

Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials Haparanda, Sweden 14-15 November 2012 Second DRAFT, Annotated AGENDA + Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials Haparanda, Sweden 14-15 November 2012 FINAL DRAFT Annotated AGENDA.

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Arctic Council

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**Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials
Haparanda, Sweden
14-15 November 2012
Second 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**
- 1.5. Approval/welcoming of written reports**

This agenda item is provided to give an opportunity for the SAO meeting to take note of written reports as appropriate.

1.5.1 SDWG Communication Strategy

Background: As a follow up of the Arctic Council's communication strategy, approved by the Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) in Stockholm, 28-29 March 2012, and by the Deputy Ministers, 15 May 2012 in Stockholm, the SDWG has now developed its own communication strategy. It is in large part based on the Arctic Council's Communication Strategy. The aim is to define the room for SDWG communication, respecting the Arctic Council's communication and complementing the part of SDWG mandated areas of the human dimension.

Action: SAOs may wish to take note of the SDWG Communication Plan.

<u>Documentation:</u> SDWG Communication Plan

Thematic Areas

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

- 2.1. Overview of plans for the remaining period of the Swedish Chairmanship**

Background: The SAO Chair will provide an overview of the plans for the last part of the Swedish Chairmanship, including the preparations for the Ministerial Meeting in Kiruna 15 May 2013.

Action: For information and guidance for all parties involved in the Arctic Council.

<u>Documentation:</u> none

2.2. Task Force on Institutional Issues (TFII)

Background: The TFII has its mandate from the Nuuk declaration to "implement the decisions to strengthen the Arctic Council". The TFII has met five times. At the Deputy Ministers Meeting in May 2012, the administrative framework of the permanent secretariat was approved. The Chair of the TFII, Ambassador Andreas von Uexküll, will present the progress to date and the further plans for the TFII work. An update on the recruiting process of the Director for the Arctic Council Secretariat will be given.

Action: For information on progress in the TFII.

<u>Documentation:</u> none

3. Climate, Environment and Biodiversity

3.1. Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA)

Background: Approved at the Deputy Ministers meeting on May 14, 2012, the AACA consists of three sections; A), B) and C)

Section A) is to consider the key findings and recommendations from existing Arctic Council assessments and other relevant national and international reports over the past ten years to determine how these can contribute to and inform adaptation options for Arctic countries. This work will be conducted by each Arctic Council working group and compiled and synthesized by SDWG. A Steering and Integration Committee has been established and is comprised of WG Chairs and Executive Secretaries. The SDWG Chair is to provide update on current work related to AACA a),

Section B) will be compiling information about climate change adaptation activities relevant to the Arctic region with the aim to provide guidance on best practices, challenges and opportunities to inform the development and application of climate change adaptation tools and approaches. A special committee of Arctic Council States and Permanent Participants will be undertaking this work. It is anticipated the project will also position the committee to make recommendations to Arctic Council Ministers concerning future related work. An update will be given by Canada and Russia (co-chairs).

Section C) AMAP will provide a brief outline of the planned work as agreed to by the AMAP WG at its meeting held Oct 3-5th as well as outline key results from the experts' workshop on Arctic climate scenarios held in Seattle, Washington on 16-18 October. A second workshop on climate and ecosystem modelling is also planned, to be held in Russia in spring 2013.

Both of these workshops will provide significant input to section c) on development of future climate scenarios for the Arctic.

Action: SAOs may wish to review documentation and comment on progress and plans for finalization of the first part of the AACCA project at the Kiruna Ministerial.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> AACCA – B Project Proposal and Information Template AACCA- C Proposed Work Plan</p>

3.2. Arctic Resilience Report (ARR)

Background: At the SAO meeting in Luleå 7-8 November, the SAOs approved the Arctic Resilience Report as an Arctic Council project based on a proposal from Sweden. Since then the project has established a Project Steering Committee and an Assessment Integration Team, and is now in the process of developing the content of its interim report, which is due at the Kiruna ministerial meeting. A progress report will be given.

Action: SAOs may wish to review documentation and comment on progress and plans for finalization of the first part of the ARR project at the Kiruna Ministerial.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> ARR Implementation Plan</p>
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3.3. Short-Lived Climate Forcers (SLCF) (Task Force, ACAP, AMAP)

Background: The Task Force on SLFCs produced its first deliverable for the 2011 Arctic Council Ministerial meeting, including both a technical report and summary for policymakers with a number of recommendations, focusing on the role of black carbon emissions. The 2011 Arctic Council Declaration extended the mandate of the Task Force by requesting "the Task Force [and the AMAP expert group] to continue their work by focusing on methane and tropospheric ozone, as well as further black carbon work where necessary and provide a report to the next Ministerial meeting in 2013."

Action: SAOs may wish to review the Task Force Progress Report and comment on progress and plans for finalization of the Task Force's report and recommendations.

