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## Chair's Summary: Online working meeting of the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane 29 September 2020

### Introduction

The Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane (EGBCM) held an online working meeting on 29 September 2020. Kristín Linda Árnadóttir (Iceland) chaired the meeting. Participants included the eight Arctic States (Canada, Finland, Kingdom of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States); six Observer States (Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Poland, Spain) and the European Union.

### Work on the Summary of Progress and Recommendations Report 2021

The Chair commended the sector paper leads and writing groups on their first drafts of the sector papers. She also thanked delegations for the submitted national reports that serve as the basis for the group's work. On the day of the meeting, six Arctic States (Finland, Kingdom of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Canada) and eight Observer States (Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, the UK) and the EU had submitted a national report to the EGBCM. The Chair, joined by some Arctic States, encouraged the remaining States to submit their national papers. Largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been some delays in the group's work schedule. However, the Chair was positive about the group's continued work and progress made online.

**The technical team** presented an updated "draft memo", which is a spreadsheet of reported data, presenting black carbon (BC) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) emissions by country totals and by sectors. The data includes emissions as reported in the 2020 national reports, and the memo is meant to help sector teams make conclusions for the Summary Report. The national data submitted by each State serves as the primary data in the group's work. Supplementary data from the GAINS model of IIASA is also included in the memo, but as agreed already earlier, this data is to be used only as secondary data and to fill in gaps. The Chair reiterated the tech team's remark that each State has ownership to their data, and thus also the responsibility to ensure that correct figures are presented in the tech memo tables and eventually in the Summary Report. The technical team welcomed the offer from the Arctic Council Secretariat (ACS) to provide support with creating infographics for the Summary Report.

**Each sector group lead** presented the current status of the work and the most pertaining questions for discussion with the group. The work is divided into six sectors similar to the 2019 Summary Report: mobile and stationary diesel sources, oil and gas, residential combustion, solid waste, agriculture and animal husbandry, and management of wildfires. Most of the 2019 Summary Report's recommendations were still deemed relevant and valid. Some revisions were discussed, mainly to consider whether recommendations could be streamlined and made more clear and concise. Answering a sector lead's question, the Chair concluded that the sector groups should aim to incorporate Observers' activities in the status of implementation sections, noting that the main focus is on the Arctic States.

To conclude, the Chair invited all experts to submit their additional comments, text suggestions and information directly to the sector leads. The sector leads took note of the discussions, and will work

on updated drafts of the papers to be discussed at the next meeting. The next drafts – possibly combined into a first draft of the Summary Report 2021 – will be discussed in the next online working meeting at the end of November 2020. After the meeting, the Chair reverted back to the sector leads with more detailed instructions on the procedure and timeline. In addition, the Chair provided the authors with a check-list to facilitate cohesive and consistent writing.

### Communication efforts

The ACS Head of Communications, Kristina Baer, presented an overview of possible EGBCM communications efforts for the group's discussion and consideration, especially in preparation of the 2021 Ministerial meeting. The suggestions included an EGBCM & BC fact sheet, infographics, story maps of national projects or initiatives, and establishing media personalities and national contact points for targeted outreach efforts.

Many expressed their enthusiasm and appreciation for the ACS support on communications, noting that it's important to be mindful that the common work throughout the Arctic Council subsidiary bodies is integrated in the EG's outreach efforts.

The Chair invited the experts to submit ideas and suggestions for infographic themes to the ACS ([acs@arctic-council.org](mailto:acs@arctic-council.org)). The technical team will steer this work, and the ACS will be able to offer in-kind expertise for developing infographics. The technical team and the ACS will convene a meeting to start building on the submitted inputs.

Kristina Baer took note of the comments and ideas that were raised to improve the EGBCM's web presence. One option for social media will be to develop EGBCM/BC tweets and run those by the group. As for the fact sheets, the Chair stressed that the plan is to use only existing and approved text. Two delegations commented that additional products from the EGBCM would need to be considered among the group.

### Work program and schedule

The Chair noted that the EGBCM schedule outline that was updated in June 2020 is still relevant for the most parts, though it includes some outdated dates. The Chair shared a revised timeline with the group after the meeting.

The Chair also suggested to have the next online working meeting the last week of November. Based on the feedback given at the meeting, the Chair set the date for **23-24 November 2020**.

### SAO Report to Ministers 2021

The SAO Chair has invited each Working Group and the Expert Group to submit a first draft version of their section for the 2021 SAO Report to Ministers (SAO RTM) by 20 November 2020. Recognizing that the EGBCM Summary Report work is very much in process, the Chair suggested that she submit a first draft version with a disclaimer that it has not been approved by the EGBCM. The Chair's draft version does not include new text, and is based on the EGBCM SAO RTM 2019 text, with technical updates integrated. There were no objections to the Chair's proposal.

The Chair underlined that there will still be ample opportunities for the group to work on the EGBCM SAO RTM chapter. Finland and the US volunteered to support the Chair with the SAO RTM writing process.

### Any other business

The Chair will be speaking at [the Arctic Resilience Forum](#)'s Renewable Energy session on 21 October 2020 and invited all EGBCM members to attend the online webinar.

Canada flagged that the [Global Methane Forum 2020](#) is looking to possibly reschedule to 2021, or later, and pointed out that some of the forum's subcommittees have interesting interlinkages also to the EGBCM work.