

REPORT OF SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS TO THE ARCTIC COUNCIL MINISTERS

Inari, Finland
October 9-10, 2002

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. THE ARCTIC COUNCIL
- 1.2. PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNCIL
- 1.3. CROSS CUTTING THEMES
 - 1.3.1. Sustainable Development
 - 1.3.2. Capacity Building
 - 1.3.3. Traditional Knowledge

PART 2: IMPLEMENTING THE BARROW DECLARATION - THE WAY AHEAD

2.1. GENERAL REMARKS

2.1.1. INTENSIFIED GLOBAL ACTION

- 2.1.1.1. The 10th Anniversary of the AEPS
- 2.1.1.2. Johannesburg Summit 2002: World Summit on Sustainable Development
- 2.1.1.3. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

2.1.2. STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION

- 2.1.2.1. Cooperation with the European Commission
- 2.1.2.2. Cooperation with other regional bodies
- 2.1.2.3. Interaction with the regions

2.2. WORKING GROUPS' ACTIVITIES AND OTHER ONGOING PROJECTS

2.2.1. AMAP

- 2.2.1.1. Key Findings of the "Arctic Pollution 2002" Report
- 2.2.1.2. AMAP Progress Report 2000-2002
- 2.2.1.3. AMAP Work Plan for 2002-2004

2.2.2. CAFF

- 2.2.2.1. CAFF Progress Report 2000-2002
- 2.2.2.2. Arctic Flora and Fauna: Recommendations for Conservation
- 2.2.2.3. CAFF Work Plan for 2002-2004

2.2.3. EPPR

2.2.3.1. EPPR Progress Report 2000-2002

2.2.3.2. EPPR Work Plan 2002-2004

2.2.4. PAME

2.2.4.1. PAME Progress Report 2000-2002

2.2.4.2. PAME Work Plan 2002-2004

2.2.5. SDWG

2.2.5.1. SDWG Progress Report 2000-2002

2.2.5.2. SDWG Work Plan 2002-2004

2.2.6. ACAP

2.2.6.1. ACAP Progress Report 2000-2002

2.2.6.2. ACAP Work Plan 2002-2004

2.2.7. ACIA

2.3. OTHER INITIATIVES

2.3.1. Gender Equality

2.3.2. University of the Arctic

PART 3: ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

3.1. CALL FOR EFFICIENCY, PRIORIZATION AND INTERACTION: THE REVIEW PROCESS

3.2. ADMINISTRATION

3.3. OUTSIDE INVESTMENT IN AC PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

ANNEXES:

1: The Review of the Arctic Council

2: AMAP 2nd Assessment: “Arctic Pollution 2002”

3: AMAP Report and Work Plan

4: CAFF Recommendations: “Arctic Flora and Fauna: Status and Conservation”

5: CAFF Report and Work Plan

6: EPPR Report and Work Plan

7: PAME Report and Work Plan

8: SDWG Report and Work Plan

9: Preparing ACIA Policy Paper: The Way ahead

10: Taking Wing – Conference on Gender Equality and Women in the Arctic: Report

◆ PART 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

The Arctic Council (AC) was established in 1996 as a high level intergovernmental forum for the Arctic states charged with promoting Arctic issues, particularly sustainable development and environmental protection. The Council distributes information, encourages education and stimulates interest in Arctic questions. The AC is a circumpolar high-level forum for development of Arctic policies, monitoring and assessment as well as exchange of information on activities of various Arctic partners. It is a unique arrangement, where the Arctic States cooperate with Arctic indigenous representatives on a de facto equal footing. The AC has a circumpolar agenda with an interface with global as well as European, North American and North Asian cooperative processes.

1.2. PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNCIL

The members of the Council are Canada, Denmark including Greenland and Faroe Islands, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States of America. The Chair of the Council rotates among the eight Member States. During the years 2000-2002 Finland has acted as the Chair of the Council. Six international organizations representing Arctic indigenous peoples have the status of Permanent Participants. The Permanent Participants of the Council are Aleut International Association, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich'in Council International, Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) and Saami Council.

The Ottawa Declaration on the establishment of the AC allows for the participation in Council activities also by non-Arctic states; intergovernmental and inter-parliamentary organizations, global and regional; and non-governmental organizations that the Council determines can contribute to its' work. Since the establishment of the AC the number of Observers has steadily increased, and during the period of 2000-2002 reached 21.

- **SAOs note that the following 20 partners have been granted Observer status in the AC under Rule 36 of the Rules of Procedure in the previous AC Ministerial meetings and wish to continue that status 2002-2004:**

a) observer countries

France, Germany, The Netherlands, Poland and United Kingdom

b) international organizations:

Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), Northern Forum, North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE) and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP),

c) non-governmental organizations:

Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS), Association of World Reindeer Herders, Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU), International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH) and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF),

- **SAOs are also pleased to announce that the following three new organizations have also applied for Observer status to the Council 2002-2004:**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and University of the Arctic

During the years 2000-2002 the SAOs have convened four times. All the meetings were held in Finland: in Rovaniemi June 12-13, 2001, in Espoo November 6-7, 2001, in Oulu May 15-16, 2002 and in Inari October 7-8, 2002. The SAOs have met twice in Helsinki for informal preparatory meetings. The 10th Anniversary of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) took place in Rovaniemi June 11th, 2001.

1.3. CROSS CUTTING THEMES

1.3.1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development, capacity building and decision-making based on science informed by traditional knowledge are cross-cutting themes integrated in all activities of the Council. It has also been expressed that there is a need to increase sensitivity to gender issues and promote gender equality in the work of the Council.

The Framework Document on Sustainable Development (the Barrow Chapeau) is meant to guide all activities of the AC and the SAOs have the responsibility to ensure that all activities in the Working Groups and other subsidiary bodies are in line and promote the general principles of sustainable development.

Member States and Permanent Participants have emphasized the need to strengthen the work on the economic, social and cultural dimensions of sustainable development in line with the Framework document. Therefore the SAOs agree that there is a growing need to seek input from experts from specialized ministries, departments, regional authorities and non-governmental institutions in AC matters.

The knowledge base on the state of the Arctic environment and biological diversity as well as human development will be further strengthened during the coming few years. CAFF delivered in 2001 the first circumpolar status report on Flora and Fauna and AMAP has just accomplished the 2nd status report on environmental pollution and its interaction with human health. The final report of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) in 2004 is expected to influence strongly on the future measures to promote sustainable development. The ongoing survey of living conditions in the Arctic (SLICA) as well as the Arctic Human Development Report, if approved by the Ministers in Inari, will provide significant

information in the process of strengthening especially the social dimension of sustainable development in the Arctic. The possibility of developing a strategy on sustainable development on the basis of the strengthened knowledge base has been discussed.

1.3.2. CAPACITY BUILDING

In Barrow the Ministers, recognizing that capacity building increases the ability at all levels of society to access and manage different capital resources to develop sustainability, welcomed an offer from Canada to organize a workshop on capacity building to explore practical ways of implementing a capacity building focus to the work and activities of the Arctic Council. Canada, together with Finland, hosted a two-day workshop in Helsinki in November 2001. Following the workshop and several bilateral discussions on a draft comprehensive strategy, action plan and a pilot project on capacity building Canada presented a modified proposal to the SAOs in Oulu.

On 16 May 2002, SAOs approved the proposal to collect and review "best practices" in capacity building in the Arctic. The Capacity Building Strategy is still "work in progress" and it will be further developed. The establishment of a permanent SDWG secretariat can be seen as one way of enhancing the ability of the AC to build sustainable development capacity within its own working groups and circumpolar stakeholders.

1.3.3. TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

From the beginning, Arctic governments and indigenous communities joined together to make environmental monitoring and assessment a key element of the AC's agenda. The approach of the Council encourages continuous dialogue among scientists, policy planners, Arctic residents and political level decision-makers. Scientifically based decision-making that is informed by the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples is a deeply rooted principle that has been put into practice by all AC activities. Traditional knowledge is increasingly being seen as the potential foundation stone by which younger generations may cope with an even more complex world of potential resource scarcity, ecological uncertainty and social change due to the multifaceted effects of globalization. Traditional knowledge means significant contribution to the collective understanding of the circumpolar Arctic. The indigenous view should be part of the AC projects at as early a stage as possible. Therefore the participation of the Permanent Participants in the working group activities should be strengthened.

The SAOs recommend to Ministers

- **to reaffirm that activities of the AC should promote capacity building at all levels of the society as a means to promote sustainable development in the Arctic.**
- **to accept Canada's offer to coordinate, during the period 2002-2004, the preparation of a report which identifies and reviews "best practices" in capacity building in the Arctic.**
- **to ask SDWG to work closely with all Working Groups to promote the integration of a capacity building focus into the activities of the AC**

◆PART 2: IMPLEMENTING THE BARROW DECLARATION **– THE WAY AHEAD**

2.1. GENERAL REMARKS

The AC's 2nd Ministerial meeting in Barrow, Alaska, USA in October 2000 requested intensified - promotion of sustainable development and further actions against contaminants. As tools to reach these objectives the AC's Sustainable Development Framework Document, the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and the AC's Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic (ACAP) were adopted. Reports on the implementation of ACAP and ACIA are available in the chapters 2.2.1.-2.2.7.

Ministers requested the Council to coordinate closely in international fora on environmental and sustainable development matters. Implementation of this task was especially crystallized in the preparations for the Johannesburg Summit 2002: World Summit on Sustainable Development, WSSD (chapter 2.1.1.2.) and in the signing and implementation of the Stockholm Convention on POPs (chapter 2.1.1.3.). Ministers asked SAOs to intensify the exchange of information with other regional bodies (chapter 2.1.2.2.) and cooperation with the European Commission (chapter 2.1.2.1.). In Barrow, Ministers called the Council to find ways to improve the efficiency of its' work (chapter 3.1.) and to strengthen measures to secure funding for its' activities (chapter 3.2.). These last two questions were discussed actively during 2000-2002 in the framework of the review process. The main outcomes of this process can be found in the requested new mandates throughout this report as well as in the chapter dealing with the administrative issues (chapters 3.1. -3.2.).

2.1.1. INTENSIFIED GLOBAL ACTION

Developments outside the Arctic have a strong influence on the preconditions for sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic. The AC has an important role in informing international bodies about the results of its' work and with consensus among the Arctic states make efforts to increase understanding of Arctic concerns in a global context. The AC has not the mandate to negotiate on behalf of its member states but can help to pave the way for progress in Arctic issues in international, multilateral processes. The Stockholm Convention on POPs can be seen as the first important milestone in the intensified dialogue between the Arctic and the global community. During the time period 2000-2002 the AC's profile as a promoter of Arctic issues was made especially visible in the activities related to the 10th Anniversary of the AEPS in 2001 and the Johannesburg Summit 2002: World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The AC's RPA and the National Programmes of Action of the Russian Federation and Canada were highlighted as examples in the November 2001 Montreal UNEP Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action. Arctic States made a significant contribution to this international forum.

