

**Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials
Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada
March 4-5, 2015
Plenary Meeting
FIRST DRAFT, ANNOTATED AGENDA**

Day 1 – Wednesday, March 4, 2015

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Traditional Welcome**
- 1.2 Welcoming Remarks**
- 1.3 Approval of Agenda**

2. Update from the Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials

3. Ministerial Meeting & Showcase

4. U.S. Arctic Council Chairmanship Program

5. Chairmanship-led Initiatives

5.1 Promoting Traditional Ways of Life

Background: Change in the Arctic and actions and decisions made outside of the Arctic are affecting the ways of life of indigenous communities and contributing to health and social challenges. There is also a general lack of understanding of the importance of the traditional ways of life of indigenous populations outside the North. The deliverables of this initiative will be: 1) a compendium of best practices of how to promote and advocate traditional ways of life; and 2) a communications and advocacy plan. The work to complete these deliverables, as approved by SAOs at the March 2014 SAO meeting, is ongoing.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the draft best practices compendium as well as the draft communications and advocacy plan.

Document:

- 1) Draft best practices compendium
- 2) Draft communications and advocacy plan

5.2 Strengthening the Arctic Council

5.2.1 Update on Enhancing Permanent Participant Capacity

Background: As instructed in Kiruna, work has been on-going to work towards enhancing PP capacity at the Arctic Council. At present, follow-up on actions arising from the October 20, 2014, PP Capacity workshop are underway, including recommendations on institutional issues impacting PP Capacity and the development of a 3-day PP funding meeting. An update on the progress of these activities, both the recommendations of the *Small Committee on Institutional Issues* and on the funding meeting.

Action: For information only

Document: None.

5.2.2 Tracking Tool and Project Costing Tool

Background: The Tracking Tool has been updated after the recent WG meetings and is forwarded to the SAO meeting for a last check before being forwarded to the Iqaluit Ministerial. The Tracking Tool will be appended to the SAO Report to Ministers as an annex. The ACS has, upon instruction from the SAOs and in cooperation with the WGs, developed a separate, but related tool of project costing. A summary of the input to the costing tool will be presented to SAOs for their consideration. The longer term goal is to integrate the project costing information into the Tracking Tool in a database.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Tracking Tool and accept it for delivery to Ministers, as an annex to the SAO Report to Ministers. The project costing tool is for information only.

Documents:

- 1) Tracking Tool
- 2) Project Costing Tool

6. Ecosystem-based Management

Follow-up from the Expert Group on Ecosystem-Based Management: Recommendations

Background: At the Whitehorse SAO meeting in fall of 2013, Working Groups were asked to “report regularly on their efforts ... [and prepare] a summary report detailing work towards the EBM recommendations for the 2015 ministerial meeting.” SAOs tasked the ACS to “follow up with the Working Groups to ensure that a joint report on the Arctic Council’s follow up of the EBM recommendations” is prepared as desired.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Ecosystem Approach in the Arctic Council Report and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Ecosystem Approach in the Arctic Council

7. Task Forces

7.1 *The Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention*

Background: The Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention (TFOPP) held its final meeting in November 2014, in Helsinki. The “Framework Plan for Cooperation on Prevention of Oil Pollution from Petroleum and Maritime Activities in the Marine Areas of the Arctic,” is a non-legally binding Framework Plan that reflects Arctic States’ consensus on priority issue areas for regulatory cooperation across both the petroleum and maritime sectors.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Framework Plan and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Report from final TFOPP meeting in Helsinki

7.2 *The Task Force for Enhancing Scientific Cooperation in the Arctic*

Background: The Task Force for Enhancing Scientific Cooperation in the Arctic held its final meeting in Oslo, Norway, February 25-26, 2015. The co-chairs will report on the outcome of the meeting.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Report of the Task Force and give guidance as appropriate for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Report of the Task Force on Scientific Cooperation

7.3 *The Task Force for Action on Black Carbon and Methane*

Background: The Task Force on Black Carbon and Methane (TFBCM) held its last meeting in November 2014 in Tromsø, where the final elements of the non-legally binding “Enhanced Black Carbon and Methane Emissions Reductions- An Arctic Council Framework for Action” were negotiated. The consensus draft was subsequently subjected to national review. The Framework for Action includes commitments to take actions to enhance reductions of black carbon and methane in the Arctic and sets out a process for periodic reporting and assessing implementation.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Framework for Action and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Enhanced Black Carbon and Methane Emissions Reductions- An Arctic Council Framework for Action (available on plenary website, with the request that this is not further circulated).