<p><u>Documentation:</u> Task Force on SLCF Progress Report</p>

3.4. Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (CAFF)

Background: The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment was endorsed by Arctic Council Ministers in Salekhard 2006, and is an Arctic Council response to recommendations from the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment and is a critical CAFF project. Its purpose is to *synthesize and assess the status and trends of biological diversity in the Arctic*. The ABA is led by Canada, Finland, Greenland/Denmark, Sweden and the United States. An update will be provided on the status of the ABA and on the development of policy of the recommendations that will flow from the ABA

Action: SAOs may wish to review documentation and comment on progress, recommendations and plans for finalization.

Documentation:

3.5. Arctic Ocean Acidification (AMAP)

Background: AMAP will provide an outline of the work to be completed, timelines, preliminary recommendations and deliverables for the Ministerial meeting in Kiruna, based on results of an AOA workshop of lead authors held in San Francisco in September 2012. AMAP will also provide an outline of a planned scientific conference on AOA to be held 6-8 May 2013 in Bergen, Norway.

Action: SAOs may wish to review documentation and comment on progress and plans for finalization.

Documentation: Draft AOA report

3.6. Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) (AMAP Expert Group)

Background: The AMAP Expert Group will provide an outline of work to be completed, timelines, preliminary recommendations and deliverables for the Ministerial meeting in Kiruna regarding the use of unmanned aircraft systems as a scientific monitoring tool in the Arctic.

Action: SAOs may wish to review documentation and comment on progress and plans for finalization.

Documentation: Draft UAS report

3.7. Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) Expert Group

Background: The Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Expert Group has met three times. In order to build a common understanding of EBM across the Arctic Council and provide

guidance as requested, the Expert Group has thus far adopted three documents with two further documents pending review and approval.

The documents that have been adopted by the Expert Group are a) Definitions and Principles for EBM in the Arctic, and b) Knowledge and Process Needs for EBM in the Arctic, c) Expert Group Proposed Recommendations for advancing EBM in the Arctic Council for SAOs consideration.

The documents pending approval are a) Advancing EBM in the Work of the Arctic Council and b) EBM activities in the Arctic Council.

Action: SAOs may wish to review the proposed recommendations and the supporting documentation to provide guidance regarding plans for finalization.

Documentation:

Definitions and Principles for EBM in the Arctic
Knowledge and Process Needs for EBM in the Arctic
Expert Group proposed Recommendations for Advancing EBM in the Arctic for SAOs consideration

3.8. Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI) (CAFF)

Background: At the March 2012 SAO meeting the SAOs recognized the importance of the Arctic SDI and its contribution to improving data integration, sharing and analysis across the Arctic. They encouraged CAFF and the Arctic SDI Steering Committee to look into how to formalize this cooperation through the Arctic Council, and to submit a proposal to the next SAO meeting to insure a sustainable framework for the development of this project. Within the Arctic Council/CAFF the Arctic SDI is led by Greenland.

Action: SAOs may wish to review documentation and comment on progress and plans for finalization.

Documentation: Arctic SDI Memo

3.9. The Project Support Instrument (PSI)

Background: According to the PSI Guidelines, established by the SAOs on 7 April 2005, the Fund Manager (NEFCO) is to report to the SAO's semi-annually. NEFCO will give an update and ask SAOs for guidance regarding the definition of "approved AC Projects" and thus identification of projects eligible for funding consideration from the PSI.

Action: The SAOs may wish to approve the proposal as outlined in the report from NEFCO.

Documentation: PSI semi-annual report

3.10. Sustaining Arctic Observing Network (SAON)

Background: The SAON Chair will provide a brief update on the results of the 2nd SAON Board meeting held on Oct 1-2, 2012 and will outline future work and meetings.

Action: SAOs may wish to review documentation and comment on progress and plans as appropriate.

<u>Documentation:</u> Summary from Second Biannual Meeting of the SAON Board
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4. Oceans

4.1. Recommended Practices in the Prevention of Marine Oil Pollution (RP3) (EPPR)

Background: In the 2011 Nuuk declaration, Arctic Council ministers called on EPPR and other relevant working groups to develop “recommendations and/or best practices in the prevention of marine oil pollution”. EPPR identified possible accidental oil spill from increased activities in the Arctic related to shipping/maritime operations, oil & gas and land-based industry as the main concerns. Based on this, EPPR developed the Recommended *Practices in the Prevention of Marine Oil Pollution*, (the RP3 project). Two workshops were conducted which gave useful input to project work. The 3rd. draft report was submitted to AC for review with comments requested by September 28th. EPPR revised the report accordingly prior to submittal to the SAO-meeting for consideration. EPPR will also prepare a short report based on the technical document that will contain conclusions and recommendations for the 2013 Ministerial meeting. EPPR anticipates that only the recommendations will be negotiated text.

Action: SAOs may wish to take note of or comment on the final draft technical report, and give any guidance for EPPR’s preparations of the short report to the 2013 Ministerial meeting

<u>Documentation:</u> The final draft Recommended <i>Practices in the Prevention of Marine Oil Pollution</i> , (the RP3 project)- technical report
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4.2. Task Force on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response (Task Force Co-Chairs)

Background: The mandate of the task force is to develop an international instrument on Arctic marine oil pollution preparedness and response. The preliminary or final results should be presented at the next Ministerial meeting in 2013. The Task Force is co-chaired by Norway, Russia and the United States. The meetings of the Task Force were held in Oslo in October 2011, St. Petersburg in December 2011, Anchorage in March 2012, in Helsinki in June 2012



and in Reykjavik in October 2012. The Task Force Co-Chair will give an update on progress made since the spring SAO meeting.