2.1.1.1. The Tenth Anniversary of the AEPS

The 10th Anniversary of AEPS, chaired by Ms Satu Hassi, the Minister for Environment, Finland, was held in Rovaniemi June 11th, 2001 in the same venue in the City Hall where the signing of the Rovaniemi Declaration in 1991 took place. The Anniversary was attended by 250 guests and it summed

up the achievements in Arctic environmental cooperation in the last 10 years and outlined future challenges. Mr. Paavo Lipponen, the Prime Minister of Finland and Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP delivered the key note speeches at the meeting, which discussed such themes as Fight against contaminants in the North, Arctic People and their Environment – threats today and tomorrow, Conservation and Sustainable use of Arctic Biodiversity – Opportunities and Challenges for the future, Arctic Environment and Global Governance, Actions against Pollution and The Arctic Dimension of Sustainable Development. Also the question about revising the AEPS was raised.

All Anniversary speeches are available at the AC's web pages <http://www.arctic-council.org/pmeetings/aeeps10/index.asp> and they were published as a booklet as well. CAFF released the first circumpolar overview report of the Arctic ecoregion and its biodiversity "Arctic Flora and Fauna, Status and Conservation" at the Anniversary. - Dr Claude Martin, Director General of WWF International opened an exhibition "Arctic Rings of Life" at the Arktikum House in Rovaniemi.

The Anniversary was granted the status of a regional WSSD preparatory meeting. The conclusions of the Chair of the Anniversary were delivered directly to the representatives of the UNCSD and UN/ECOSOC which ensured that Arctic as a special region was recognized globally already at the early stage of the WSSD preparations.

2.1.1.2. Johannesburg Summit 2002: World Summit on Sustainable Development

The SAOs decided in Rovaniemi in June 2001 to make efforts in promoting Arctic interests all along the WSSD preparatory process. The Arctic Message to the Johannesburg Summit is comprised in a folder containing four fact sheets: "The Conclusion of the Chair of the 10th Anniversary of the AEPS", "Improving Regional Governance and Democratic Processes: The Arctic Council as a Model", "Environment and Health in the Arctic" and "Arctic Council: Sustainable Development Program".

The folder was distributed for the first time at the Arctic Side Event at the WSSD Prep Com II in New York on February 6, 2002. Canada served as the lead country in organizing the event and it was sponsored by the Governments of Canada, the United States, Finland and the Northern Forum. The side event was attended by approximately 200 people. The Chair of the SAOs delivered an Arctic speech in the general debate at the official session of Prep Com II and several delegations of the Arctic States included Arctic elements in their interventions. The global indigenous peoples' caucus presented a dialogue paper at Prep Com II where AC was recognized as an encouraging example of collaborative work.

At the WSSD Prep Com II the Arctic as a region became visible for the first time at the global level in the Rio process. This achievement was a good follow-up to the work done at the UNECE level in Geneva on September 24-25, 2001, where cooperation between the Arctic States, the European Union and Permanent Participants was fruitful.

The Arctic states and the indigenous organizations coordinated their efforts at Prep Com III in New York in April 2002 and in Bali in June. In the Bali Ministerial level Prep Com IV the Chair circulated a letter to the AC's member and observer states asking for their support in efforts to promote Arctic interests in the final documentation of the WSSD. A coordinating working lunch was organized in Bali, hosted by Finland.

Several Member States had a central role at the conference "Oceans and Coasts at Rio+10" in Paris on December 6th, 2001 where lessons learned in the Arctic were presented by the Chair. The preparatory work done at this Conference had a remarkable influence on the WSSD.

AC organized a successful thematic parallel event in Johannesburg the 30th of August 2002 – “Early Warnings and Sustainable Solutions: Climate Change and the Arctic Council”, sponsored by Canada, Finland and the Northern Forum. ACIA was presented by the Chair of the ACIA Steering Committee Dr Robert Corell and keynote speeches delivered by the Mr Jouni Backman, Minister for Environment, Finland and Ms Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. AC distributed 500 folders, containing four fact sheets, and drew attention to the Arctic as an indicator region regarding the global environmental health, i.e. in the IIED publication “Words into Action”. AC posters made the Arctic visible in the Conference Centre and in the Ubuntu village, where the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland in cooperation with UNEP Grid Arendal and WWF organised an Arctic exhibition. Several presentations of circumpolar cooperation were given at the Canadian Pavilion in the Ubuntu Village. The Chair of the SAOs presented AC at the Side Event organised by the Indigenous Caucus, where AC Permanent Participants played an influential role. IPS distributed a brochure on climate change and its impacts on indigenous communities.

The WSSD expressed support for ACIA in the Plan of Implementation. (Para 37 (i))”Support initiatives to assess the consequences of climate change, such as the Arctic Council initiative, including the environmental, economic and social impacts on local and indigenous communities”.) The AC was also recognized as an important contributor to sustainable development at the regional level (Para 74”In furtherance of the region’s commitment to sustainable development, there are ongoing efforts at the regional, subregional and transregional levels, including, inter alia, the Environment for Europe process; the fifth ECE ministerial conference, to be held in Kiev in May 2003; the development of an environmental strategy for the 12 countries of Eastern Europe; the Caucasus and Central Asia; the Central Asian Agenda 21; OECD work on sustainable development, the EU sustainable development strategy; and regional and subregional conventions and processes relevant to sustainable development, including, inter alia, the Aarhus Convention, the Alpine Convention, the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation, the Boundary Waters Treaty, the Iqaluit Declaration of the Arctic Council, the Baltic Agenda 21 and the Mediterranean Agenda 21.”)

Many of the WSSD key themes, such as poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, health and sustainable development have bearing in the Arctic.

The Political Declaration reaffirmed the vital role of the indigenous peoples in sustainable development (25).

2.1.1.3. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

The AC’s and especially AMAP’s role as a catalyst of the Stockholm Convention on POPs can be described as crucial. All Governments of the eight Arctic States have signed the convention. Canada, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland have ratified it by the third AC Ministerial meeting. The findings of AMAP’s reports on pollution in the Arctic in 1997 and 2002 contributed to the scientific knowledge base of the convention and illustrated convincingly the need for an effective global agreement on POPs. The AC organized coordinating meetings at the meetings of the international negotiating committee in Johannesburg 2001 and in Geneva 2002 and a ministerial level working lunch at the Signing Conference in Stockholm in May 2001. Finland addressed these meetings in her capacity as Chair of the AC.

In AMAP's State of the Arctic Environment Report 2002 new findings of POPs and recommendations for actions are included (Annex 2.). Data on some POPs not covered by the Stockholm Convention is included as well.

During the WSSD preparatory process the Arctic as an indicator region of the global environmental health was highlighted. The AC has urged the WSSD to emphasize the significance of the implementation and development of the Stockholm Convention and in this respect SAOs underline the importance of the Arctic States to ratify the Convention.

SAOs recommend to Ministers:

- **to take note with satisfaction of the recognition by the WSSD of the AC as a sub-regional contributor to sustainable development as well as the expression of support to the ACIA;**
- **to request the SAOs and the Permanent Participants, to explore how the AC, including its subsidiary bodies, best can contribute to the implementation of the WSSD Plan of Implementation, and on this basis raise Arctic concerns in the follow-up process;**
- **to request the SAOs to develop an action plan on sustainable development to realize the Framework Document adopted by the ministers in Barrow, the priorities in the Inari Declaration, latest scientific knowledge and the decisions by the Johannesburg WSSD 2002, with the aim to adopt this action plan at the next Arctic Council Ministerial meeting**
- **that AC shall, with consensus among the Arctic states, make efforts to increase the visibility of issues relevant to the Arctic in a global context and actively inform international bodies about the results of its work.**

2.1.2. STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION

2.1.2.1. Cooperation with the European Commission

In the Northern Dimension Action Plan 2000 – 2003 the European Union recognizes the AC as a partner, who may assume a significant role in consultations with the EU to identify common interests. Synergy gains related to the New Transatlantic Agenda and cooperation with the United States and Canada are also acknowledged (para 19). The Action Plan encourages the Commission to seek contacts with the AC to explore further possibilities for cooperation in the Arctic region (Para 75).

The Arctic aspect of the Northern Dimension was introduced at the Foreign Ministers' Conference in Helsinki, in November 1999. An initiative by Greenland, known as the Arctic Window of the Northern Dimension, was acknowledged as a reason for fostering close links between the Union and the Arctic Cooperation and increasing attention to Arctic indigenous peoples within the Northern Dimension cooperation. The concept of the Arctic Window was further developed in the Ministerial Conference in Ilulissat, Greenland on August 27-29, 2002. For this meeting, which was part of the Danish EU Presidency, the Greenland Home Rule Government prepared a background paper on the Arctic Window of the Northern Dimension. In the conclusions of the chair the conference recognised the wish of Arctic societies, including indigenous peoples, to establish closer ties with the EU on a number of areas falling under the Northern Dimension and the Arctic Window. It considered issues and opportunities relevant to the Arctic and recognised common interests in developing closer co-operation with Arctic regions.

The Conference stressed the importance of protecting the Arctic environment as well as the importance of the Arctic for environmental research, in particular on global climate change.

Arctic cooperation is in the focus of the transatlantic dialogue on the Northern Dimension. The Commission organized in October 2001 a successful EU-Canada-U.S.-Russia workshop on Arctic technology. The EU is contributing to Arctic sustainable development and environmental protection in the European Arctic through such instruments as Tacis and Interreg. The EU is financing Arctic research through the Community framework programs for research. The Commission is involved in a few projects led by AMAP. The European Environment Agency and the Joint Research Centre (Ispra) have indicated their interest to cooperate with AC's working groups.

The European Commission has since the Barrow Ministerial meeting participated in all the SAO meetings in 2000-2002 as an invited guest. The Commission has informed the Chair in 2002 that as a rule the Commission participates in regional bodies without acquiring either observer or member status. The Commission assures that this doesn't hinder it from making a full political contribution to the activities of the AC.

SAOs recommend to Ministers:

- **to encourage the development of a continuing cooperative working relationship between the Council and the European Commission and request the Host Country to invite representatives of the Commission to participate in the AC meetings as invited guests.**

2.1.2.2. Cooperation with other regional bodies

The Arctic area has experienced during the last 12 years a rapid growth in international regional cooperation both in terms of the number of institutions, their thematic scope as well as budgetary measures. As a result of this expansion questions of overlap of the work and possible ways of coordination have been raised. Norway called together a meeting for the Chairs of the regional bodies (AC, BEAC, CBSS and the NCM) in Oslo on September 14th, 2001 to address these concerns. The conclusion of the meeting was not to build any formal structures for coordination between the regional bodies. Information sharing was seen as an important method of work in order to avoid duplication and enhance synergies. The new Arctic cooperation strategy introduced by the NCM can be seen as a concrete example of enhancing synergy. The decision between the AC and BEAC to synchronize the ministerials is a good example of better use of resources.

The SAOs are aware of the growing responsibility to coordinate with other institutions and bodies active in the Arctic. Enhanced dialogue, especially with the Observers of the AC, will contribute to this end. The Observer countries are valuable supporters of the AC. Their role and visibility in the meetings have been expanded. The Arctic Parliamentarians have an important role in initiating new cooperative activities and in informing about results achieved in circumpolar cooperation. Close contacts to the regional level should be nourished in all Arctic states.