8. Working Groups

8.1 Arctic Contaminants Action Programme (ACAP)

8.1.1 Arctic Black Carbon Case Studies Platform

Background: As part of the larger project Reduction of Black Carbon from Diesel Sources in the Russian Arctic, a brochure was developed to highlight the case study of a bus company deciding to purchase more fuel-efficient buses, which significantly reduced the black carbon emissions in its fleet.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the brochure and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Bus Fleet Economic benefits, Social Advantages, and Emission Reductions: Bus Fleet Upgrade by Murmanskavtotrans

8.1.2 Update from ACAP on their SLCF Projects

Background: ACAP continues to make progress on SLCF projects in both the SLCFC Expert Group and the IPCAP Expert Group. The presentation will focus on how ACAP work can support ongoing work in the Arctic Council, including proposed activities from the Task Force on Black Carbon and Methane.

Action: For information only.

Document: None

8.1.3 Presentation of the ACAP Work Plan (2015-2017)

Background: ACAP has prepared the Work Plan for 2015-2017, taking into consideration U.S. Chairmanship Priorities and ongoing ACAP work.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the ACAP Work Plan and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: ACAP Work Plan

8.2 Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)

8.2.1 AMAP Assessments on Black Carbon and Methane/Tropospheric Ozone

Background: Two scientific expert groups under the AMAP Working Group have concluded scientifically peer-reviewed assessments on Arctic climate impacts of respectively methane and tropospheric ozone and on black carbon. AMAP has condensed the key findings of the work into a Policy-Makers Summary.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Policy-Makers Summary and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Arctic Climate Issues 2014: Short-Lived Climate Pollutants and the Arctic: What We Know, What We Can Do - Policy-Makers Summary (available on plenary website, with the request that this is not further circulated).

8.2.2 Arctic Pollution Issues: Presentation of Conclusions and Recommendations and Plans for Follow-up

Background: As part of its ongoing monitoring and assessment activities, AMAP has recently conducted technical assessments on human health and contaminants, trends in persistent organic pollutants and on radioactivity in the Arctic. Based on the scientific/technical assessment, AMAP WG has agreed on key conclusions and policy relevant recommendation which have been condensed into a Policy-Makers Summary.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Policy-Makers Summary and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Arctic Pollution Issues 2014: Trends in Persistent Organic Pollutants, Radioactivity, and Human Health in the Arctic - Policy-Makers Summary (available on plenary website, with the request that this is not further circulated).

8.2.3 Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic

Background: The Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic Part C (AACCA - C) aims to produce information to assist local decision-makers and stakeholders in three pilot regions in developing adaptation tools and strategies to better deal with climate change and other pertinent environmental stressors. During Canada's Arctic Council Chairmanship, progress on the AACCA-C has been achieved. AMAP will present a progress report on the activities and plans for 2015-2017.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the AACCA-C Progress Report and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: AACCA-C Progress Report

8.2.4 Presentation of the AMAP Work Plan (2015-2017)

Background: AMAP agreed on a work plan at its most recent meeting on February 4-5, 2015.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the AMAP Work Plan and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: AMAP Work Plan 2015-2017

8.3 Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

8.3.1 Promoting Traditional and Local Knowledge (TLK)

Background: Responding to the Kiruna Declaration, this project aims to develop recommendations for the consistent and practical integration of traditional and local knowledge into the work of the Arctic Council. This process is led by the SDWG on behalf of the Arctic Council, in close collaboration with Working Groups and Task Forces. Two Permanent Participant-led workshops were hosted - Reykjavik, Iceland, February 2014, and Ottawa, Canada, June 2014. Based on the deliberations at the two workshops and in consultation with the Working Groups and Task Forces, the SDWG developed a list of recommendations. Their implementation will assist Arctic Council projects in attaining better results through the consistent and practical integration of traditional and local knowledge, as applicable.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the TLK recommendations and accept them for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Recommendations for the integration of traditional and local knowledge into the work of the Arctic Council

