

Instructions for Observers subject to review

Introduction

This document provides the reporting template and accompanying instructions for Observers to be reviewed during the **Icelandic Chairmanship (2019-2021)**.

The deadline for submission is **1 June 2020**.

According to the "[Arctic Council Rules of Procedure](#)" (Annex 2), every **two years** Observers are requested to submit to the Chairmanship up-to-date information about relevant activities and their contributions to the work of the Arctic Council. Every four years, from the date of being granted Observer status, Observers will be reviewed at the Ministerial meeting. The following **20 Observers** will be reviewed at the next Ministerial meeting, and are requested to submit their review report by **1 June 2020**:¹

- Germany;
- The Netherlands;
- Poland;
- Switzerland;
- United Kingdom;
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
- Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM);
- OSPAR Commission (OSPAR);
- Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Regions (SCPAR);
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE);
- United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment);
- West Nordic Council (WNC);
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO);
- Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Seas (ACOPS);
- International Arctic Science Committee (IASC);
- International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES);
- International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH);
- Northern Forum (NF);
- Oceana; and,
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature – Global Arctic Program (WWF).

¹ These include the Observers reviewed before the Fairbanks Ministerial meeting in 2017 as well as Observers admitted that year.

Role of Observers

The role and responsibilities of Observers, as well as criteria for admission to the Arctic Council, can be found in the “Arctic Council Rules of Procedure” (Annex 2) and the “[Observer Manual for Subsidiary Bodies](#).”

The primary role of Observers is to observe the work of the Arctic Council. Observers contribute to the Arctic Council primarily through engagement at the level of Working Groups, Task Forces, and/or Expert Groups. Observers are invited to the meetings and other activities of the Arctic Council unless the Senior Arctic Officials decide otherwise. Observers may also propose projects through an Arctic State or a Permanent Participant.

Report submission

Observer review reports should include the relevant information described below and in the template.

- (a) A description of the Observer’s contributions to the work of the Arctic Council since the time of the Observer’s most recent submission, or in the previous two years, with special focus on contributions to the subsidiary bodies through project participation and support, as well as collaboration with Permanent Participants;
- (b) If applicable, a description of the Observer’s future plans to contribute to the work of the Arctic Council, with special focus on contributions to the subsidiary bodies through project participation and support, as well as collaboration with Permanent Participants; and,
- (c) If applicable, a description of the Observer’s contributions to other aspects of the Arctic Council and its goals not covered in the previous sections since the time of the Observer’s most recent submission, or in the previous two years.

Observer review reports should be submitted electronically to the **Arctic Council Secretariat** via email: acs@arctic-council.org not later than **1 June 2020**. Please bear in mind while preparing your report that all Observer reports will be published online in the *Observer* section of the [Arctic Council online Library](#).

If an Observer fails to submit a report during the review process, the Arctic Council will consider this to mean that the Observer **is no longer interested in maintaining its status** as an accredited Observer to the Arctic Council.

Cover sheet

Full name of state or organization:

Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

Date of submission:

8.6.2020

Observer's website, if appropriate:

http://www.arcticparl.org

Information for appropriate contact person

Full name:

Samu Paukkunen

Email:

samu.paukkunen@eduskunta.fi

Telephone:

+358504128377

Organization or department:

SCPAR

Job Title:

Secretary General

Full
mailing
address:

Is your state or organization interested in continuing as an Observer of the Arctic Council?

Yes **No**

Observer Review Report

Please describe in no more than two pages your state's or organization's contributions to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces, and/or Expert Groups since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years. Please highlight contributions to specific projects, such as through proposals, concept development, in-kind and financial support, and hosting of meetings. Please detail any collaboration with Permanent Participants, such as project proposal endorsement and support.

Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region has an important role in giving a stronger voice for the people of the Arctic.

Elected by and representing the people of the Arctic countries, the Arctic parliamentarians have as their main focus the people living in the Arctic. This includes indigenous peoples. A strong political dialogue between the parliaments and the governments of the Arctic region is key to promote a sustainable development with prosperous Arctic societies, in which people can secure their livelihoods and live their lives.

The members of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR) work in their national parliaments to promote Arctic issues and raise awareness of what is happening in the Arctic and in the Arctic cooperation. The parliamentarians work to make the results of the Arctic cooperation known at a national level. Most members of SCPAR are elected from the Northern regions in their country, all of them share a passion and concern for the development in the Arctic.

Since 2018, the Arctic Parliamentarians have arranged six Standing Committee meetings gathering the heads of Arctic delegations from all the Arctic national parliaments. During these meetings, parliamentarians have shared their experiences on their Arctic policies and best practices. The committee has met with ministers responsible for Arctic Affairs and the Senior Arctic Officials to keep themselves up to date on the current Affairs of the Arctic Council. Committee meetings have been used also to convey the MP's messages to the Council.

Furthermore the members of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region have met with representatives of the United Nations to discuss how to better safeguard the pristine Arctic nature, how to mitigate the negative impacts of the climate change and how to support the people living in this regions.

SCPAR has been represented by the Secretary General in all the SAO-meetings available for the observers since 2018.



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If applicable, please describe in no more than one page your state's or organization's future plans for contributing to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces, and/or Expert Groups. Please highlight intentions to contribute to specific projects and to collaborate with Permanent Participants.

SCPAP focuses its work on Arctic Parliamentary cooperation, in which it depends also from the information and knowledge generated outside of its secretariat. Besides the national ministries, the committee relies on the on the work done by the Council's Working Groups, Task Forces and Expert Groups. This is why the products and the expertise of the Council has been widely utilized in the work of the committee.

On its own behalf, the Committee has invited members of the Working Groups to participate in the Standing Committee meetings. The committee official and MP's have been encouraged to participate to the meetings of the Working Groups and contribute where possible.

If applicable, please describe in no more than one page your state's or organization's contributions to other aspects of the Arctic Council and its goals not covered by the previous sections since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years.

The Arctic Parliamentarians have an important role in supporting the cooperation between the Arctic countries. The SCPAR offers a unique venue for interparliamentary discussions and exchange of information. As the Parliamentarians have their legislative responsibility and role, they are uniquely positioned in supporting the work of the Arctic Council and in giving it more visibility in the respective member countries.