The SAOs recommend to Ministers:

- **to further strengthen the coordination with appropriate regional bodies with the aim of enhancing synergies and avoiding negative duplication of work**
- **to enhance the dialogue with all the AC's Observers and develop cooperation with them as appropriate.**

2.1.2.3. Interaction between the Arctic Council and the regions

Involvement of Arctic regions in the work of the AC is essential in the effort to promote sustainable development and protect the environment in practice. Representatives of the regions are taking part in the activities on the one hand through the delegations of the member states and on the other through the observer organizations, such as the Northern Forum. The SAOs and the Presidium of the Northern Forum have met regularly for consulting and coordinating meetings. Regional authorities, research centres and Arctic institutions for higher education are all involved in the Arctic Council Working Group and project activities and regularly invited to be members of the national delegations to Arctic Council meetings.

The SAOs recommend to Ministers to

- **encourage further interaction between the Council and Arctic regional actors, including the Northern Forum.**

2.2. WORKING GROUPS' ACTIVITIES AND OTHER ONGOING PROJECTS

2.2.1. AMAP (Arctic Monitoring Assessment Program)

Since its establishment in 1991, the principal task for AMAP has been to monitor, assess and report on the state of the Arctic environment with respect to persistent organic pollutants (POPs), radio nuclides, heavy metals, acidifying substances, pollution issues associated with petroleum hydrocarbons, climate change, ozone depletion and UV-radiation. The scope of the monitoring and assessment program embraces sources of pollution, both within the Arctic region and at lower latitudes, pathways of pollutant transfer to and within the Arctic, fate of pollutants, levels and trends, and their effects on Arctic ecosystems and human populations.

As requested by the Ministerial meetings in 1997 and 1998, AMAP has produced a new updated comprehensive assessment report of the pollution of the Arctic, "Arctic Pollution 2002". In addition, AMAP has produced five scientific reports on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Radioactivity, Heavy metals, Human Health and Changing Pathways, The 2002 AMAP Assessment Reports. All reports will be available on AMAP home page: <http://www.amap.no> and the scientific ones also as a CD-ROM. "Arctic Pollution 2002" will be translated to Russian, Danish and Greenlandic. The key findings and recommendations for actions are presented in the AMAP report to the Ministerial meeting, Annex 2

2.2.1.1. Recommendations on the basis of the key findings of “Arctic Pollution 2002” Report

The SAOs acknowledge with appreciation the substantive and comprehensive work of the AMAP in preparing “Arctic Pollution 2002” (Annex 2) and based on this report propose the following priority measures to be taken into the consideration in the AC’s future work

concerning:

a) International Agreements and Actions:

From the Arctic human health perspective, it is of utmost importance that considerations for global actions against POPs and mercury take into account the concerns for the health of people living in the Arctic, therefore

- **The UN-ECE LRTAP Protocols on Heavy Metals and POPs and the Stockholm Convention on POPs should be ratified and implemented.**

b) POPs:

- **AMAP should be asked to further enhance studies aimed at detecting effects in Arctic species relating to exposure to high levels of POPs and, in collaboration with CAFF, to integrate this information with an understanding of general population effects and health.**
- **AMAP should be asked to continue trend monitoring of POPs in key indicator media and biota and maintain a capacity to detect current-use POPs in the Arctic.**

c) Heavy Metals:

- **The AC should be encouraged to expand and accelerate research on critical aspects of the mercury cycle and budget in the Arctic.**
- **The AC should promote efforts at global, regional, and national levels to quantify all sources of mercury and report results in a consistent and regular manner to improve emission inventories. Particular efforts should focus on measuring contributions made by the burning of coal for residential heating and small-scale power plants as well as by waste incineration.**

In view of the fact that reducing exposure to mercury can only be addressed by regional and global action to reduce worldwide emissions, and acknowledging the assessment for global action undertaken by UNEP and resulting proposals.

- **The AC should be asked to take appropriate steps to ensure that Arctic concerns are adequately addressed and to promote the development of regional and global action.**
- **The AC should support continued efforts to eliminate the use of leaded gasoline in all Arctic regions and encourage a complete ban on the use of lead shot in the Arctic, and that enforcement be improved.**
- **AMAP should be asked to consider the need to monitor trends of platinum, palladium, and rhodium in the Arctic.**

d) Radioactivity:

- **The AC should promote more openness of information in this context.**
- **The AC should encourage non-Arctic states to continue with their plans for substantially reducing releases of radioactivity from reprocessing facilities**
- **Risk and impact assessment programs should be performed prior to implementation of actions to handle radioactive materials and wastes, and to reduce risk. These assessments, including accident scenarios, should be performed with regard to the transport of nuclear waste and fuel within the Arctic and nearby areas and with regard to planned storage and reprocessing within the Arctic and nearby areas.**

e) Human Health:

- **The human health effects program developed by AMAP should be more extensively applied by the Member States in order to provide a better base for human risk assessment especially concerning pre- and neonatal exposures.**
- **Studies of the nutrient and contaminant content of traditional food items should be promoted in order to assess their benefits and to estimate exposures as a basis for public health interventions. In locations where exposures are high, carefully considered and balanced dietary advice which takes risk and benefits into account should be developed; and recommend that this information should be passed to the appropriate national and regional public health authorities for their consideration and attention in close consultation with affected indigenous and local communities.**
- **Breast-feeding should be recognized as a practice that benefits both mother and child. Nonetheless, if contaminant levels increase or more information indicates increased risk, the need for development of adequate dietary recommendations should be evaluated**
- **The Arctic Council should monitor proposals for global action on mercury being undertaken by UNEP, and contribute as necessary to ensure that Arctic concerns related to human health are adequately addressed.**

2.2.1.2. AMAP Progress Report 2000-2002:

The SAOs have approved the Operating Guidelines for the AMAP. The list of AMAP observing countries and organizations available as Annex to AMAP's report to the SAOs has been accepted by the SAOs as well.

AMAP has established 6 Thematic Data Centres (TDCs) to store, provide quality assurance of data and assist the assessment process. Five of them have been in full operation during the last two years and the TDC for human health data will hopefully be in operation soon.

Fact Sheets regarding POPs, heavy metals and radionuclides have been produced and circulated. These fact sheets are also translated into Russian and Saami.

In accordance with ministerial requests expressed both in Iqaluit and Barrow SAOs reports the AMAP Human Health expert group have produced the biophysical health component of the Canadian sustainable development project entitled "The Future of Children and Youth in the Arctic".

The PTS project has been implemented according to the plans. Large data sets have been made available for the 2002 AMAP assessment, but more data are to come. The final report from the PTS

project is planned by the end of 2003. Issues concerning the ACIA are available in this report's chapter 2.2.7.

In support of Ministerial wishes for closer cooperation with other international organizations to avoid overlap of work and to benefit from existing structures, AMAP has kept in contact with and pursued joint activities with several international organizations, e.g., the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), The European Environmental Agency (EEA), the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the International Union of Radioecology (IUR).

In order for AMAP to complete the monitoring and assessment work that has been requested by the Ministers, it is important that the countries make sufficient financial support available for their lead country experts and national key experts. Funding is also required for the continued operation of some of the AMAP thematic data centres (TDCs), in particular for the period 2003-2005. During this period, the main data handling work necessary to support the AMAP assessments due in 2006 will be conducted. SAOs draw Ministers' attention to the need to ensure that necessary resources (human, financial and data) are made available to complete the AMAP assessments requested by Ministers. Thanks to financial support from Canada, Denmark, USA and Nordic Council of Ministers AMAP has managed to establish two atmospheric stations in Russia, in Amderma and Pewek, to monitor deposition of POPs and mercury.

2.2.1.3. AMAP work plan for 2002-2004:

The AMAP's work plan for the years 2002-2004 is available as this report's Annex 3.

The SAOs recommend to the Ministers:

- **to take note of the AMAP progress report 2000-2002 and the work plan for 2003 – 2004. (Annex 3)**
- **to encourage AMAP to continue the ongoing and long-term monitoring activities, including temporal and spatial trends and human health and biological effect studies, including collecting information on new contaminants, other emerging issues, source information, etc. To ensure the continuity of these monitoring and assessment activities, AMAP should develop a new Strategic Plan for the period beyond 2004.**
- **to request the presentation of the assessment reports regarding acidification and petroleum hydrocarbons in the Arctic in 2006 based on relevant data from the Member States, and recommend close collaboration of the AC working groups, Permanent Participants, international organizations and private companies on these matters**
- **to endorse and nurture AMAP's efforts — supported by funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and participating AC states – to work with RAIPON and the Russian government to carry out their project entitled "Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS), Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North.**
- **to provide support to secure a long-term monitoring of transboundary atmospheric transport of mercury and POPs at atmospheric stations in northern Russia (Amderma, Pevek) established by AMAP, together with the Russian Federation, USA, Denmark and Canada**
- **to welcome AMAP's close cooperation with other AC working groups, Permanent Participants and several international organizations with the goal to improve the**

effectiveness of the monitoring and assessment work in order to avoid duplication of work

- to request AMAP and CAFF to prepare a coordinated common monitoring program and present it for endorsement by the SAOs by the end of 2003
- to support a more detailed study on the remobilization of radionuclides from sediment and its potential effect on the Arctic
- to further investigate how climate change and variability may influence the ways in which POPs, heavy metals, and radionuclides move with respect to the Arctic environment and accumulate in and affect biota
- the monitoring of human exposure to mercury, relevant POPs, including dioxins and dioxin-like compounds and other chemicals of concern, should be continued in order to help estimate risk, further elaborate geographical trends, and begin to establish time trends of exposure.
- to request AMAP to contribute to the global network on the monitoring of POPs to the establishment by UNEP Chemicals within the framework of the Stockholm Convention in accordance with the Decision INC-6/17 of the International Negotiating Committee, and global monitoring of human exposure, to ensure that Arctic concerns are adequately addressed, without additional financial implications for the Arctic countries
- to request AMAP to continue contributing to specific ACAP projects

2.2.2. CAFF (Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna)

CAFF is the principal biodiversity forum of the AC, working on a variety of projects related to the monitoring, research, sustainable use, and conservation of shared Arctic species and habitats. Since 1998, the CAFF's work has been guided by the Strategic Plan for the Conservation of Arctic Biological Diversity, as further defined through directions from the AC. The Second Ministerial Meeting in Barrow, Alaska, 2000, endorsed several activities for CAFF 2000-2002, following five main themes: Integration and information sharing; Monitoring of Arctic biodiversity; Species conservation; Protected areas; Biodiversity conservation outside protected areas. More information can be found on CAFF's home page at [http:// www.caff.is](http://www.caff.is). CAFF's full report to the Ministers is available as this report's Annex 5.

2.2.2.1. CAFF Progress Report 2000-2002

a) Integration and information sharing

In June 2001, CAFF published a major overview on the state of Arctic biodiversity, *Arctic Flora and Fauna: Status and Conservation*. The report has since then been widely distributed within the Arctic and has received much attention. Building on the report's conclusions, CAFF has forwarded policy recommendations to the Arctic Ministers (*Arctic Flora and Fauna: Recommendations for Conservation*) regarding needed actions to conserve and ensure sustainable use of Arctic flora and fauna (Annex 4). These are discussed in 2.2.2.2.

b) Monitoring of Arctic biodiversity

As a first step in developing a comprehensive program to monitor circumpolar biodiversity, CAFF has established expert networks to harmonize circumpolar observations, data gathering, and analyses for eight key species and species groups (Arctic char, reindeer/caribou; shorebirds/waders; geese, Arctic vascular plants; polar bear; seabirds; and ringed seal). Raising operational funds for the networks from

Arctic governments has been a challenge. With support from the Nordic Council of Ministers, the network coordinators met with CAFF representatives in April 2002 to assess progress and develop a strategy to expand, link, fund, and make the networks functional in a cohesive program. An Expression of Interest was prepared and submitted to the European Union (EU) as a forerunner to a funding application to the 6th EU Research Framework.