8.3.2 The Arctic Adaptation Exchange Portal

Background: The initiative builds on the results of the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA) Parts A and B, to facilitate the ongoing community exchange and dissemination of adaptation-relevant information. An online portal, to be hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, has been created with a focus on innovative approaches to climate change adaptation and the enhancement of adaptive capacity. The portal will facilitate access to resources for community decision-makers and establish a space for circumpolar residents to exchange best practices and experiences with adaptation strategies.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Arctic Adaptation Exchange Portal and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Password protected link to portal:

- URL: www.arcticadaptationexchange.com
- Username: arctic
- Password: arcadaptexchange

8.3.3 Circumpolar-Wide Inuit Response to the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment

Background: This project is designed to expand the findings of the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) to include the Inuit perspective, through the provision of interviews with Inuit hunters on sea ice use and occupancy. The project report compiles input from Inuit hunters in Canada, the US (Alaska), Kingdom of Denmark (Greenland), and Russia (Chukotka) to provide a pan-Inuit perspective on the AMSA. In light of climate change and reduced sea ice, the report outlines predictions and conclusions based on the experience and traditional knowledge of Inuit.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Sea Ice Never Stops: Circumpolar Inuit Reflections on Sea Ice Use and Shipping in Inuit Nunaat Report and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: The Sea Ice Never Stops: Circumpolar Inuit Reflections on Sea Ice Use and Shipping in Inuit Nunaat

8.3.4 Reindeer Herding and Youth (EALLIN)

Background: This project aims to maintain and further develop sustainable reindeer husbandry in the Arctic while simultaneously working towards creating a better life for circumpolar reindeer herders. EALLIN brings the voice of reindeer herding youth to the forefront to highlight challenges, opportunities, and areas for change in order to make reindeer herding a sustainable and fulfilling livelihood for generations to come. A number of community workshops and consultations were held, culminating in a report that compiles findings from across the Arctic.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Voice of Reindeer Herding Youth Report and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Report and Executive Summary – The Voice of Reindeer Herding Youth 2012-2014

8.3.5 Review of Cancer Among Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples

Background: This project addresses cancer as a continued health concern among circumpolar Indigenous peoples, and recognizes the need for effective prevention and control measures through reliable surveillance data. This project reviewed the patterns and trends of cancer among Arctic Indigenous peoples and Arctic residents. The report's findings are expected to inform cancer services and control strategies for Arctic Indigenous populations.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Review of Cancer Among Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples Report and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Review of Cancer Among Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples: Summary Report

8.3.6 Presentation of the SDWG Work Plan (2015-2017)

Background: The SDWG will continue to focus on projects that address the human dimension of the Arctic. The United States assumes Chairmanship of the SDWG in 2015 and will focus on the following issues under the thematic area of improving economic and living conditions: community sanitation and public health, mental wellness, telecommunications infrastructure assessment, and renewable energy to improve energy security.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the SDWG Work Plan and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: SDWG Work Plan 2015-2017

Presentation by Mr. Tom Paddon, Chair of the Arctic Economic Council Executive Committee

Background: Representatives of the Arctic Economic Council (AEC) Executive Committee will give an update on the developments within the AEC.

Action: For information only

Document: None

8.4 Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

8.4.1 The Arctic Marine Tourism Project

Background: The Arctic Marine Tourism Project (AMTP) is the first project in a potential suite of renewed efforts by the Arctic Council to analyze and encourage sustainable tourism across the circumpolar Arctic. Specifically, the AMTP is attempting to identify issues or gaps where the Arctic Council (PAME in particular) can add value by articulating best practices in relation to vessel-based Arctic tourism. The PAME working group has produced a final draft best practice guidelines document that:

- Takes into account regional variations, types of vessels and tourism operations and multiple stakeholder perspectives;
- Considers the intended audience(s) for best practice guidelines;
- Minimizes duplication by being aware of existing guidelines and best practices related to Arctic marine tourism; and
- Focuses on aspects of Arctic marine tourism that fall outside the competency of, or remain unaddressed by, the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Action: SAOs are invited to review the AMTP Best Practice Guidelines and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: AMTP Best Practice Guidelines.

