SAO plenary meeting
Reykjavik, Iceland
17-19 November 2020
Final agenda

DAY 1 | 17 November 2020

**13:30** Delegates join meeting via GoToMeeting

Join the SAO plenary meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

- Pre-recorded videos for the fall SAO plenary agenda can be viewed on Vimeo with the following password **ISSAOP2020**
- A link to access the SAO plenary will be provided by email on **16 November 2020**.
- Do not share link with others than confirmed participants.
- HoD are responsible for the management of their delegation size. The online meeting room will be monitored. **Non-registered attendees will be excluded.**
- SAOC, SAOs, PP HoD, WG/EG Chairs will be on camera during the plenary meeting, while other participants are expected to remain in listening mode except when invited to take the floor.
- Guidelines for online SAO meetings have been shared with participants i.a. and provide instructions for requests for the floor.
- The SAO plenary meeting will not be recorded. We ask you to refrain from making any recordings of the SAO plenary.

**14:00** (GMT) SAO plenary meeting convenes

1. Introduction

1.1 Opening remarks

Speaker: **Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials**

1.2 Approval of the agenda

Speaker: **Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials**

Document(s):

SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_01_Third-Draft-Agenda

*This is page 1 of 12*
2. Arctic Council Secretariat update

Speaker: Nina Buvang Vaaja, director of the Arctic Council Secretariat

Background: The ACS director will give a status update on the current work at the ACS, guided by the 2019-2021 Work Plan approved last year at the Rovaniemi Ministerial meeting.

Action: For information

Document(s): None

3. Arctic Council Communications

3.1 Communications Strategy review

Speaker: Kristina Bär, Head of Communications, Arctic Council Secretariat

Background: According to the Arctic Council Communications Strategy adopted in 2018, SAOs and PPs are required to review the communications strategy every two years to ensure that the Council continues to adjust to the rapidly evolving communications environment in which it operates. The Chairmanship, with help from the ACS, prepared an updated strategy, which was discussed with the Communications Outreach Group and shared with SAOs and PPs for their consideration.

Action: For discussion and decision

Document(s):
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_03-1-A_Arctic-Council-Communications-Strategy-2020
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_03-1-B_Arctic-Council-Communications-and-Outreach-Guidelines-2020

3.2. Update on outreach efforts

Speaker: Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials

Background: From the last SAO meeting in June 2020, several webinars on Arctic issues have been held with participation from the Arctic Council Chairmanship and in cooperation with the ACS Communications team. Upcoming opportunities for communications efforts will be discussed.

Action: For information and discussion

Document(s): None
4. SAO Marine Mechanism

Speaker: Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials

Background: The first edition of the SAO Marine Mechanism (SMM) to coordinate cooperation on marine issues in the Arctic Council was held through a series of six webinar sessions between 29 September and 29 October 2020. The webinar series was established to create a frame for panel discussion on Arctic marine matters with input from marine experts from the Arctic States, PPs, WGs and Observers. It seeks to provide strategic and policy guidance, as well as coordination to SAOs and PPs. The SAOC will present a brief summary of the main conclusions from the webinar series, invite delegates to evaluate and discuss the process and outcomes and give direction for the next steps.

Action: For discussion, possible action, and guidance on future steps

Document(s):
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_04_SMM-Summary-of-Proceedings

5. Youth engagement in the Arctic Council

Speaker: Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials; Sóley Margrét Rafnsdóttir, Icelandic Chairmanship (pre-recorded video); Rosa Máren Magga, Advisor, Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (pre-recorded video)

Background: At the Hveragerði plenary meeting in November 2019, avenues for future youth engagement in the work of the Arctic Council were discussed. It was decided that an internship with a youth engagement focus would be offered at the ACS in the fall of 2020, however the Covid-19 pandemic delayed those plans. Following the strong support, reaffirmed at the June 2020 SAOX, to move forward on fostering sustainable and meaningful collaboration and engagement between youth and the Arctic Council, the Chairmanship invites delegates to discuss possible ways forward on youth engagement.

Action: For discussion, possible action, and guidance on future steps

Document(s):
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_05-A_IPS-Backgrounder-Youth-Engagement-in-the-Arctic-Council
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_05-B_Chamanship-Discussion-Paper-on-Youth-Engagement-in-the-Arctic-Council

16:00-16:30 (GMT) Health Break
6. Climate and Green Energy Solutions: thematic discussion

**Speaker:** Kristin Linda Árnadóttir, EGBCM Chair; Stefán Skjaldarson, SDWG Chair (pre-recorded video); Inger Johanne Wiese, ACAP Chair (pre-recorded video); Árni Snorrsason, Director General, Icelandic Meteorological Office (pre-recorded video); Anders Turesson, AMAP Chair.

**Background:** The aim is to have a thematic discussion on the work of the Arctic Council relating to the Chairmanship’s emphasis on Climate and Green Energy Solutions in the Arctic. To guide the discussion, WGs and EG Chairs will have the option to pre-record a short presentation of no more than 10 minutes, on relevant project work, to be made available to registered participants as soon as possible prior to the meeting. This agenda item will consist of an open discussion between WG Chairs, SAOs and PP HoD.