CAFF and AMAP held a joint meeting in Stockholm in August 2001 to discuss further coordination of CAFF/AMAP monitoring activities and agreed to begin work towards an Integrated Arctic Monitoring Program in the fall of 2002, after the 3rd AC Ministerial meeting.

The CAFF Secretariat and Iceland, as the lead country for biodiversity monitoring within CAFF, have been collaborating with the U.S.-led GLOBE program to develop a GLOBE-Arctic protocol on Seasonal Markers (i.e. monitoring indicators of seasonal change). This protocol, which complements GLOBE – Arctic “POPs protocol”, was presented at a GLOBE workshop in Akureyri, August 7-12, 2002.

c) Species conservation

Within fauna conservation, the focus of CAFF continued to be on seabirds and migratory birds, and primarily seabirds. The CAFF Circumpolar Seabird Group has continued to coordinate the circumpolar implementation of the CAFF eider and murre conservation strategies and action plans. Key initiatives for seabird conservation include: a common eider colony map to document the circumpolar distribution and abundance of eiders; a thick-billed murre population model to predict future changes; murre banding plans; and a murre climate change paper as an information item. To link with identified global threats to migratory birds, the group is also developing proposals for preparing: a List of Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern and threats posed to them on the wintering and staging grounds; an updated assessment of seabird bycatch in gillnets in the circumpolar region; and a follow-up to the CAFF Technical Report No. 9 *Seabird Harvest Regimes in Circumpolar Nations* (2001), especially with respect to improved seabird harvest monitoring in Russia.

The CAFF Flora Group will complete the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map in early 2003, a major scientific undertaking that provided a common legend and language for the ecosystems of the Arctic. The Group has prepared specific recommendations for CAFF regarding flora conservation priorities and is developing proposals on a checklist of Arctic lichens and bryophytes; a second international workshop on the classification of arctic vegetation to be held in Kangerlussuaq, Greenland; and a revised Atlas of Rare Vascular Plants of the Arctic.

d) Protected areas

The CAFF Circumpolar Protected Areas Network (CPAN) Group has completed a public education booklet on the Full Values of Arctic Protected Areas. The report presents a number of case studies to demonstrate the range of values arising from protected areas and to increase the awareness of the benefits of protected areas locally, nationally, and globally.

CPAN is also completing a report detailing protected area activities in each of the circumpolar countries over the last 5 years (CAFF Habitat Conservation Report No. 10). Further, following a Ministerial request to enhance the marine component of CPAN, the group is preparing a project proposal to develop a compendium of maps, overlays, and supporting text to identify ecologically important marine areas in the circumpolar Arctic to support the establishment of protected areas and other protection measures in the marine environment.

With financial support from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA), a RAIPON/CAFF/IPS pilot project to map and identify “the Conservation Value of Sacred Sites of indigenous peoples” is being implemented. The first phase of the project, completed with the

participation of indigenous representatives, has already had a positive impact on legislative work in the model areas of Kamchatka/Koryak and Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrugs. Other regions of northern Russia are interested in conducting similar research. A project report is available in Russian with an Executive Summary in English. The second phase of this project foresees the organization of a circumpolar workshop, and the preparation of a CAFF Technical Report analyzing the project outcomes and recommendations.

e) Biodiversity conservation outside protected areas

Since 2000, CAFF has been intensely engaged in the development phase (PDF-B) of a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Environment Facility (GEF) project entitled “ECORA: An Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimize Habitat Fragmentation in Three Selected Model Areas in the Russian Arctic”. The project will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through the implementation of integrated ecosystem management strategies and action plans. Key components of the project are biodiversity and socio-economic inventories and assessments; training programs for local people; legislative, administrative and institutional capacity building; specific conservation measures; and pilot activities to test integrated ecosystem management approaches.

A full Project Brief was completed, submitted and subsequently approved by the GEF Secretariat in August 2002 for entry into the GEF work program. The UNEP Programme Coordination Committee lauded the project as comprehensive and innovative. The proposal goes to the next GEF Council meeting to be held in October 14-15, 2002 in Beijing for approval and if funded, the main phase of ECORA would be initiated in early 2003.

Two reports from the PDF-B phase: “A Circumpolar Review of Best Practices for Integrated Ecosystem Management” and “Review of Projects Relevant for Biodiversity Conservation and Use of Biological Resources in the Russian Arctic”, have been published as CAFF Technical Reports Nos. 11 and 12, respectively.

2.2.2.2. Arctic Flora and Fauna: Recommendations for Conservation

A series of recommendations for conservation was prepared based on the main themes and conclusions of *Arctic Flora and Fauna: Status and Conservation* (Annex 4). The recommendations are intended to guide not only the future work of the Arctic Council but to serve as a resource and inspiration for others active in Arctic conservation. There are 11 recommendations organized under the themes of Conserving Arctic Species, Conserving Arctic Ecosystems and Habitats, Assessing and Monitoring Arctic Biodiversity, Global Issues, and Engaging Society. Future CAFF work will be organized around these five themes.

The recommendations are:

- Identify threats to Arctic species of common conservation concern, and implement necessary conservation measures for those species that currently lack concerted international action.
- Assess the scope and impacts of non-endemic species in the circumpolar Arctic and develop appropriate response strategies.
- Identify important freshwater, marine and terrestrial habitats in the Arctic and ensure their protection through the establishment of protected areas and other appropriate conservation measures.
- Promote an ecosystem approach to resource use and management in the circumpolar Arctic, through, inter alia, the development of common guidelines and best practices.
- Promote activities that identify and classify Arctic species and ecological processes to better understand Arctic ecosystems.
- Build on national and international work to implement a program to monitor biodiversity at the circumpolar level that will allow for regional assessments, integration with other environmental monitoring programs, and comparison of the Arctic with other regions of the globe.
- Assess the interaction between global changes and Arctic biodiversity, and develop strategies to address negative impacts.
- In co-operation with non-Arctic states, strengthen conservation measures for those migratory species that lack adequate protection outside the Arctic
- Document and incorporate the full range of values of Arctic natural resources into decision-making.
- Promote formal and public education, including outreach to non-Arctic countries, on the values, conservation, and sustainable use of Arctic natural resources.
- Encourage the participation of Arctic indigenous peoples, local communities, and schools in conservation and monitoring of Arctic species and ecosystems.

2.2.2.3 CAFF Work Plan 2002-2004

CAFF's Work Plan for the years 2002-2004 is available as this report's Annex 5.

The SAOs recommend Ministers:

- to take note of the progress report of CAFF 2000-2002 and the Work Plan for the 2002-2004.
- to endorse the CAFF Recommendations for Conservation as listed above.
- to acknowledge the progress made on the integrated ecosystem management project ECORA, and to encourage Arctic states to support CAFF in the implementation of the full project
- to encourage CAFF, in cooperation with AMAP, to enhance monitoring of biodiversity at the circumpolar and regional levels to detect the impacts of global changes and to allow Arctic communities to respond and adapt.

2.2.3. EPPR (Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response)

The goals of the EPPR working group are to protect the Arctic environment from the threat or impact of activities in the Arctic that may result from an accidental release of pollutants and to promote sustainable development in the Arctic area.

In the Barrow declaration the Ministers encouraged EPPR to continue with ongoing activities under EPPR's Strategic Plan of Action and endorsed EPPR's future activities as outlined in the SAO Report to the Ministers. The Ministers further expressed that they are looking forward to the finalization of the Circumpolar Map of Resources at Risk from Oil Spills in the Arctic by the next Ministerial Meeting in 2002. The endorsement to develop the Circumpolar Map of Resources at Risk from Oil Spills in the Arctic was given by the Ministers in Iqaluit. In Barrow, the Ministers also encouraged actions to reduce the risks of releases of radioactivity to the Arctic.

2.2.3.1. EPPR Progress Report 2000-2002

In accordance with the tasks given in the Barrow declaration SAOs are pleased to report on the finalization of the Circumpolar Map of Resources at Risk from Oil spills in the Arctic. Under the lead of Norway the project has produced a series of GIS-based circumpolar maps showing the areas of highest risk of an oil spill and those areas with sensitive natural resources or subsistence communities. The idea has been to highlight a limited number of areas where sensitive Arctic resources overlap with potential oil spill areas, and in this way facilitate the prioritizing of mitigation actions. The Circumpolar Map is accessible to the public at the web address <http://www.akvaplan.niva.no/eppr>, as well as through the EPPR website <http://eppr.arctic-council.org>.

EPPR has further continued with activities initiated under EPPR's Strategic Plan. Under the lead of the US and Russia, EPPR has conducted a pilot project on source control management at the Apatity-vodokanal. The aim of the pilot project has been to develop and test a methodology for reducing the potential for emergencies at facilities. The final report of the Emergency prevention/ Source control pilot project in Apatity-vodokanal and the first version of the developed methodology have been endorsed in principle at the 2002 EPPR meeting.

The project on developing an Arctic Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technology (SCAT) manual is continuing bilaterally between US and Canada, with other countries giving possible input through correspondence. A draft report will be prepared prior to the next EPPR meeting. The final product, the Arctic SCAT manual is expected to be available in the fall of 2003.

A table top emergency exercise between Russia and USA was conducted at the Bilibino nuclear power plant (Chukotka, Russia) on August 21, 2002. Local, national and international emergency response plans and notifications were exercised with EPPR countries and the International Atomic Energy Agency. EPPR parties were able to test notification channels and other aspects of international cooperation for response to nuclear emergency with potentially widespread consequences.

EPPR has conducted a survey on past major accidents in the Arctic. Due to very little response the data gathered provide limited information on the issue and no conclusions can be drawn from it.

During the period 2000-2002 EPPR has finalized its operating guidelines. EPPR has also published a brochure telling about its activities. The brochure was published in February 2001. EPPR's full report to the Ministers is available as this report's Annex 6.

2.2.3.2. EPPR work plan 2002-2004

EPPR will continue to further develop the Circumpolar Map of Resources at Risk from Oil Spills in the Arctic. Among possible ideas that will be explored and elaborated on are to add data on other type of risk activities, e.g. mines, nuclear facilities and activities, to the circumpolar map. The development of the Circumpolar Map will possibly involve other AC working groups as well.

The Emergency prevention and source control management project will also continue. In Phase II of the project the developed methodology will be applied to a facility that presents radiation hazards. The aim with this approach is to test and refine the methodology to ensure it is applicable to a spectrum of hazards and is a useful tool for identifying hazards and planning for prevention of incidents and accidents.

EPPR will start a project that focuses on developing a best practices emergency program for prevention, preparedness and response for a nuclear/radiological emergency. The project will document the process for development of an emergency prevention, preparedness and response program to ensure that appropriate measures are in place for any nuclear event.

EPPR will further conduct a more extensive inventory of past natural disasters in the Arctic, as the survey conducted in 2001 did not yield very much response. Possibly this inventory will be done in close cooperation with the Northern Forum to ensure the valuable response from the regional authorities. The inventory of past natural disasters will serve as a base when developing projects in the field of emergency prevention and response to different natural disasters.