8.4.2 The Arctic Marine Strategic Plan

Background: The Arctic Council Ministers adopted the first Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) in 2004, and based upon reporting from Arctic Council Working Groups, most of its strategic actions have been completed. A new AMSP has been developed that incorporates cooperation with the other Arctic Council working groups. A key component of the AMSP is the strategic actions, which are intended to inform the marine-related activities of all Arctic Council Working Groups for the next ten years.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the AMSP and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: The Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2015-2025)

8.4.3 The Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas Report.

Background: Development of a framework for a pan-Arctic network of marine protected areas (MPAs) and other place-based conservation measures would contribute a major conservation element to marine spatial planning (MSP) and ecosystem-based management (EBM) in the circumpolar region. The role of the pan-Arctic MPA network, composed of individual Arctic State's existing MPA networks, is to protect and restore marine biodiversity, ecosystem function, and special natural features, and to preserve cultural heritage resources. This framework sets out a common vision for international cooperation in MPA network establishment and management, based on international best practices and previous Arctic Council initiatives. It aims to support the efforts of Arctic States to develop their MPA networks and chart a course for future collaborative planning, management, and actions for the conservation and protection of the Arctic marine environment.

This framework is not binding; each Arctic State will proceed with MPA network development based on its own priorities and timelines. However, having a common framework in place provides a number of advantages that can support and enhance the work of individual Arctic States.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of MPAs and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: The Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of MPAs Report

8.4.4 Presentation of the PAME Work Plan (2015-2017)

Background: The PAME Work Plan was developed according to: PAME's mandate; priorities identified by the Arctic Council Chairmanship; direction provided in Ministerial declarations; follow-up on actions and relevant recommendations from Arctic Council projects and the new Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2015-2025) which outlines the overall direction of the Arctic Council for the protection of the Arctic marine environment, in addition to policy follow up to the scientific and other relevant assessments of the Arctic Council.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the PAME Work Plan and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: PAME Work Plan 2015-2017

8.5 Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)

8.5.1 The Arctic Guide on Oil Spill Response in Ice and Snow

Background: EPPR has finalized the Arctic versions of the Guide.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Guide to Oil Spill Response in Ice and Snow Conditions and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Guide to Oil Spill Response in Ice and Snow Conditions in the Arctic.

8.5.2 Radiation Projects: Report and Handbook from the Exercise "Arctic 2014"

Background: In June 2014, the radiation Exercise "Arctic 2014" took place in Murmansk region. EPPR has approved the Report and Exercise Handbook.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Report and Exercise Handbook and accept them for delivery to Ministers.

Document:

- 1) Report "Arctic 2014"
- 2) Handbook, Exercise "Arctic 2014"

8.5.3 Final Reports from the First Exercise under the auspices of the *Arctic Marine Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Agreement*

Background: In May 2014, Canada led the first functional exercise of the Operational Guidelines for the Arctic Marine Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Agreement. A report of the exercise has completed.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Report and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Report from the first Exercise.

8.5.4 Request for Adjustment of the EPPR Mandate

Background: Following discussions at EPPR I and II and subsequent national consultation, and based on a request from the executive SAO-meeting in March 2014, EPPR is proposing to change the Working Group mandate to include a more explicit reference on search and rescue (SAR), including follow-up on the SAR Agreement.

Action: SAOs are invited to accept the addition of SAR to the EPPR Working Group mandate.