**Action:** For information and discussion

**Document(s):** None

**18:30** (GMT) SAO plenary meeting adjourns for the day.
DAY 2 | 18 November 2020

13:30 Delegates join meeting via GoToMeeting

14:00 (GMT) SAO plenary meeting reconvenes

7. Arctic Council deliverables for the 12th Ministerial meeting

7.1 Status update on Working Group work plans and deliverables, 2019-2021

**Speakers:** Working Group Chairs; pre-recorded presentations from SDWG, PAME and AMAP are available on the SAO plenary Vimeo webpage.

**Background:** Working Groups are invited to provide updates and raise issues that require specific attention from the SAOs before the WGs enter the final phase of preparation of deliverables for the May 2021 Ministerial meeting. The Chairs are requested to inform the SAOs about expected reports and possible policy recommendations included therein, about possible delayed projects, as well as other issues of relevance to the SAOs. WG progress reports will form the basis for discussions. WG Chairs may provide prerecorded oral presentations in support of their reports.

**Action:** For information and discussion

**Documents:**
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_07-1-A_ACAP-Fall-2020-Progress-Report
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_07-1-B_AMAP-Fall-2020-Progress-Report
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_07-1-C_CAFF-Fall-2020-Progress-Report
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_07-1-D_EPPR-Fall-2020-Progress-Report
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_07-1-E_PAME-Fall-2020-Progress-Report
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_07-1-F_SDWG-Fall-2020-Progress-Report
7.2 EGBCM status update and deliverables, 2019-2021

**Speaker:** Kristín Linda Árnadóttir, *Chair of the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane*

**Background:** EGBCM Chair is invited to provide an update on the EG’s work before entering the final phase of preparation of deliverables for the May 2021 Ministerial meeting.

**Action:** For information and discussion

**Documents:**
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_07-2-EGBCM- Progress-Report

7.3 Update on Arctic Council work on COVID-19 in the Arctic

**Speaker(s):** Stefán Skjaldarson, *Chair of SDWG*

**Background:** At the June 2020 SAO executive meeting, the SAO Chair concluded that there was general support for continued work by the Arctic Council on assessing the situation of Covid-19 in the circumpolar Arctic. Following the meeting, States, PPs and WGs were invited to submit formulated positions on what can be done in terms of existing and/or new projects to help determine the next steps for the Arctic Council’s work on the coronavirus, and other future pandemics, in the Arctic. The Chair of the SDWG will provide an overview of the WG’s findings and recommendations on future work on Covid-19 in the Arctic Council. SAOs are requested to provide guidance on the Arctic Council’s next steps in this area.

**Action:** For discussion and decision

**Document(s):**
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_07-3A_Future-Arctic-Council-Work-on-Covid19_ACAP
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_07-3B_Future-Arctic-Council-Work-on-Covid19_EPPR
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_07-3C_Future-Arctic-Council-Work-on-Covid19_SDWG
7.4. Update on the first Regional Action Plan for marine litter and plastic pollution for the Arctic region

**Speakers:** Elizabeth McLanahan, PAME Vice-Chair; Magnús Jóhannesson, Special Coordinator on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter

**Background:** Under the leadership of PAME, the Arctic Council is working on a Regional Action Plan against marine litter and plastic pollution in the Arctic region. An update will be provided on the status of the draft and other related ongoing Arctic Council work on plastics and marine litter.

**Action:** For information and discussion

**Document(s):** None

8. Project Support Instrument (PSI) update and way forward

**Speaker:** Ulf Bojö, PSI Facility Manager

**Background:** In Hveragerði last year, it was suggested that a PSI update become a standing agenda item in future SAO meetings to ensure that the Arctic Council’s funding mechanism continues to be aligned with the goals and interest of the Council. The PSI Facility Manager has prepared a progress report to update delegates on the ongoing implementation of the PSI reforms and other related information with regard to the PSI’s mandate and involvement in WG projects. With the pilot phase of the PSI I expiring at the end of 2021, SAOs have been instructed by the Rovaniemi Ministerial meeting in 2019 to take action with respect to the funding instrument’s future and, if appropriate, to identify actions for Ministers in 2021. The PSI Review Report (2018) recommended that preparations for a PSI II begin as soon as possible to be operational in early 2022.

**Action:** For information and discussion

**Document(s):**

SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_08_PSI-progress-report-2020

18:30 (GMT) SAO plenary meeting adjourns for the day.
DAY 3 | 19 November 2020

13:30 Delegates join meeting via GoToMeeting
14:00 (GMT) SAO plenary meeting reconvenes

9. The Arctic Resilience Forum 2020

Speaker: Stefán Skjaldarson, Chair of SDWG; Halla Hrund Logadóttir, Co-Director and Co-Founder, Arctic Initiative, Belfer Center’s Arctic Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School (pre-recorded video, tbc)

Background: An Arctic Resilience Forum was first held in Rovaniemi in 2018. The 2020 edition was launched on 7 October. It consists of a series of 10 webinar sessions, focusing on a variety of topics and discussing resilience from different aspects. The last session will be held on 16 December. The ARF is co-organized by the SDWG and the Arctic Initiative at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School.