Several other activities are also planned for the period 2002-2004 such as research and development of oil spill response in ice, regional co-operation on effects of transboundary accidents, disposal of oily waste from response actions and spills, and co-operation with AMAP in organizing the International conference on oil and gas activities.

The present mandate of EPPR is to deal with prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies in the Arctic that are a result of human activities. By tradition, the projects carried out within EPPR have focused mainly on oil pollution issues. The role and mandate of EPPR have been discussed among SAOs during the review process of the AC. The SAOs propose that EPPR in the future should give more emphasis to prevention, preparedness and response to accidents involving radiological and other hazardous materials, which fits within the present mandate of EPPR. The SAOs further propose that it could be appropriate to expand the mandate of EPPR to include also prevention, preparedness and response to natural disasters.

The SAOs recommend to Ministers:

- **to take note of EPPR's progress report and work plan 2002-2004 outlined above and ask EPPR to update accordingly its Strategic Plan adopted in 1998**
- **to encourage EPPR to develop and conduct the projects listed in the work plan above**
- **to request EPPR to complete the inventory of past natural disasters in the Arctic to determine if the mandate of EPPR should be expanded to include also prevention, preparedness and response to natural disasters**

- **to ask EPPR, in collaboration with AMAP on the basis of a clear division of labor, to give more emphasis to prevention, preparedness and response to emergencies involving radiological and other hazardous material**
- **to ask EPPR to continue its efforts related to emergencies resulting from extraction and transportation of oil and gas, in cooperation with PAME.**

2.2.4. PAME (Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment)

The PAME Working Group addresses policy and non-emergency response measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from land and sea-based activities. These measures include coordinated actions, programs and guidelines, complementing existing international arrangements. More information can be found on PAME's homepage at <http://www.pame.is>. PAME's full report to the Ministers is available as this report's Annex 7.

2.2.4.1. PAME Progress Report 2000-2002

PAME's objectives are based on Ministerial mandates as identified in PAME's Work Plan 2000-2002 accompanied by a set of specific actions that have been successfully completed as follows:

a) Regional Program of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based activities:

The implementation and program support elements of the RPA are moving forward. The next phase proposes to expand the RPA to better address land-based activities in the context of sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment in collaboration with other working groups of the AC. PAME continues to participate in UNEP's annual meetings of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in their efforts to strengthen these programs as many of the issues and problems addressed have relevance to PAME's work.

b) Russian NPA-Arctic:

It is the responsibility of each Arctic country to create and execute a National Action Plan for the Arctic, either as a separate plan or through other national mechanisms. Russia, Canada and Iceland have adopted such an action plan and PAME continues to support the Russian NPA-Arctic, consistent with the Ministerial Declarations of Iqaluit 1998 and Barrow 2000.

One concrete example of the implementation of parts of the Russian NPA-Arctic is the GEF project "Russian Federation – Support to the NPA-Arctic" which was approved by the GEF Council on 7 Dec, 2001. Other examples may be bilateral cooperation with the Russian Federation.

The basis for the development of the GEF Project was the Russian NPA-Arctic and the results of the GEF PDF B Project. Russian NPA-Arctic is now an integral part of Russia's "World Ocean" Federal Target-oriented Program (FTOP), and its sub-program "Use and Development of the Arctic". The NPA-Arctic is an important component of the RPA implementation phase.

Russia is planning a Partnership Conference with the aim to promote the implementation of the NPA-Arctic in cooperation with international financial institutions and concerned corporations. Round-table meetings have been planned as important steps in the preparatory process of the Partnership Conference. It is anticipated that the round table process could start in the beginning of the year 2003, or when project proposals of the GEF project have been prepared in more detail. Based on this, the Partnership Conference has preliminarily been scheduled for 2004.

c) Legal Analysis:

The SAOs are pleased to welcome PAME's review of the existing international agreements and arrangements and an update on 1996 report on source-by-source as follows:

- Highlights of progress made since the 1996 report
- Status of the 1996 report recommendations
- A factual update of the matrix of legal analysis

d) Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines:

The update of the 1997 Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines has been finalized through a correspondence group to be submitted at the AC Ministerial. The update process was done in close cooperation with other relevant working groups and organizations such as the Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), RUNARC and WWF.

e) Shipping Activities:

Norway as the lead-country on shipping activities is developing in greater detail its proposal on the follow-up activities of The Snap Shot Analysis of Maritime Activities and ways to address ship generated waste which will be addressed in the 2002-2004 Work Plan. Canada is the lead country on developing Arctic Waters Oil Transfer Guidelines. A website has been prepared for the correspondence group to post documents and comments. These Guidelines are intended to address additional provisions deemed necessary for consideration beyond existing requirements of the SOLAS Convention in order to take into account the climate conditions of Arctic ice-covered waters and to meet appropriate standards of maritime safety and pollution prevention.

2.2.4.2. PAME's work plan 2002-2004

SAOs recommend to Ministers:

- **to take note of PAME's Progress Report 2000 – 2002 and the Work Plan 2002 – 2004 (Annex 7) and**

a) Strategic Plan for the Protection of the Arctic marine environment:

- **recognize the international call for increased coordination and collaboration, particularly at the regional level, and that existing and emerging activities in the Arctic warrant a more coordinated and integrated approach and further that this approach represents a cost-effective way to address the challenges of the Arctic coastal and marine environment.**
- **ask PAME to develop a strategic plan for the protection of the Arctic marine environment as outlined in the PAME 2002-2004 Work Plan and in close cooperation with all AC working groups.**
- **welcome Canada and Iceland's offer to co-host an AC workshop in support of the development of a strategic plan for the protection of the Arctic marine environment, to be presented to the Council in 2004.**

b) Regional Program of Action:

- **Support the implementation and further development of the program support elements for the Regional Program of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA), and note with appreciation the proposed expansion of RPA to better address land-based activities in the context of sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment.**
- **Support the implementation and further development of the Russian NPA-Arctic and other National Plans as important components of the RPA and recognize the role PAME may have in providing support.**
- **Encourage the Russian Federation to continue her preparation of a Partnership Conference and the process of its preparatory Round Table meetings concentrating on concrete projects and pre-investment studies.**
- **Request PAME to continue to assist the Russian Federation in conducting the Round Table meetings and the planned Partnership Conference with participation of international organizations and IFIs in these events.**
- **Request PAME to report progress regularly to the SAOs who may give further guidance.**

c) Shipping activities

- **encourage PAME in analysis of shipping activities and its potential environmental risks and further encourage Norway as the lead-country on shipping activities in developing in greater detail its proposal on the follow-up activities of The Snap Shot Analysis of Maritime Activities and ways to address ship generated waste.**

The SAOs further recommend the Ministers to:

- **endorse the updated Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines and encourage the concerned stakeholders to apply them,**
- **encourage the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to give full consideration to Arctic conditions as it completes the ‘ballast water’ convention,**
- **encourage the Arctic countries to ratify the convention on the control of harmful anti-fouling systems on ships.**
- **encourage the Arctic countries to collaborate in projects that promote communication and information sharing in the regulatory and technical processes and practices of Arctic offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and ship-to-ship/ship-to-shore transfer.**
- **encourage the Arctic countries that have not yet done so to ratify the 1996 Protocol of the London Convention on the prevention of marine pollution by dumping of wastes and other matter, 1972.**

2.2.5. SDWG (Sustainable Development Working Group)

The Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) and the Sustainable Development Programme were established by the Ministers in Iqaluit 1998. The goal of the program is to propose and adopt steps to be taken by the Arctic States to advance sustainable development in the Arctic, including opportunities to protect and enhance the environment, and the economies, cultures and health of the indigenous communities and of other inhabitants of the Arctic, as well as to improve the environmental, economic and social conditions of Arctic communities as a whole.

In Barrow, the Ministers endorsed and adopted the Sustainable Development Framework Document to form a basis for continuing cooperation on sustainable development in the Arctic. Such new proposals as Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, International Circumpolar Surveillance System for infectious diseases, projects on sustainable reindeer husbandry and sustainable development in northern timberline forests were approved. The Ministers requested that the SDWG facilitate completion of work on these proposals and propose priority areas in the further development of the Sustainable Development Program.

In Barrow the Ministers welcomed the introduction of a capacity building focus to the work and activities of the Council, and further welcomed Canada's offer to host a workshop on capacity building during the period 2000 to 2002 to explore practical ways to implement this focus. SDWG's full report to the Ministers is available as Annex 8 of this report. Many of the SDWG projects have also submitted extensive progress reports. These can be found as annexes to the SDWG's report to the SAOs.

2.2.5.1. SDWG Progress Report 2000-2002

Progress can be reported on most SDWG projects since Barrow.

a) Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic

The project was first endorsed by the Ministers in Iqaluit in 1998. Endorsement for the second biennium was given in Barrow in 2000. The project is divided into three programs: the health program, the networking program and the internship program.

Within the health program data has been collected for many of the indicators and preliminary analysis has been carried out. At a meeting of health experts in May 2002 the findings were presented, and based on these the list of key indicators was refined. Best practice models were also shared at the health experts meeting. This work was facilitated by the cooperation of AMAP and WHO.

Within the Networking Programme progress has been made with the website "On Top of the World". The Learning Exchange involving the development of a compendium of best practices for teaching and learning about sustainable development in the Arctic has been initiated. The Youth Camp organized by the Saami took place in Finnmark, Norway, in July 2002 and was a great success.

In the Internship Programme the WWF and UNEP Grid Arendal have hosted interns in the second round of Internships. The International Institute for Sustainable Development carried out the administration, and organized an International Committee to provide programme direction. The Permanent Participants are welcoming the internship opportunities, but they do not have the resources to support nominations.