Document: Proposed Change to EPPR Mandate to include Search and Rescue

8.5.5 The Arctic Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA)

Background: Arctic ERMA is a Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping tool that can provide a common operating picture of all assets in theatre and threatened environmental resources. Phase I and II are complete.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the Arctic ERMA Report and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Arctic Environmental Response Management Application Report

8.5.6 Presentation of the EPPR Work Plan (2015-2017)

Background: EPPR has prepared the Work Plan for 2015-2017, taking into consideration U.S. Chairmanship priorities, ongoing EPPR work and possible follow activities from the TFOPP.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the EPPR Work Plan and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: EPPR Work Plan

8.6 Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

8.6.1 The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment

Background: Ministers agreed to implement 17 recommendations articulated in the *Arctic Biodiversity Assessment: Report for Policy Makers* (2013). The Kiruna Declaration instructed Senior Arctic Officials to develop a plan to support and implement the ABA recommendations, and deliver a progress report at the next ministerial meeting. The document *Actions for Biodiversity 2013-2021: implementing the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment* comprises the implementation plan for the recommendations.

Actions to implement ten of these recommendations commenced during Canada's Chairmanship of the Arctic Council (2013-2015). Actions to implement all recommendations will proceed over the next six years, under both the United States and Finnish Chairmanships of the Arctic Council.

Action: The SAOs are invited to review the Actions for Biodiversity 2013-2021 and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Actions for Biodiversity 2013-2021: implementing the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity.

8.6.2 The Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative

Background: The Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) is a priority project of the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and an early implementation of Recommendation #8 of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment. AMBI is designed to improve the conservation status and secure the long-term sustainability of Arctic breeding migratory bird populations. Many of the threats to Arctic bird populations do not originate in the arctic; rather, the issues are experienced along migratory pathways or at overwintering sites far from the Arctic. The AMBI presents conservation objectives and actions that occur all along the migratory routes of the birds. Many Arctic Council observers are already engaged in AMBI and it will be key to engage them in the implementation AMBI work plan.

Action: The SAOs are invited to review the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative Work Plan and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative Work Plan 2015 – 2019.

8.6.3 CAFF Ministerial Deliverables

Background: Outlines the CAFF Working Group Ministerial Deliverables.

Action: The SAOs are invited to take note of progress on: the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program; the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service; the scoping study for The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity or TEEB; traditional knowledge initiatives under CAFF; and advances in indicators and particularly the Land Cover Change Index.

Document: Memo on CAFF Ministerial deliverables

8.6.4 Presentation of the CAFF Work Plan (2015-2017)

Background: This document outlines the projects and activities the CAFF Working Group plans to undertake for the 2015 – 2017 ministerial period.

Action: The SAOs are invited to review the CAFF Work Plan and accept it for delivery to Ministers.

Document: CAFF Work Plan: 2015-2017.

9. Administrative Matters

9.1 Arctic Council Secretariat

9.1.1 Report from the Director

Background: The Arctic Council Secretariat (ACS) Director will present a full review of ACS activities in 2014 and update the Senior Arctic Officials on the current status at the ACS.

Action: The SAOs are invited to comment on the report as presented by the Director.

Document: ACS Report

9.1.2 Arctic Council Secretariat Work Plan for 2016-2017

Background: According to the ACS Terms of Reference, the ACS biannual Work Plan is to be approved by the Senior Arctic Officials.

Action: The SAOs are invited to review and accept the Arctic Council Secretariat Work Plan for 2016-2017.

Document: ACS 2016-2017 Work Plan

9.2 Working Group Operating Guidelines

Background: Operating Guidelines have been reviewed and updated as necessary following the 2013 revision of the Arctic Council Rules of Procedure. At the last SAO meeting, all six of the Working Groups' Operating Guidelines were provisionally approved, and the Arctic Council Secretariat (ACS) was tasked to review the Guidelines for consistency.

Action: SAOs are invited to review the work of the ACS, take note of it or decide to take further action with regard to the WGs Operating Guidelines.

Document: Review of Working Groups' Operating Guidelines

10. Procedural Matters

10.1 The Project Support Instrument

Background: The PSI has submitted a written report to SAOs providing their biannual update. There will not be a presentation at this meeting, but an opportunity to ask questions to the fund manager should any of the SAOs so wish.

Action: SAOs are invited to take note of the biannual update on the PSI.

Document: PSI Update

11. Other Business

Meeting Adjourned