

**Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials  
Luleå  
8-9 November 2011  
Final DRAFT Annotated 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. Special mention

### Thematic Areas

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

### 2.1. Information about the plans of the Swedish Chairmanship (SAO Chair)

Background: This is the first SAO meeting under the Swedish Chairmanship. The SAO Chair will give a short introduction of the Swedish Chairmanship programme, and an overview over plans and priorities for the Swedish chairmanship period.

Action: For information only.

<u>Documentation:</u> None
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### 2.2. Task Force on Institutional Issues (TFII) (TFII Chair)

Background: The TFII has been established with mandate from the Nuuk declaration to "implement the decisions to strengthen the Arctic Council". The first meeting of the TFII was held in Stockholm 26-27 September. The Chair of the TFII, Ambassador Andreas von Uexküll, will give a short status update of the process to date and the plans for the TFII work.

Action: For information only.

<u>Documentation:</u> none
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### 3. Climate, Environment and Biodiversity

#### 3.1. Arctic Change Assessment (ACA) (Sweden)

Background: The Nuuk Declaration mandated SAOs to review the need for an integrated assessment of multiple drivers of Arctic change, and to make recommendations for consideration by Arctic Council Deputy Ministers at their next meeting. An ACA scoping workshop was arranged in Oslo, Norway September 28-30, and resulted in a draft proposal of an Arctic Change Assessment. The Proposal will be presented for SAO consideration.

Action: SAOs may wish to discuss, comment and approve the Arctic Change Assessment proposal as presented and to allow for continuation of the planning phase of an ACA as described in the proposal.

Documentation: ACA Draft Proposal to SAOs October 7 (3-1-AC-SAO-NOV2011).

#### 3.2. Arctic Resilience Report (ARR) (Sweden)

Background: In the Nuuk declaration the ministers directed the SAOs to review the need for an integrated assessment of multiple drivers of Arctic change as a tool for Indigenous Peoples, Arctic residents, governments and industry to prepare for the future. Since then scoping activities have been conducted. Based on the outcome of the work shop on an Arctic Resilience Report, Sweden will present a project proposal with the aim to analyze the resilience of linked human and environmental systems in the Arctic.

Action: SAOs may wish to comment and give the requested approval to initiate the proposed project.

Documentation: Arctic Resilience Report Proposal (3-2-AC-SAO-NOV2011).

#### 3.3. Short-lived Climate Forcers (Task Force Co-Chairs)

Background: The Task Force was given an extended mandate in Nuuk. The co chairs will provide a status update on its plans towards deliverables for the 2012 Deputy Ministers meeting, and the 2013 Ministerial meeting. Envisaged collaboration with AMAP and ACAP will be presented.

Action: SAOs may wish to comment and give further guidance to the Task Force plans as presented.

Documentation: tbd (3-3-AC-SAO-NOV2011).

#### **3.4. Arctic Ecosystem-based management (EBM) Expert Group**

Background: The Nuuk Declaration gives a mandate for an Arctic Ecosystem-based Management Expert Group that reads, “Decide to establish an expert group on Arctic ecosystem-based management (EBM) for the Arctic environment to recommend further activities in this field for possible consideration by the SAOs before the end of the Swedish Chairmanship”. The Expert Group (EG) met in Washington, DC on October 18-19, co-chaired by the United States and Iceland. A co-chair of the EBM EG will give a report on the Washington meeting for SAO consideration.

Action: SAOs may wish to consider the report and further plans of the EBM EG, comment and give guidance as appropriate.

Documentation: Report of the EBM Expert Group First meeting (3-4-AC-SAO-NOV2011).

#### **3.5. Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) (CAFF)**

Background: An update on the status of the ABA and an overview of the policy process for developing the recommendations that will flow from the ABA.

Action: SAOs are requested to review documentation and comment on progress and plans for the two final years of ABA.

Documentation: Document title tbd (3-5-AC-SAO-NOV2011).

#### **3.6. Outcomes from the ACAP Working Group meeting September 5-6 2011**

Background: ACAP will present the outcomes of their recent meeting for SAO consideration

Action: SAOs may wish to take note of, or comment the ACAP issues. SAO may give guidance to ACAP as requested in their presentation

Documentation: tbd (3-6-AC-SAO-NOV2011)

#### **3.7. Update on the Project Support Instrument (PSI) (NEFCO)**

Background: The Nuuk SAO Report to Ministers' welcomed the recent announcement of the decision of the Russian Federation to provide 10 million Euro's to the PSI during 2011-2013.