Further two meetings on youth policy issues in the Arctic were held in 2000-2002; one in Rovaniemi in September 2001 and one in Oulu in May 2002. The meetings emphasized that in order to obtain greater understanding of youth in the Arctic Region special attention should be paid to the need for research-based knowledge on the circumstances and living conditions of young people in the Arctic. An initiative will be formulated in the fall of 2002 to launch an Arctic Youth Research Network. It was also highlighted that information concerning the living conditions of young people could be a part of the AHDR.

b) Co-management of Marine Resources in Arctic Areas with Respect to Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Ecological Knowledge

The project is conducted by the Saami university college in Guovdageaidnu, Norway. Funding is secured for half a year, from 1st of January to 30th of June 2002. Further funding has been applied for. The project has focused on gathering information about the marine resource management in Canada, Greenland and Alaska and to what degree indigenous people influence management in these countries. The idea has been to investigate if the experiences of other Arctic indigenous people can be useful in the development of a co-management model for coastal- and fjord fishing in Saami fjord areas.

c) Cultural and Ecotourism

The Cultural and Eco-tourism project was initiated in Iqaluit (1998). A number of significant steps have been taken since the Ministerial Meeting in Barrow. Over a three-year period, the two initial complimentary projects have been consolidated into a single, unified project. The project plan for this unified project, called Sustainable Model of Arctic Regional Tourism (SMART) Program has been developed and the program coordinators are in the process of applying for funding for the program. The project will offer capacity or competency building and business incentives, such as certification, to improve on the ground business practices.

d) Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry

The Sustainable reindeer husbandry project was initiated and endorsed in Barrow (2000). The project has collected the latest available national statistics and information about reindeer husbandry, management policy and plans, predators, as well as scientific papers about the status and trends in reindeer husbandry. In addition to this written material, a set of interviews with reindeer herders and owners, bureaucrats and researchers in Sweden, Finland, Russia, Alaska and Norway, has been accomplished. A workshop on the development of national legislation in reindeer husbandry in the different Arctic countries took place on 26-27 April 2002 in Kautokeino, Norway. Based on all this material a review of the present situation in the circumpolar reindeer husbandry has been prepared. Based on this review, recommendations have been made and can be found as an annex to the SDWG report to the SAOs (Annex 8).

e) Sustainable Development in Northern Timberline Forests

The project was initiated in Barrow (2000). The project arranged a workshop on Sustainable Development in Northern Timberline Forests in Rovaniemi, Finland in May 2002. The workshop reviewed recent research in the field and prepared recommendations on sustainable development in the tundra-taiga zone. Special emphasis was paid to the social and economic consequences of global change in the region and to the ecosystem management in these regions. The recommendations from the workshop are available as an annex to the SDWG report to the SAOs (Annex 8).

f) Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic

The SLICA project was initiated in Barrow (2000) and will run until 2004. On October 2001, phase 1 of the project, which included the development and pilot testing of a new research design for living conditions research among Inuit and Saami peoples in the Arctic was completed. In the spring 2001 SLICA hosted a conference on living conditions research in the Arctic in Nuuk, Greenland. Phase 2 of the project, which includes data collection, analyzing and reporting has started in March 2002. It will

include the implementation of 23.000 personal interviews among Inuit and Saami in the Arctic. Data collection in Canada has been completed and the data collection in the USA and in Chukotka has started.

g) Telemedicine

The goal of the Phase II Telemedicine initiative, that was initiated at Barrow, was to develop a structure among the nations of the AC to stimulate collaboration on telemedicine evaluation conducive to program development and sustainability. An international steering committee was established. The steering committee was invited to participate in an initial electronic dialogue and to several meetings concerning the prospects of telemedicine. Due to the tragic events of 11 September these meetings had to be cancelled.

h) International Circumpolar Surveillance: Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Arctic

The International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS) project was initiated in Barrow (2000). An ICS steering committee was established in September 2000 to guide and review activities of ICS as well as to identify, prioritize and initiate the development of new surveillance activities. Priority diseases of concern include invasive bacterial diseases, vaccine preventable diseases, and tuberculosis. Working Groups have been established to coordinate surveillance activities for invasive bacterial diseases and tuberculosis. Comprehensive reports for the surveillance of invasive bacterial diseases have been generated for 1999 and 2000.

i) Arctic transportation and infrastructure

On the invitation of the Ministry of Transport and Communication of Finland a workshop on Arctic Transport convened in Tornio-Haparanda (Finland/Sweden) in September 2001. The aim of the workshop was to discuss issues of Arctic transportation, to identify areas of cooperation and to find ways forward pursuant to sustainable transportation development in the Arctic. As a first step it was decided to establish an informal network of experts for exploring the issues of regional and inter-regional aviation in the Arctic. The US/CITF (Circumpolar Infrastructure Task Force) was chosen as the coordinator for the network.

The CITF arranged an Aviation experts meeting in Anchorage, Alaska in February 2002. The major recommendations from the workshop point out that a "vision statement" for Arctic aviation should be developed, that the lack of information about issues including market analysis and cost/benefit analysis needs to be rectified, and that there is a need to develop an outline for a feasibility study to promote additional air links.

2.2.5.2. SDWG Work plan 2002-2004

Several of the projects that have been running in 2000-2002 are scheduled to continue during the next interministerial period. The work plans for the continuing projects follow.

a) The future of Children and Youth of the Arctic

The plan is to proceed with the three components. The Health Programme plans to complete collection of indicator data, build capacity, perform detailed analyses and strengthen communication and networking. An inventory of best practices models will be pursued. A policy and protocols for monitoring trends in health status over time will be developed.

The Networking Programme has planned eight activities with leadership primarily by Permanent Participants. These include a youth program for reindeer herders in Russia; a seminar to showcase

capacity building workshops; exchange of circumpolar youth for summer employment; promotion of outreach programs; a youth-friendly resource book on sustainable development; further development of "On Top of the World" website; development of Youth Environmental Information Centers in northern Russia; and an internet project on salmon.

The Internship Programme has an annual target of at least one intern per Arctic Council member country and Permanent Participant. The Programme will promote marketing of internships and exchanges with other Arctic organizations.

b) Co-management of Marine resources in Arctic Areas

The continuation depends on the availability of funding.

c) Ecological and Cultural Tourism

The Sustainable Model of Arctic Regional Tourism (SMART) Program will consist of several smaller projects, all building upon each other with the main aim to empower the tourism sector in the Arctic to continually innovate more sustainable business practices. Among other things a set of best practices will be collected. The program aims to generate fact sheets and information kits to be used in awareness campaigns. A training course in sustainable tourism is also planned for. The training course will prepare the graduates for participation in a proposed market recognition scheme that is visualized as a certification program and/or a logo. Finally the program will focus on marketing products and businesses that have joined the recognition scheme.

d) Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic

The collection of data from Greenland, Sweden, Finland, Norway and the Kola Peninsula is scheduled for fall 2002 and spring 2003. The 2003-2004 will be used for analyzing the collected data and preparing several reports.

e) Telemedicine

The Telemedicine Evaluation workshop is being scheduled to be held in Alaska in the fall of 2003. Funding has been secured for the planning of this workshop. Sessions to share information on current telemedicine activities will be provided in two venues. First, the Nordic Telemedicine Association meeting that is scheduled during September 2002 in Tromsø, Norway. Second, the 12th International Congress on Circumpolar Health that is scheduled for September 2003 in Nuuk, Greenland is to have a special section on telehealth.

f) International Circumpolar Surveillance

In this project it is planned to continue circumpolar surveillance of invasive bacterial diseases. Development of circumpolar laboratory quality control program for pathogens under surveillance is also planned for. The circumpolar surveillance of tuberculosis will be initiated and consideration is given to initiate circumpolar surveillance of infectious agents causing chronic diseases (HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, Helicobacter pylori).

Other planned activities include exploring options for extending ICS activities into Arctic regions of the Russian Federation (Barents Sea region and Russian Far East) and seeking after options for linking ICS with AMAP Human Health Working Group and other international surveillance networks (WHO, EU, PAHO).

g) Arctic transportation and infrastructure

The CITF (Circumpolar Transportation Task Force) will continue its efforts to improve circumpolar transportation, both in aviation and marine transportation. Arctic telecommunication problems are also on the future agenda. A small workshop on marine transportation is tentatively planned for October 2002, with the aim of establishing priorities in Arctic marine transportation. Norway is the lead part in EU's Interreg III B program, Northern Maritime Corridor, with partners from the countries around the North Sea Basin, North Atlantic and Russia. Within the framework of this programme an international conference will discuss the challenges for the harbors due to the increased economic activities, especially in the northern areas.

h) Reindeer husbandry and Wild Reindeer/Caribou

The Sustainable Reindeer husbandry project will have a follow-up. The working title for this follow-up project is: 'Reindeer husbandry and Wild Reindeer/Caribou'. The project proposal is divided into two parts:

1) Through the work of the "Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry" project, the challenges with the fast growing wild reindeer/caribou herds are mentioned as one of the factors that has a great impact on reindeer husbandry. This part of the project will focus on the development of the wild reindeer and caribou herds and the different national population managements. The anticipated outcome is a better understanding of the relation between herd fluctuation and management and its influence on the indigenous communities.

2) Reindeer husbandry is traditionally based on the family. The role of the family, or the different members of the family, varies between different reindeer societies in the circumpolar area. But what is happening with the family members and the family structure in the "modern" societies and in the period of rapid changes? The focus in this part of the project is on the different strategies used by reindeer families in response to different external pressures. Is there a development towards dissolution of the family or are external pressures strengthening the role of the family?

In addition to these continuing or follow-up projects SAOs request Ministers' approval for the following two new projects:

1) Arctic Human Development Report

The Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) is designed to be a comprehensive and updated assessment of human conditions in the entire circumpolar region. The product will be a scientifically-based overview and assessment written for the non-specialist, highlighting issues of particular concern for Arctic livelihoods and human well-being. As a baseline, the AHDR will not only identify problems encountered in the Arctic today but also lift out success stories and processes to be studied and adapted as fuel for building human and social capacity and enhancing community viability across the region. The goal is to have the AHDR completed in time for presentation at the fall 2004 Ministerial meeting of the AC.

2) Product development and processing in the sustainable reindeer husbandry

The main aim of the project is to preserve and develop reindeer husbandry. Other aims are:

- to develop and improve the reindeer husbandry of each region in such a manner that pastures are used in the most effective and ecologically sustained way to improve the social conditions of the indigenous peoples of the North.
- to ensure sustainable reindeer husbandry by related product development and further processing of reindeer products through utilizing especially education and research connected to it.

Geographical emphasis is on Russia but all countries where reindeer herding is practiced can participate in the project. The project contains the following sections: 1. Training in self-supervising of

slaughterhouses 2. Slaughtering and meat handling of reindeer 3. Uniform education in reindeer husbandry for the whole reindeer herding area 4. Tourism as a supplementary industry in reindeer husbandry 5. By-products of reindeer 6. Training in marketing and business management 7. Development seminars, excursions and negotiation trips

In addition the SAOs request mandate to consider possible initiatives on the basis of the recommendations from the Taking Wing – Conference on Gender Equality and Women in the Arctic.

The SAOs recommend to Ministers:

- to take note of the SDWG progress report and the work plan for 2002-2004 as outlined in the Annex 8
- to approve Arctic Human Development Report and Product development and processing in the sustainable reindeer husbandry as new projects in the SDWG
- to ask SAOs to consider and approve possible project proposals rising from the recommendations adopted by the Taking Wing – Conference on Gender Equality and Women in the Arctic
- to ask SDWG to continue its assistance to the SAOs in developing and implementing the Sustainable Development Program of the Council
- to ask SDWG to strengthen its role as the expert working group on the social, economic and cultural dimension of Sustainable Development
- to ask SDWG to seek input from experts from specialized ministries, departments and observer organizations including IASC in its work as appropriate;
- to ask SDWG to give priority to issues such as health, social affairs, education and training, tourism, children and youth,
- to ask the SDWG to develop new concrete proposals for economic cooperation in the Arctic, dealing with sustainable use of natural resources and improvement of infrastructure, including sea and air transport, information technologies and communication systems
- to ask SDWG to coordinate with CAFF its activities regarding living resources

2.2.6. ACAP (Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic)

ACAP was established in response to the AMAP findings. The Second Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council in Barrow, in 2000, adopted the Arctic Council Action Plan and determined that this plan would be a basis for developing and implementing actions under the Council's auspices with respect to pollution prevention and remediation addressing the pollution sources identified through AMAP. The Ministerial also established an ad hoc Steering Committee on an interim basis, for a period of two years. The Ministers recognized the need for PAME using the RPA, and ACAP to develop complementary activities.

Many Arctic States are represented in ACAP by experts in project preparation and administration and in international co-operation. The projects are managed by ad hoc project steering groups. To increase involvement and engagement the coordinating responsibility for the projects are distributed among the Arctic states and AMAP Secretariat.

