

Instructions for submitting Observer reports

Introduction

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

The deadline for submission is **1 December 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. The following **19 Observers** are requested to submit their report by **1 December 2020**:¹

- France;
- Italian Republic;
- Japan;
- People's Republic of China;
- Republic of India;
- Republic of Korea;
- Republic of Singapore;
- Spain;
- International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC);
- Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO);
- North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO);
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- Arctic Institute of North American (AINA);
- Association of World Reindeer Herders (AWRH);
- Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU);
- International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA);
- International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA);
- University of the Arctic (UArctic), and;
- International Maritime Organization (IMO).

¹ These include Observers admitted at the 2019 Rovaniemi Ministerial meeting, who will be reviewed for the first time during the Russian Federation's Chairmanship (2021-2023).

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 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 reports should be submitted electronically to the **Arctic Council Secretariat** via email: acs@arctic-council.org not later than **1 December 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, 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:

FRANCE

Date of submission:

November 30th 2020

Observer's website, if appropriate:

Information for appropriate contact person

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Observer 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.

France joined the Arctic Council in the Barrow Ministerial meeting in 2000. Since then, our interest in participating in the development of Arctic science and cooperation has significantly risen. France released its National Roadmap for the Arctic in June 2016, which reaffirmed France's scientific, environmental, economic and strategic commitments to the area and the leading role of the Council in regional cooperation and regulation of the Arctic region.

Former Prime Minister Michel Rocard served as ambassador for polar issues (2009-2016) followed by former Minister for Environment Ségolène Royal (2017-2020). On November 25th 2020, President Emmanuel Macron appointed a new Ambassador for polar issues : Mr Olivier Poivre d'Arvor will coordinate our work on Arctic matters and cooperation.

Recognizing Arctic States' sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the Arctic, recognizing also that an extensive legal framework applies to the Arctic Ocean including, notably, the Law of the Sea and acknowledging the essential role of the Arctic Council to maintain the Arctic as a region of peace and stability through constructive cooperation, France, as a non-arctic state, is determined to level up its contribution to the leading work of the Council in the governance of the region, in the protection of its unique environment and in the improvement of the well-being of the Arctic indigenous populations.

As an Observer, France regularly participates in the work of the Council: our diplomatic network is mobilized to take part in Senior Arctic Officials meetings, ministerial meetings and French experts and scientists participate in working groups meetings.

France is particularly involved in five of the Arctic Council's working groups: the Arctic Monitoring & Assessment Programme (AMAP), the Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna group (CAFF), the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment group (PAME), the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) and the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane (EGBCM). The active participation of French experts in these groups is consistent with France's top priorities on the maritime and environmental international agenda.

AMAP

Mr Jérôme Fort, an expert researcher on ecotoxicology, mercury and Arctic marine ecosystems (CNRS), has been attending the AMAP Working Group meetings over the past two years and is also involved in the Mercury Expert Group (Hg EG). In the frame of these expert groups, he coordinates the contribution of 4 other French experts, Olivier Chastel (CEBC), David Gremillet (Deputy director CEBC-CNRS La Rochelle University), Lars-Eric Heimburger (MOI Marseille), Roman Teisserenc (ECOLAB Toulouse), in drafting the report on mercury pollution that is to be published in 2021. The content of this report will contribute to the Global Mercury Assessment (GMA – UN Environment) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury that entered into force in 2017. Mr. Fort attended the last meeting of the AMAP WG in October 2020.

Kathy Law, research director at the CNRS and member of the laboratory “*Atmosphères, milieux, observations spatiales*”/LATMOS (CNRS / UPMC / UVSQ), has been actively participating in the AMAP Working Group since 2012 and more particularly in the Short-Lived Climate Forcers (SLCP) expert group since 2017. She is currently coordinating the sub-chapters of the Tropospheric ozone chapter for the report of the expert group that will be published in 2021. In the frame of this report, she is also contributing to the Modelling of General Systems (MGS) with her colleagues of LATMOS. During the last meeting of the SLCP, she shared LATMOS’s works with this expert group, notably one of their project (ALPACA) dedicated to the measurement of winter pollution in Alaska.

Guillaume Gastineau, research director at Sorbonne University and member of the laboratory of *Météorologie Dynamique* (UMR UPMC/CNRS/ENS/X), was selected by the AMAP secretariat in November 2020 as one of the peer reviewer for the chapter 5 « Arctic/mid-latitude weather connectivity » of the 2021 AMAP Climate Issues of Concern Report.