On 4 October 2011, the Russian Federation signed a Cooperation Agreement with NEFCO. This means that Russia is now the major financial contributor to the PSI. The Fund Manger shall now proceed to establish a common interpretation of how the PSI should function in practice, to make the PSI operational and convene the first PSI Committee meeting. The current PSI Trust Fund pledges, contributions and indications from Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the Sámediggi (Sami Parliament), the US, and NEFCO stands at a total of EURO 12 773 800.

Action: SAOs may wish to welcome the recent signing of the PSI Cooperation Agreement, encourage NEFCO to establish a common interpretation of all of the respective PSI Cooperation Agreements and welcome deposition of all contributions with the Fund Manager to enable the PSI to become operational as soon as possible.

*Documentation:* NEFCO PSI Update to SAOs 6 October (3-7-AC-SAO-NOV2011)

## 4. Oceans

### 4.1. Task Force on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response

Background: In the Nuuk Declaration, the mandate for a Task Force on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response was given. The Task Force has now been established, and is co-chaired by Russia, US and Norway. The first meeting was held in Oslo 17-18 October, and the Co-Chairs will give a short report on the outcome of the first meeting and the further plans for the Task Force.

Action: SAOs may wish to comment on the status, progress and plans of the Task Force.

Documentation: None

### 4.2. Marine Oil Pollution Prevention (EPPR)

Background: In response to the mandate from the Nuuk Ministerial for EPPR to "develop recommendations and/or best practices in the prevention of marine oil pollution", EPPR conducted the Scoping Workshop on Marine Oil Pollution Prevention in Oslo Norway October 19 – 20 2011.

EPPR will inform the SAO meeting about the output of the scoping workshop and future plans to accomplish the project. Topics which might be of interest or need to be clarified for the SAOs will be highlighted.

Action: SAOs may wish to take note of, or comment the plans for accomplishing the project. SAO may give guidance to EPPR as requested in their presentation

Documentation: Workshop agenda (4-2-AC-SAO-NOV2011).

#### 4.3. Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) (PAME)

Background: The Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) is a multi-phased project that will review the global and regional measures that are in place for the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment (Phase I 2009-2011), and analyze opportunities and options to strengthen global and regional efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment (Phase II 2011-2013). The overall objective of the AOR is to provide guidance to Arctic Council Ministers as a means to support effective governance for the Arctic marine environment through cooperative, coordinated and integrated approaches. The Phase II of the AOR Project has started as per the 2011-2013 PAME Work Plan. PAME will report on progress to date, including the AOR Phase II Workshop held in Reykjavik, Iceland 20-21 September 2011 and provide summary of main outcomes and next steps.

Action: SAOs may wish to take note of, or comment the plans for accomplishing the AOR project.

Documentation:

1. Letter from the AOR leads on the AOR Phase II Workshop (4-3-a-AC-SAO-NOV2011)
2. AOR Phase II timeline (4-3-b-AC-SAO-NOV11)

#### 4.4. Arctic Ocean Acidification (AOA) (AMAP)

Background: As part of AMAP's 2011-13 approved workplan, a major scientific assessment on AOA is being undertaken which will be completed under Sweden's chairmanship. There have already been a number of important meetings held, with the latest one taking place in Ville Franche-sur-Mer, France, in September. It will be important for AMAP to provide SAOs with an overview of the work to date and to seek SAOs' guidance as early as possible in the work schedule.

Action: SAOs may wish to take note of, or comment the plans for accomplishing the AOA project.

Documentation: tbd (4-4-AC-SAO-NOV2011).

#### 4.5. Search and Rescue Agreement- Follow up (Canada)

Background: The Search and Rescue agreement was an important and historic Nuuk outcome, and it is important that the Arctic Council now ensures that the agreement is implemented and followed up. Canada, as depository for the SAR instrument, will provide

an update on status of ratification among members and about the October table top exercise involving the AC states.

Action: SAOs may want to comment and discuss the follow up of the SAR agreement.

Documentation: None

## 5. Human Development

### 5.1. Outcomes from the SDWG Meeting, October 3-4, 2011.

Background: The SDWG held its first meeting of the Swedish Chairmanship on October 3-4, 2011, in Stockholm, Sweden. The objective of this meeting was to discuss and organize SDWG 2011-13 priorities: review outcomes and directions from the Nuuk Ministerial Declaration; and to review and consider for endorsement the proposals identified in the SDWG 2011-13 Work Plan as under-development. The SDWG will also inform the SAO on progress made regarding the Social Responsibility (CSR) in the Arctic, a project proposal which falls under Sweden's Chairmanship priority area of sustainable economic development.

