1. AMAP Mercury Assessment (AMAP)

Background: The AMAP Mercury Assessment will be a major deliverable at the Ministerial meeting in Nuuk 2011. The assessment consists of a science report and a highlights (layman's) report and is being co-led by Canada and Denmark. As agreed to by SAOs at their meeting in Torshavn, Faroe Islands held 19-20 Oct 2010, a 4-page hand-out containing some key scientific findings from the AMAP Mercury Assessment was released at the second UNEP Global Mercury Negotiations meeting (INC-2) which took place Jan 24-28 in Chiba, Japan. Denmark, on behalf of the Arctic Council, delivered an intervention on mercury as a concern to the Arctic and referred to AMAP's mercury assessment and the 4-page hand-out. A brief report on the INC-2 meeting will be given.

Based on the findings of the mercury assessment science report, the highlights (layman's) report, including its executive summary outlining the key conclusions and recommendations, was agreed to by the AMAP HoDs and PPs at a meeting held in Reykjavik, Iceland, 17-18 November 2010. Also, the highlights report has been signed off by the lead scientists of the mercury assessment. A brief status of the deliverables for the Ministerial meeting will be given.

Action: SAOs may wish to endorse the plan for delivery of mercury assessment products to the Ministerial Meeting in Nuuk.

Documentation: Mercury Highlights (Layman's) Report, including the executive summary (7-1-SAO-MAR2011).

7.2. Short status update on ACAP activities and deliverables to Ministers (ACAP)

Background: The ACAP Chair will give a short report to SAOs on ACAP deliverables to Ministers, and on the draft work plan for 2011-13.

Action: SAOs may wish to approve the deliverables, and comment on future plans.

Documentation: ACAP Progress report and Draft work plan (9-1-ACAP- SAO-MAR2011)

7.3. Update on the Project Support Instrument (PSI) (NEFCO)

Background: The PSI Trust Fund with contributions from Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden; and interest, as of 31 December 2010, stands at a total of EURO 739 820.88. Upon signing of the Contributor's Agreement with Russia and deposit of the RF contribution, NEFCO will proceed with making PSI operational, including its contribution of EURO 450 000, and call for convening the first PSI Committee and make the PSI operational in 2011.

Action: SAOs may wish to note NEFCO's Report on the PSI, and to invite Parties to consider contributing to the PSI and encourage Parties that have pledged to deposit their contributions with the Fund Manager to enable the Fund Instrument to become operational during 2011.

Documentation: NEFCO Update on the Project Support Instrument (7-3-SAO-MAR2011)

8. Data, Observations and Monitoring

8.1. SAON – Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (AMAP)

Background: The SAON Co-Chair will present the final Implementation Plan agreed to by the SAON Steering Group. SAO's are requested to approve the Plan, with specific modifications

if needed, and agree to recommend to Ministers that the implementation phase of SAON begin as proposed.

Action: SAOs to review and approve the SAON proposed Implementation Plan.

<u>Documentation:</u> SAON Implementation Plan (8-1-SAO-MAR2011)
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8.2. CBMP - Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CAFF)

Background: CAFF's Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP) has completed the Marine monitoring plan which has been approved by the CAFF board. The Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan (CBMP-Marine Plan) is the first of the CBMP's four pan-Arctic biodiversity monitoring plans. The overall goal of the CBMP-Marine Plan is to improve our ability to detect and understand the causes of long-term change in the composition, structure and function of arctic marine ecosystems, as well as to develop authoritative assessments of key elements of arctic marine biodiversity (e.g., key indicators, ecologically pivotal and/or other important taxa). The CBMP-Marine Plan integrates existing marine biodiversity monitoring efforts (both 28 traditional scientific and community-based) from across the Arctic and represents an agreement between six Arctic nations and a great number of national, regional, Aboriginal and academic organizations and agencies in all six countries on how to monitor arctic marine ecosystems.

Action: SAOs may wish to endorse the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan for delivery to Ministers

<u>Documentation:</u> The Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan (8-2-SAO-MAR2011)
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9. Working Group Administration

9.1. Working Group Progress Reports and Draft 2011-2013 Work Plans

Background: Working Group Progress Reports contain information on project progress and outcomes intended for Ministers, including special issues for SAO consideration. The Draft Work Plans outline the suggested priorities of the Working Groups for the next period (the Swedish chairmanship).

Action: SAOs are asked to refer to the Working Group reports for progress on projects which are not being presented, for the future plans and raise questions to the Working Groups if needed under this agenda item.

Documentation:

ACAP Working Group Progress Report (9-1-ACAP- SAO-MAR2011)
AMAP Working Group Progress Report (9-1-AMAP- SAO-MAR2011)
CAFF Working Group Progress Report (9-1-CAFF- SAO-MAR2011)
EPPR Working Group Progress Report (9-1-EPPR- SAO-MAR2011)
PAME Working Group Progress Report (9-1-PAME- SAO-MAR2011)
SDWG Working Group Progress Report (9-1-SDWG- SAO-MAR2011)

9.2. AMAP 20th Anniversary Conference - "The Arctic as a Messenger for Global Processes - Climate change and Pollution"

Background: AMAP will together with the Universities of Copenhagen and Aarhus arrange an international conference 4-6 May 2011 in Copenhagen where the scientific findings from the 2011 SWIPA and 2011 Mercury assessments will be presented. In addition, results from related research and monitoring of pollution, climate and human health will be presented. To date, over 120 abstracts have been received for presentations. 350 experts are expected to attend the conference. A detailed programme will be circulated in March. Danish and Swedish Ministers have confirmed that they would like to give opening speeches at different parts of the conference agenda and a closing speech. Key recommendations from the conference could be presented by the Danish Minister at the Nuuk Ministerial meeting.

Action: For information and possible approval of procedure for communicating the outcome presentation in Nuuk.

Documentation: Conference hand-out (9-2-SAO-MAR2011)

10. Any Other Business

10.1. The 4 Councils of the North

Background: The chairs of the four councils of the North (The Euro-Arctic Barents Council, The Nordic Council of Ministers, The Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Arctic Council) meet once a year to exchange views and experiences. In 2011 it is the AC's turn to host such a meeting. It is scheduled for 7 April in Copenhagen. The SAO Chair will provide a short update on the plans and agenda for the meeting, and invite SAOs/PPs to comment on these.

Action: For information only

Documentation: none

10.2. International Congress on Circumpolar Health (IUCH)

Background: President of the International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH) (www.iuch.net), will give a brief presentation on activities of the IUCH surrounding the upcoming International Congress on Circumpolar Health which will take place in Fairbanks, Alaska, USA from August 5-10, 2012. The scientific program is expected to bring approximately 800 health care leaders, decision makers and researchers from all over the world to Alaska. Papers and posters will be presented in a variety of topic areas. Dynamic keynote speakers, poster sessions and networking events will round out the program.

Action: For information only

<u>Documentation:</u> none

10.3. Closing of Meeting

11. ANNEX:

1. **Documents for information purposes** (*to be posted on website for reference, when available*)