Action: For information

Documentation: none

4.3. Operational Guidelines in support to the Task Force Agreement on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response (EPPR)

Background: At their last meeting, the SAOs tasked EPPR to develop Operational Guidelines in support to the Task Force Agreement on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response. It was requested that EPPR address coordination and cooperation in response operations and notification as the two priority key elements. EPPR has also started preparation of guidelines related to other important issues which are described in the draft agreement. Best practices from other international bi- and multilateral agreements have been an important input to the draft text. EPPR discussed the 1st draft Operational Guidelines in the EPPR meeting in Copenhagen 5-6 of October. The 2nd draft, which was the result of EPPR's discussions, was submitted to the Task Force for consideration in their meeting in Reykjavik October 9-11. The document submitted to the SAO-meeting is based on the comments and feedback from the TF meeting.

Action: SAOs may wish to take note of, comment on give guidance for the next steps in the preparation of the Operational guidelines.

Documentation: Draft Operational Guidelines

4.4. Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) (PAME)

Background: The Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) project is a multi-phased project that reviews existing global and regional measures of relevance for the Arctic marine environment (Phase I 2009-2011), and analyzes options and opportunities to strengthening 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 strong governance in the Arctic through a cooperative, coordinated and integrated approach to the management of activities in the Arctic marine environment.

Action: SAOs may wish to take note of the progress and provide guidance as needed on the AOR Phase II project including its draft outline of potential recommendations and the timeline and major milestones, in particular the timings of the intergovernmental review process to reach an agreement on the final AOR content and its recommendations.

**Documentation:**

1. 2nd draft AOR report with potential recommendations (AC-SAO-NOV12-4.4a)
Note: This draft has been initially revised based on government comments, but has not undergone negotiation and may change substantially before the spring SAO meeting.
2. Letter from the AOR leads on the AOR Phase II Workshop including timeline and major milestones (AC-SAO-NOV12-4.4b)

5. Human Development

5.1. Corporate Social Responsibility (SDWG)

Background: In the Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) Report to Ministers, Nuuk , Greenland 2011, SAOs recommended Ministers to "Take note of the incoming Swedish Chairmanship's intention to propose [...] to initiate a dialogue with the private sector on how business can contribute to sustainable development in the Arctic" (p. 28). A seminar was conducted in Stockholm January 26-27, 2012. A workshop was also conducted at the SAOs meeting in Stockholm March 28-29, 2012. It was noted that the existing frameworks and guidelines on CSR: in the UN, OECD, the UN Global Compact and in the reporting standard from the Global Reporting Initiative are good tools that merit to be further highlighted. SDWG proposes to develop an information kit on CSR to be posted on SDWG web possibly Arctic Council web.

Action: SAOs may wish to review and approve the approach recommended by the SDWG.

Documentation: Non-paper on CSR in the Arctic

5.2. SDWG Reform and Strategic Plan - Arctic Social, Economic and Cultural Expert Group (SDWG)

Background: Under the auspices of the SDWG, the SEC expert group shall support and advance social, economic and cultural research of the Arctic. The SEC shall collaborate and supply other Arctic Council Working Groups, Permanent Participants, Indigenous and Arctic communities, academic institutions and other relevant circumpolar organizations in the development of sustainable and integrated approaches to address attendant social, economic and cultural opportunities and challenges emerging in the circumpolar region.

Action: SAOs are requested to review and preliminary approve the SDWG Terms of Reference for the setup of the SEC Expert Group, awaiting Ministerial Decision.

Documentation: Terms of Reference for the SEC Expert Group

6. Working Group Administration

6.1. 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 (**Doc. 6.1.ACAP**)
AMAP Report to SAOs (**Doc. 6.1.AMAP**)
CAFF Report to SAOs (**Doc. 6.1.CAFF**)
EPPR Report to SAOs (**Doc. 6.1.EPPR**)
PAME Report to SAOs (**Doc. 6.1.PAME**)
SDWG Report to SAOs (**Doc. 6.1.SDWG**)

7. Any Other Business

7.1. Meeting of Ministers for Environment in Jukkasjärvi 5-7 February 2013

An Arctic Environment Ministers meeting “Arctic change – global effects” will take place in Jukkasjärvi 5-6 February, 2013. The meeting is planned to include a half-day in-depth dialogue about the connectivity between Arctic change processes and global environmental challenges. Invited to this session are Arctic ministers, Arctic council permanent participants, Arctic council working groups and leading scientists. During the second day, in a more open setting, the aim is to make concrete progress on issues on the Arctic council agenda including in particular short-lived climate pollutants, protection of vulnerable areas and biodiversity in the Arctic and Arctic resilience.

8. Information about Next Meeting and Closing of Meeting

9. ANNEX:

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