Consensus to move forward for SAO approval was reached on the following projects:

- a) Arctic Human Development Report II (Iceland)
- b) Assessing, Monitoring, and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages (Canada)
- c) Reindeer Herding and Youth (Russia)
- d) Electronic Memory of the Arctic (EMA) (Russia)
- e) Arctic Maritime and Aviation Transportation Infrastructure Initiative (USA)

Action: SAOs are asked to consider approving the described projects.

Documentation:

Document 5-1-a: Arctic Human Development Report II (5-1-a-AC-SAO-NOV2011)

Document 5-1-b: Arctic Indigenous Languages (5-1-b-AC-SAO-NOV2011)

Document 5-1-c: Reindeer Herding and Youth (5-1-c-AC-SAO-NOV2011)

Document 5-1-d: Electronic Memory of the Arctic (5-1-d-AC-SAO-NOV2011)

Document 5-1-e: Arctic Infrastructure Initiative (5-1-e-AC-SAO-NOV2011)

## 6. Working Group Administration

### 6.1. Report from SAO Chair on meeting with WG Chairs

Background: The SAO Chair conducted a meeting with the Working Group Chairs in Stockholm 26-27 September 2011. The SAO Chair will inform about the outcome of the meeting.

Action: For information only

Documentation: Report from the WG Chairs' meeting (6-1-AC-SAO-NOV2011).

## 6.2. Working Group Progress Reports

Background: Working Group Progress Reports contain information on project progress and outcomes, including special issues for SAO consideration.

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

Documentation: Working Group Progress Reports:  
ACAP Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV11-ACAP)  
AMAP Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV11-AMAP)  
CAFF Report to SAOs (AC-SAO- NOV11-CAFF)  
EPPR Report to SAOs (AC-SAO- NOV11-EPPR)  
PAME Report to SAOs (AC-SAO- NOV11-PAME)  
SDWG Report to SAOs (AC-SAO- NOV11-SDWG)

## 7. Any Other Business

### 7.1. International Polar Year Conference in Montreal April 2012 (Canada)

Background: In Nuuk, Ministers recognized “the International Polar Year (IPY) as the largest circumpolar program on scientific research to date, and welcomed in 2012 the “Knowledge to Action Conference” in Montreal as the concluding event of IPY”.

SAOs may wish to consider this conference as an outreach opportunity to showcase the AC IPY reports and assessments produced during IPY. It could also use this opportunity to demonstrate the ongoing role the AC can play in sustaining its legacy and in guiding future actions of benefit to the Arctic environment, and to the well-being of Arctic communities.

Action: For information only.

Documentation: For information about the Conference, visit: <http://www.ipy2012montreal.ca/>

### 7.2. Report on the activities of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR)

Background: The Secretary General of the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region will give a short report on the activities of the SCPAR and the preparations for the 10th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region in Akureyri 5-7 September 2012.

Action: For information only

<u>Documentation:</u> none
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### **7.3. Nordic Council of Ministers' Co-operation Programme 2012-2014**

Background: The Nordic Council of Ministers' Arctic Co-operation Programme has since 1996 provided support to Arctic projects within a wide range of areas such as environment, climate change and living conditions for the people of the Arctic. The current programme (2009-2011) has approved support to approx. 30 projects with up to max. 500.000 DKK (approx. 67.000 euro) yearly. A new programme for the period 2012-2014 has been developed with the aim of final approval by November 2011. A call for applications is expected in November-December 2011 for project activity in 2012.

The basic objective of the Arctic Co-operation Programme 2012-2014 is to support processes, projects and initiatives that will help promote a sustainable development and benefit the people of the Arctic under the conditions generated by globalization and climate change. The thematic areas for the co-operation within the programme are expected to be People in the Arctic, Environment and Nature, Climate, Sustainable business development and Education and Competence enhancement.

Action: For information only

<u>Documentation:</u> Final programme when available (7-3-AC-SAO-NOV2011).
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### **7.4. The WWF RACER project**

Background: The WWF will briefly inform about The WWF RACER project: Incorporating change into Arctic conservation planning. Because of the rapidly increasing commercial interest in the Arctic, WWF realizes the need to make progress fast and is carrying out a Rapid Assessment of Circumpolar Ecosystem Resilience (RACER).

Action: For information only

<u>Documentation:</u> Racer for AC (7-4-AC-SAO-NOV2011)
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## **8. Dates for Next Meeting and Closing of Meeting**

## 9. ANNEX:

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

- 9.1 *International Youth Arctic Declaration*
- 9.2 *Memorandum to Senior Arctic Officials : Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI)*