2.2.6.1. ACAP Progress report 2000-2002

The SAOs note the progress in implementing several projects;

a) Multilateral Co-operative Project for Phase-out of PCB Use and Management of PCB-contaminated wastes in the Russian Federation

The project is aimed at developing and implementing pilot remedial actions that may serve as a model for the Russian Federal program on phasing out the use of PCB and managing PCB-contaminated waste. The project has three phases: Phase I: Evaluation of the sources and development of remedial actions, Phase II: Feasibility study on implementing remedial actions, Phase III: Implementation of demonstration projects with special focus on facilities for destruction of PCB-containing substances/equipment and rehabilitation of PCB-contaminated areas.

Phase I of the project was finalized in September 2000. Phase II is planned to be finalized in October 2002. The phase II activities will provide the basis for implementation of demonstration projects (phase III). Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, USA and the Netherlands and UNEP Chemicals participate in the project. The AMAP Secretariat is the project co-coordinator. Reports from this work have been published in special reports by AMAP and CIP (Center for International Projects - Russian performing entity of the PCB project), and the reports are also available at the AMAP's home pages <http://www.amap.no>

b) Reduction/Elimination of Emissions of Dioxins and Furans in the Russian Federation with focus on the Arctic and northern regions impacting the Arctic

This project aims to make an inventory of Dioxins/Furans sources in the Russian Federation that can impact the Arctic, quantify the releases to the environment and prioritize sources for implementation of remedial actions. The project has 3 phases. Phase I: evaluation of sources and development of remedial actions, Phase II Feasibility Study of options for implementation of BAT (Best Available Technology) and BEP (Best Environmental Practice) requirements and develop a proposal for an implementation plan. Phase III: Implementation of demonstration projects.

Phase I was initiated in March 2002. Tentative timetable: Phase I: March 2002-June 2003, Phase II: March 2003- June 2004, Phase III: July 2004-August 2005. Russia, Sweden (co-coordinator), USA and UNEP Chemicals and AMAP participate in the project. The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation through the Centre for International Projects (CIP) is co-coordinating project activities in Russia.

c) Development of fact sheets on Arctic contaminants for use by Arctic Council countries delegations in other fora

Fact sheets on POPs, heavy metals and radioactivity have been made. The project was completed in June 2001 under the co-ordination of the AMAP-secretariat. 2000 copies of the fact sheets have been distributed. The fact sheets have been translated into Danish, Greenlandic, Russian and Saami. The project has been financed by Denmark, Finland and Norway.

d) Environmentally sound management of stocks of obsolete pesticides in the Russian Federation

The project is designed to provide a model for the Russian Federation on how the existing stocks of these pesticides should be managed. About 25.000 tons of obsolete, banned or severely restricted pesticides is stored in numerous locations and is waiting for safe storage and disposal, including destruction. The project has 3 phases; I: Inventory of stocks in 11 Russian Arctic regions and other prioritized areas, II: Evaluation and selection of technologies, techniques and facilities for the environmentally sound storage, disposal and destruction of stocks; III: pilot plant operation with the use of selected technologies (demonstration projects). The participants are Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, USA (co-coordinator), UNEP Chemicals (secretariat) and AMAP.

e) Reduction of Atmospheric Mercury Releases from Arctic States

The overall objective is to contribute to reducing atmospheric mercury releases from Arctic states by identifying important anthropogenic source categories for mercury emission and to initiate cost effective reduction measures as pilot projects. The project has three phases: Phase I: Source category identification and prioritization, and Phase II: Selection of pilot project(s). Phase III: Implementation of pilot projects, based on the results from phase I and II and dependent on the financial possibility.

Tentative time schedule: phase I: July 2002-October 2003, Phase II: July 2003-February 2004. Phase III: approx. 2004 - 2006. Canada, Denmark (co-coordinator), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, USA and UNEP Chemicals and AMAP participate in the project.

f) Implementation of the Cleaner Production, Eco-Efficiency and Environmental Management systems in the Norilsk Mining and Metallurgical Company in the City of Norilsk, Russian Federation

The objective is to carry out a full Cleaner Production Assessment of all production units and utilities in the city of Norilsk, and to introduce other instruments of eco-efficiency to these units as appropriate, and to train engineers of the company how to achieve economically sound environmental improvements. Concrete environmental projects will be developed in all participating production units and public utilities, and will be implemented as part of the training courses. The first training program was carried out in the period January-2002-July 2002. The second group for training is planned for the second half of the year 2002. The management of NN – Zapolyarny Branch (Copper Factory, Nickel factory, Agglomeration factory, Thermo-electrical power stations etc.) takes part in the program.

The participants are Russia, USA and Norway. The project is coordinated by Russia (The “Russian-Norwegian Cleaner Production Centre”, Moscow). The financial support for the first Program was provided by the Company on the basis of the appropriate Agreement between RNCPC and Zapolyarny Branch of the Company.

Many of the projects are good examples of concrete action in implementing international pollution control agreements (Stockholm Convention, LRTAP). ACAP has held three meetings in the Steering Committee, several project meetings, and separate meetings with UNEP Chemicals to establish a project co-operation and with NEFCO to co-ordinate international financing.

2.2.6.2. ACAP Work plan 2002-2004

The SAOs recommend that ACAP continue the implementation of the projects a-f listed in the progress report above with special attention of the phase III of the PCB-project. The possibility of preparing new fact sheets on POPs, heavy metals and radioactivity presenting the latest findings of AMAP should be considered. The project “Guidelines for performing environmental impact assessments of handling and storage of radioactive waste in Russia” is an Annex B project in ACAP’s project listing and needs some further development, but could be implemented with SAO direction and approval.

Several of the projects are not fully financed and the SAOs note that further financial and other support has been requested to ensure the continuation of the projects or to ensure that there is no interruption of the project activities. The SAOs note that the implementation of pilot- and demonstration projects may need extensive financing (e.g. the PCB project, phase III).

In the planning of new projects, the ACAP Steering Committee will be guided in large part by the findings of AMAP, presented in the 2002 State of Environment report.

The SAOs recommend to Ministers:

- to take note of ACAP report for 2000-2002 and the work plan for 2002-2004 as outlined above
- to extend the mandate of ACAP as described in the Barrow declaration until the Ministerial Meeting in 2006;
- to welcome the report on Phase II of the 'Multilateral Co-operative Project for Phase-out of PCB Use, and Management of PCB-Contaminated Waste in the Russian Federation', which was supported by all eight Arctic States and the UNEP Chemicals,
- to support going forward with Phase III of the PCB Project and mandate SAOs to review the progress
- to welcome the progress of the other ACAP projects as described in the Barrow Declaration and support their further implementation
- to request ACAP to engage in the administration of pre-investment, feasibility studies or other specific preparation of investment projects managed by third parties only after approval by the SAOs
- to ask ACAP to work closely with all Working Groups, especially with AMAP and PAME.

2.2.7. ACIA (Arctic Climate Impact Assessment)

Climate variability and change, and increases in UV radiation, have become important issues in the Arctic over the past few decades. It has become imperative to examine possible future impacts on the environment and its living resources, on human health, and on relevant economic sectors. The ACIA is expected to lead to useful information for the nations of the Arctic region, their economy, resources, and peoples. Three major volumes will be completed by 2004 for submission to the AC; they are a peer-reviewed scientific volume, a synthesis document summarizing results, and a policy document providing recommendations for coping and adaptation measures.

The ACIA selected a moderate IPCC future emission scenario which is being implemented on 5 climate models (GCMs) that are readily available to scientists in North America and European centers. The resulting climate change scenarios will be presented, focusing on time slices around 2020, 2050 and 2080. Impacts on the natural and socio-economic environments of the Arctic will be considered in light of these projected changes.

Following the AC request, AMAP and CAFF, in collaboration with IASC, are actively participating in ACIA work. They, together with UNEP GRID-Arendal and Russian experts, have prepared an application to GEF for financial support to secure the active participation of Russian scientists in the work. As a part of the preparation of the 2002 AMAP assessments and planning of the ACIA, several international conferences and workshops have been held since the Ministerial meeting in 2000, see Annex 3 of the SAO Report.

CAFF and AMAP have submitted a plan for the preparation of the ACIA Policy Document to the SAOs. Work on the policy document, which builds on the results of the ACIA Scientific assessment. This work will commence in early 2003. The ACIA Policy Document will be prepared in laymen's terms and as a stand-alone document. The background for the scientific conclusions and all references to scientific literature will be in the ACIA Scientific Report, which will be presented at the same time. The primary audience for the ACIA policy document will be AC Ministers, SAOs and Permanent Participants, but the policy document will also be of interest to international fora dealing with climate and UV/ozone questions (e.g. EU, UN/IPCC), Arctic residents, business interests and other

stakeholders. Representatives from the other AC working groups are invited to participate in the review of relevant chapters of the ACIA policy document.

The USA has funded a secretariat to facilitate the production of the Assessment as well as to provide for the preparation and publishing of associated reports. Other Arctic countries have made substantial in kind contributions.

The SAOs recommend to Ministers

- **to encourage ACIA to work further aiming at completion of the ACIA scientific volume and synthesis document by the AC's 4th Ministerial Meeting in 2004**
- **to approve the proposal for preparation of the ACIA Policy Document by AMAP, CAFF and other relevant bodies under AC (Annex 9).**

2.3. OTHER ONGOING INITIATIVES

2.3.1. GENDER EQUALITY REPORT FROM TAKING WING – CONFERENCE ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN IN THE ARCTIC

The Arctic Council's conference on Gender Equality and Women in the Arctic under the title 'Taking Wing' was held in Saariselkä, Inari, Finland on 3-6 August 2002. The conference brought together approximately 200 participants including representatives of all Member States of the Council, the Permanent Participants, the Northern Forum, the Nordic Council of Ministers, indigenous and non-indigenous women's organisations, administrators and researchers.

Finland's initiative to host the conference was adopted by the SAOs in Rovaniemi in June, 2001. The conference was organised in co-operation with the Nordic Council of Ministers and with the assistance of a reference group comprised of representatives of Member States, Permanent Participants and some Observers.

The conference addressed three themes: 'Women and Work in the Arctic', 'Gender in the self-determination of indigenous peoples' and 'Violence against women'.

All conference papers and recommendations made during the conference were published in the Conference Report in English and in Russian. The report is also available online at <http://www.arctic-council.org/pmeetings/gender/index.asp>

The SAOs recommend to the Ministers

to take note of the Annex 10 as the report of the Taking Wing conference including the recommendations and request the SAOs, assisted by the SDWG, to consider possible future actions taking into account these recommendations:

- to mainstream gender equality in the Arctic Council,
- to work for balanced participation of indigenous and non-indigenous women and men in Arctic decision-making,
to encourage the Member States to recognize, legislate as appropriate and implement full equality between women and men in the management and ownership of land and resources, and to continue their efforts to ratify the ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples
- to encourage the Member States to develop and sponsor projects and programs on the advancement of entrepreneurship by Arctic indigenous and non-indigenous women
- to promote capacity building and education by and for indigenous and non-indigenous women in the Arctic in particular on management of Arctic resources
- to establish a work plan on combating violence against women, including prostitution and trafficking
- to promote women's health in the Arctic particularly determining the impact of contaminants on indigenous women and all women of reproductive age
- to encourage gathering and publishing disaggregated data pertaining to indigenous and non-indigenous women and men for the ADHR
- to take note of the need to support networking among Arctic women
- to recommend to the Member States to take action in the United Nations recommending establishing a Year of Indigenous Woman

2.3.2 UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

In Barrow, Alaska, in October 2000, the Ministers of the Arctic Council saw the promise that the University of the Arctic (UArctic) represented for the sustainability of northern peoples and communities. In the two years since that meeting, the University of the Arctic has transformed itself from an idea to reality, and begun delivering on its promise. During 2000-2002, UArctic established both its administrative capacity and academic programs with its official Launch in June 2001. Students are now accessing UArctic curriculum content using new delivery methods that were only imagined two years ago.