SDWG

Mr Sébastien Gadal, professor of Geography at the University of Aix-Marseille (France)/CNRS ESPACE and NEFU Department of Geography, is the expert nominated in the SDWG group and attended its meetings in February 2019 and in October 2020 (along with a French MFA representative in the latter).

CAFF

Mr David Gremillet, Deputy director CEBC-CNRS La Rochelle University, expert on migratory birds, works with Jérôme Fort (LIENSs-CNRS), as the co-PI of the ADACLIM research program, which aims at understanding the responses of arctic marine birds to the impact of global changes. This work is based on long-term seabird monitoring in East Greenland and is funded by the French Polar Institute Paul-Emile Victor (IPEV). East Greenland is labelled as a key monitoring site by the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Plan (CBPM). M. Gremillet also participated in the last Cbird WG meeting. He will take the opportunity of the next Cbird WG meeting in 2021 to present and share his new works and analysis.

Mr Olivier Gilg, member of International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), participated in the last CAFF board meeting in September 2020.

PAME

Hervé Baudu, Professor at the French Merchant Marine Officers Academy and an expert on ice navigation, was designated in 2019 as French expert on shipping issues. Along with a French MFA representative, he participated in the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) Working Group in September 2019 and in the 4th Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum.

EGBCM

As required, France has sent its national report on Black Carbon and Methane emissions published by the French Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the MFA in 2020.

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.

France will continue to support and encourage the participation of its experts already appointed to the above mentioned Working Groups and Expert Groups. Moreover, France will circulate calls for peer reviewers and co-drafters for reports to our scientific community.

France has identified two expert groups in which it wishes to increase the level of its contribution by nominating a French Expert:

- The new expert group about micro-plastic pollution, which will be created within the AMAP WG, as decided last October;
- Another PAME Expert Group, such as the Shipping Expert Group.

We noted the four priority tracks of cooperation presented at the last SAO plenary meeting (November 17-19 2020) by the delegation of the Russian Federation for its Chairmanship of the Council (2021-2023).

On the first one "people of the Arctic", we would like to find ways to engage more French experts on the "preserving cultural and linguistic heritage of indigenous people" projects. To this end, we should precisely identify the needs of expertise.

On the second one "Environmental dimension", we are ready to increase our participation on Climate and biodiversity themes as the Arctic Region vulnerability is a challenge for the planet, especially regarding its major role in the global climate regulation and the extreme sensitivity of its ecosystems.

On the third one, "Sustainable economic growth", we want to strengthen our efforts in common work of the Council on developing a sustainable Arctic shipping and on meteorological cooperation.

On the fourth one, "institutional dimension", we would like to express our desire and readiness to engage in a direct dialogue with Working Groups Chairmans to better identify the different needs of expertise and the way French experts could better meet these needs.

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.

Since 2003, the French Polar Institute Paul Emile Victor (IPEV) and the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) have a joint AWIPEV French-German Arctic Research Base, located in the Norwegian settlement of Ny-Ålesund in the north-west of Svalbard. This Research Base offers operational collaborations in atmospheric research, geophysics, geochemistry, oceanography, biology, ecology and glaciology. France maintains a unique continuous historical record of the ocean carbon parameters in Svalbard, contributing to a better understanding of arctic carbon cycle and climate change.

IPEV supports various research programmes in the Arctic: <https://www.institut-polaire.fr/ipev-en/support-for-science/supported-programs/>

In December 2019, our then Ambassador for Polar Affairs, Ms Ségolène Royal, organized “the Arctic week”, an event aimed at highlighting essential links between science and Arctic communities. This “Arctic week” was organized in cooperation with the laboratory CEARC of Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ). The main goal of this event was to underline the importance of collaborations and interactions between science and Indigenous peoples and Arctic communities. Scientists from Arctic and Non Arctic states ((Russia, UK, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Greenland, Belgium, Canada, USA, Germany, Island, Switzerland, Italy and Luxembourg) along with 16 members of Arctic indigenous communities attended this event, with a total of 660 participants.

Research programmes

Mr Guillaume Gastineau was the WP co-leader in the EU H2020 Blue-Action 2016-2019 project (PI: S. Olsen, Danish Meteorological Institute): Links between the Arctic and the climate of the Northern Hemisphere.

CNRS is a partner of the Blue-Action, a major European research project investigating the impact of a changing Arctic on weather and climate.

The EU-PolarNet project constitutes the world's largest consortium in expertise and infrastructures for polar research. It provides a long-term strategy for Polar Regions, integrating cutting-edge science and top quality polar infrastructures. CNRS is leading the Work Package dedicated to Polar research for Science and Society and is in charge of coordinating the design of the European polar research.