

Presentations from Rovaniemi 2018 SAO Meeting

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Arctic Council

Arctic Council Secretariat

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Task Force on Improved Connectivity in the Arctic

SAO Plenary meeting, 1-2 November, 2018

Rovaniemi

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Some highlights from conversations with the telecommunications industry

- A number of ongoing projects (satellites, cables, others) exists which have the potential to dramatically increase connectivity, speed and improve coverage throughout the Arctic
- Pricing, availability, reliability and accessibility remain some of the biggest challenges
- Governments should be flexible and provide clear guidance on timing and regulatory certainty to help ease the deployment of new technology
- There is no “one size fits all” solution

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1. Executive summary
2. Mandate and goals of the Task Force on Improved Connectivity in the Arctic (TFICA)
3. Selected highlights from the telecommunications industry, users and other experts on capabilities and connectivity issues in the Arctic
4. Facilitating access to technologies
 - a. A picture of financial models relevant for connectivity in the Arctic
 - b. A presentation of 5-10 concrete examples/challenges
5. Establishing relationships with other parties to collaborate on ways to improve connectivity in the Arctic
 - Arctic Council Working Groups
 - Arctic Economic Council
 - Arctic Coast Guard Forum
 - Academia
6. Conclusions and recommendations

Connectivity issues within the framework of the Arctic Council

Options:

1. To establish a joint Task Force together with the Connectivity Working Group of the AEC during the next chairmanship
2. Future work on connectivity could be led by the Connectivity Working Group of the AEC (perhaps led by a Sherpa) with input from the Arctic States, PPs and WGs
3. The topic of connectivity could be discussed regularly through thematic discussions at SAO meetings
4. Future work on connectivity in the Arctic could be led by one the Arctic Council Working Groups
5. Others

Thank you!