UArctic is governed by the Board of Governors, with overall responsibility to oversee its operations, and the Council, where UArctic's member institutions and organizations are represented. The daily administration of the University has been strengthened by the appointment of a full-time Director, and the continued administrative support of the Circumpolar Coordination Office, both with funding from the Government of Finland.

The Core programs of the University of the Arctic, the Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies (BCS), Arctic Learning Environment (ALE), and Circumpolar Mobility Program (CMP) were all piloted in the 2001-2002 academic year. The first course, BCS100: Introduction to the Circumpolar World was successfully piloted online in spring 2002, using the Arctic Learning Environment, with 26 students from Canada, Greenland, Finland and Russia participating. With support from the government of Canada, the Nordic Council of Ministers and others, BCS curriculum and the ALE portal continue to be developed and

piloted. The north2north program, part of UArctic's Circumpolar Mobility Program, is currently being piloted with the funding and participation of Finland, Sweden, Norway, Russia, and USA (supported by the Scandinavian Seminar Group). Other UArctic programs include the Northern Research Forum and the UArctic Field School and PhD Networks.

Having successfully established both its basic operating structure and piloted its initial slate of academic programs, the University of the Arctic looks forward to consolidating these accomplishments and expanding the delivery of its programs. The gains made in the past two years put UArctic well on the road towards its goal of breaking down barriers to higher education in the North in order to promote sustainability and community viability. To meet the challenges ahead will require the continued support of the governments of the AC.

◆ PART 3: ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

3.1. CALL FOR EFFICIENCY, PRIORITIZATION AND INTERACTION: THE REVIEW PROCESS

The Barrow Ministerial meeting requested that the SAOs, with assistance from the chairs of the AC subsidiary bodies, consider the future of the ACAP and recommend appropriate ways to improve the way work is structured in the AC and present a report to the next Ministerial Meeting. This report with specific recommendations is available as this report's Annex 1.

During the review process the limits of undertakings of the Council was thoroughly discussed, bearing in mind that the Council is operating as a high level forum without a permanent secretariat or financial resources of its own. The AC Secretariat will rotate with the chairmanship and funding will continue to be voluntary. The lead country approach is essential in project managing. The active dialogue between the SAOs and working groups is considered crucial. It was agreed that the working groups must report regularly and in a timely fashion to and seek guidance from the SAOs. The SAOs should from their part prepare and coordinate more carefully the mandates to be given to the working groups.

To help the working groups present their activities to the SAOs the AC Chair should continue to organize regular meetings or electronic forums of the Working Group Chairs accompanied by their secretariats and representatives from the IPS. These consultations have served as a way for the working groups to inform each other of planned activities and thus helped to avoid overlaps. Also active use of email correspondence between the Chair, SAOs, working groups and Permanent Participants have contributed to the better planning and coordination of the AC activities between the official meetings.

SAOs are pleased to report that there has been an increase in the number of joint workshops hosted by working groups and increased cooperation can be noted. As an example of this coordination, AMAP and CAFF have held a second joint working group meeting and several joint workshops to discuss collaboration, implementation and delivery of data to the ACIA, and related work on biological monitoring.

3.2. ADMINISTRATION

SAOs acknowledge with appreciation Finland's role in chairing the AC from 2000-2002 and for hosting the 3rd AC Ministerial meeting in Inari Oct 9-10, 2002. Effective use of IT-technologies has proved to be a crucial instrument in the Council's every day work. Distribution of information via email notes and AC's web pages (<http://www.arctic-council.org>) has proved to be an efficient way of working between the official meetings. During 2000-2002 the AC's web pages have had approximately 250 000 visitors. Also the distribution of Council's meeting documents through the password protected area of the AC's web pages has made it possible for everybody involved with the Council's activities to follow the SAO meeting preparations online. In the rotating chairmanship and secretariat the electronic archives are an important tool contributing to the institutional memory of the Council.

Administration of the working groups

The operational cost of the AMAP Secretariat was approximately 330 000 USD in 2002. Norway has secured the core funding of the Secretariat since 1991. The number of staff in the AMAP Secretariat is four persons. The CAFF secretariat is collocated with the PAME Secretariat in Akureyri, Iceland. Iceland provide 50 % of the cost of the both secretariats. CAFF Secretariat operates with a approximately 250 000 USD per year. The staff consist of an executive secretary, technical advisor and a part-time administrative assistant. The operational cost of the PAME Secretariat in 2002 is 154 000 USD. The PAME Secretariat consists of an Executive Secretary and a part-time administrative assistant that is shared with CAFF. The Chair of the EPPR working group provides also secretarial assistance. Finland has provided secretarial support for EPPR since 1997. Canada has offered to provide secretarial support for EPPR during its' chairmanship of the working group as of October 2002.

Between 2000-2002 the SDWG Secretariat has been in Finland consisting of one half time Executive Secretary. Canada has offered to host a secretariat for the SDWG, as beginning of November 2002 and has offered to fund 50% of its budget. The aim is to provide secretarial support services to the SDWG. Initially, the intention is to establish a small office comprised of an Executive Secretary, a part-time administrative assistant, with contracted professional services as required.

Norway has chaired and provided secretarial support for ACAP 2000-2002. The secretarial support amounts to about 1/3 man-labour per year, and the operational cost per year has been about 23.000 USD.

The USA has provided support for the CITF initiative directly and indirectly through the Northern Forum Secretariat from 2000-2002 in the amount of 150 000 USD.

Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS)

The last two years has seen increasing recognition by the world community that the Arctic is an indicator region for global environmental change. Indigenous Peoples have worked to foster this understanding in a number of global processes, including negotiations for the Stockholm POPs Convention. The Convention provides a model for tackling other contaminants threats. It is anticipated that Arctic data and the voices of Indigenous Peoples – which played an important in the success of the

Stockholm treaty – will have a similar positive influence on the global mercury assessment now underway.

Climate change, its often dramatic effects on Arctic peoples and ecosystem, and the increasing recognition that the Arctic Indigenous Peoples must be intimately involved in the development of policy responses, is a global issue with varied regional implications. Indigenous perspectives are key to the work of the ACIA. Three representatives of the Permanent Participants sit on the ACIA Steering Committee and all organizations are working to ensure the integration of indigenous knowledge and observations into the assessment. All Permanent Participants and IPS will be involved in the development of ACIA policy recommendations to be developed over the next two years.

The voices of Arctic Indigenous Peoples were also heard at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in August 2002. IPS co-ordinated the development of a brochure for the WSSD which illustrates the co-operation between Permanent Participants and AC states on climate change. The AC is used as an example of the kind of arrangements that could be developed following the Summit to give Indigenous Peoples around the world a voice in determining policies that affect their lands, resources, and cultures. Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden provided financial assistance to this project.

As part of the renewal of the mandate of the IPS, the Permanent Participants identified a number of priorities to guide the work Secretariat. These are climate change, contaminants, sustainable development and its relation to land rights, and the need to build human and financial capacity.

IPS continues to receive most of its core funding from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, a relationship the Permanent Participants appreciate and acknowledge. Other support comes from the Greenland Home Rule Government, the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the governments of Norway, the United States, Canada, Finland, Iceland and Sweden. Nevertheless, financing remains a continuing issue for all Arctic Indigenous Peoples' organizations and the Secretariat. IPS will continue to work with the AC states and other agencies to try to secure additional funding to enhance the role of the Permanent Participants at the AC and in other international fora.

3.3. OUTSIDE INVESTMENT IN AC PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Many of the projects that have been and will be given priority by the Arctic Council will involve pilot studies demonstrating new technology or new procedures. The SAOs are aware of the growing need to stimulate outside investments in the Arctic as a follow-up to the projects and activities of the Council. International and regional financial institutions tend to finance, however, only those projects they have been able to be involved in already at the pre-investment phase. This would mean that SAOs, on the recommendation of the Working Groups, should alert such institutions and the private sector at an early stage. Keeping in mind the capacity limits of the Council, involvement in the preparation of financially extensive projects and programs should be carefully considered. During the next interministerial period, SAOs will be considering ways to seek professional advice in project preparation for funding among external financing partners.

The voluntary funding of AC activities has functioned so far much better than expected. However, heavy responsibilities lie with the Chair of the Council and the countries hosting Secretariats of the Working Groups as well as for lead countries responsible for specific projects. SAOs are aware of the fact that working groups in particular are increasingly facing difficulties in raising funds for all activities included in their mandates approved by the Ministers. In the future, possibility of approaching the private sector, including relevant foundations, in raising funds should be taken into consideration

Financial institutions are generally project focused. Therefore, it is of critical importance to be able to demonstrate the bankability of AC projects in order to mobilize an interest from potential institutions. Each IFI has its own process for project preparation. It could be practical if the AC outlines its priorities by preparing a list of approved project proposals; projects that the AC wants to bring forward (“an AC-project Pipeline”). This list should indicate host country commitment for each project and contain an assessment of financial and environmental viability and benefits and a description of the problem owners. The early involvement of a problem owner as well as a clear commitment of the host country is essential for the co-ordination of the project to be successful.

AC activities may be natural precursors to co-operation projects with IFIs. A goal for the AC should be to establish a common understanding with some IFIs in order to involve them at an early stage and thus start the IFIs’ project identification and preparation process early. A permanent working-relationship with IFIs should be considered by SAOs. The SAOs recommend initiating efforts to try to co-ordinate the two processes and clarify the resulting AC process to be followed by all investment projects.

IFI involvement will require the full political and institutional support from the AC, and especially from the host country, as projects proceed to completion. It is therefore important that the projects continue to be AC projects even when projects in large are “handed over” to an IFI.

To enhance the co-operation in concrete projects, the AC should work with an IFI or possibly with the facilitation of a designated PPC-officer (PPC: The UN-ECE Project Preparation Committee) who can assist in seeking financial assistance for investment projects and bridge the gap between the AC initiatives and IFI project pipeline.

The AC could approach primarily NEFCO because of its environmental focus on lending and grant activities in Russia and its charter by the AC member countries Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland. Other possible IFI partners could include the EBRD, World Bank, GEF and Nordic Investment Bank (NIB).

The SAOs recommend to Ministers

- **to request the SAOs to develop criteria for prioritizing AC projects which have circumpolar relevance**
- **to request the SAOs to prioritize project proposals that need extensive funding and serve as a clearing house for Arctic Council activities that seek funding from the private sector or international and regional financial institutions**
- **to consider how to best make professional expertise available in project preparation and funding.**
- **to explore possibilities of raising funding in the private sector, including relevant foundations.**

• • • • •