Action: For information and discussion
Document(s): None

10. Annual Arctic Council – Arctic Economic Council consultation

Speaker: Heiðar Gudjónsson, Chairman of the Arctic Economic Council

Background: The directors of the ACS and the AEC Secretariat signed a MoU in May 2019 to formalize the cooperation of the two Councils. A joint meeting between the SAOX and the AEC took place in Reykjavik, 9 October 2019, and formally initiated the collaboration. Based on consultations with the AEC, SAOC will briefly recount ideas for further cooperation.

Action: For discussion and guidance
Document(s): None

11. Arctic Council connectivity coordination

Speaker: Mark Murray, Arctic Council Connectivity Coordinator, U.S. Department of State

Background: In 2019, the SAOs appointed a Connectivity Coordinator to improve communication between the Arctic Council and the Arctic Economic Council. The Coordinator, Mark Murray from the United States Department of State, was mandated to facilitate enhanced connectivity in Arctic communities for the duration of the Icelandic
Chairmanship. The Coordinator will provide an update on his current work focused on “Arctic-committed” providers.

Action: For information and discussion

Document(s): None

12. Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI)

Speaker: Eydis Lindal Finnboagadottir, Director General, National Land Survey of Iceland (pre-recorded video)

Background: The Arctic SDI is a collaborative partner-based effort by the National Mapping Agencies of the eight Arctic States. Arctic SDI strives for a better access to geospatial data/map data, as important data sets are produced by many stakeholders – such as the Arctic Council WGs and their partners. Data can be both difficult and costly to find, access and combine due to lack of digital distribution and insufficient compliance standards. Arctic SDI provides map information and assistance to ensure that geospatial data is easier for users to access, validate and combine with other data. Arctic SDI seeks guidance from SAOs on receiving geodata from Arctic Council Working Groups. By making their maps publicly available through their cooperation with the WGs, SDI contributes to increasing the visibility of the Arctic Council work, while helping to build reliable, publicly accessible, database on geodata of the Arctic region.

Action: For information and discussion

Document(s):

SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_12_SDII-Progress-report-2020

13. Progress report from the SAON Roadmap for Arctic Observing and Data Systems (ROADS)

Speaker: Sandy Starkweather, Chair for SAON and Executive Director of the US Arctic Observing Network (US AON) (pre-recorded video)

Background: The Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) is in the process of defining a Roadmap for Arctic Observing and Data Systems (ROADS). The Vision of SAON, is a connected, collaborative, and comprehensive long-term pan-Arctic Observing System that serves societal needs. SAON facilitates, coordinates, and advocates for coordinated international pan-Arctic observations and mobilizes the support needed to sustain them. SAON will provide an update on the ROADS and how this initiative seeks to provide a consistent and holistic planning mechanism to assess observing system priorities and to link independently funded efforts across the Arctic. As a part of the ROADS governance
model, national SAON structures should be established and the views of the SAOs on this will be solicited. SAON was established in 2011, following the AC Nuuk Declaration. It is a joint initiative of the Arctic Council and IASC. The AMAP Secretariat provides hosting for the SAON Secretariat.

**Action:** For information  
**Documents:**  

15:30-16:00 Health Break

14. Update on preparations for the 12th Ministerial meeting and the 25th anniversary of the Arctic Council

**Speaker:** Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials  
**Background:** The SAO Chair will provide an update on the preparations for the 12th Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council and the Council’s 25th anniversary.  
**Action:** For information and discussion  
**Documents:** None

15. The Russian Federation Chairmanship of the Arctic Council 2021-2023, preview presentation

**Speaker:** Nikolay Korchunov, SAO for the Russian Federation  
**Background:** The SAO for the Russian Federation will present a preliminary plan for the Russian Federation’s Chairmanship of the Arctic Council.  
**Action:** For introduction and discussion  
**Document(s):**  
SAOIS202_2020_RVK-Virtual1_15_RU-Chairmanship-2021-2023_Presentation
16. Any other business

16.1 UArctic Congress 2021

**Speaker:** Pia Elisabeth Hansson, Director, Institute of International Affairs, University of Iceland

**Background:** The University of the Arctic (UArctic) is a cooperative network of universities, colleges, research institutes and other organizations concerned with education and research in and about the North. The UArctic Congress 2020 was postponed and has been rescheduled for 15-18 May 2021. It will be co-hosted by all the Icelandic Universities and held in conjunction with the 12th Arctic Council Ministerial in Reykjavík.

**Action:** For information

**Document(s):** None

17. Closing of the SAO plenary meeting

**18:30** (GMT) SAO plenary meeting adjourns.
List of documents submitted for information

**AMAROK project-by-project review:**

SAOIS202_2020_RVK_Virtual1_InfoDoc01_AMAROK-Mini-Update