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Operationalizing One Health in the Arctic

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**SDWG Project: Operationalizing One Health In The Arctic
Leads: United States, Canada
10 February 2017**

Forward-Looking Recommendations:

1. The Arctic Council and SDWG should continue to **promote One Health as a critical strategy to regional resilience.**
2. One Health approaches are already well-established at local levels in much of the Arctic, but the **Arctic Council and SDWG work should promote stronger international and circumpolar cooperation**, including via sharing of knowledge, simulating One Health events and responses, and investigating observed One Health phenomena. In particular, the Arctic Council and SDWG should continue to benefit from the extensive Traditional and Local Knowledge (TLK) of indigenous communities and Permanent Participants: TLK is deeply connected to any meaningful understanding and practice of One Health in the Arctic region.
3. One Health is a well-recognized concept among participants in the SDWG One Health project survey, knowledge sharing activities, and Table Top Exercise. **Future Arctic One Health efforts should build from this base of strong grassroots awareness and leadership.**
4. Table Top Exercises are critical for understanding how One Health approaches work in practice and how stakeholders would like them to work under ideal circumstances. **The Arctic Council, SDWG, Member States, Permanent Participants, Accredited Observers, Arctic communities should promote regular and recurring Table Top Exercises**, as a tool for continued capacity building and relationship strengthening.
4. One Health Hubs/Points of Contact (POCs) can facilitate cooperation within and between countries in the Arctic region on One Health projects. **Arctic Council member states, Permanent Participants, and Accredited Observers should identify and empower hubs/POCs** to promote identification and development of circumpolar One Health hubs.
5. While knowledge sharing, education events and simulated events (such as TTXs) are essential, there is no substitute for concrete One Health collaborative activities on the ground. **The Arctic Council, SDWG, Member States, Permanent Participants, Accredited Observers, and Arctic communities should promote opportunities for increased international collaborative investigations of One Health phenomena in the circumpolar region.** These investigations should be – to the greatest extent possible – grounded in the observations of local observers, and should include “after-action” activities to assess good practices and lessons learned, to be shared not only with One Health stakeholders but also with Arctic Council stakeholders engaged in resilience activities more broadly.

6. Local environmental observing is essential for identifying events that may have One Health implications for further analysis. One Health hubs should be sensitive to and responsive of locally-observed phenomena. Moreover, **results of One Health investigations and analysis should cycle back to observers in the form of data sharing, risk communication, and community involvement in decision making.**

7. One Health depends on collaboration between communities, governments, and nongovernmental institutions such as businesses, nonprofit groups, and academia. **SDWG should continue to engage nongovernmental groups in future One Health projects and activities.**