

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:

United Nations Development Programme

Date of submission:

9 February 2021

Observer's website, if appropriate:

www.undp.org

Information for appropriate contact person

Full name:

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Organization or department:

UN Development Programme

Job Title:

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Full
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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.

UNDP has been a relatively passive observer to the Arctic Council over the past two years, given temporary capacity gaps due to the serious sickness of the UNDP focal point based in the UNDP Oslo Office. Capacity gaps have now been addressed and we look forward to engaging more pro-actively in the future.

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.

While UNDP does no longer have any active programming in the Arctic region, our work globally, nevertheless, remains relevant to the work of the Arctic Council. In particular, our technical expertise and tools developed across our programming portfolio in climate change, oceans, biodiversity, inclusive governance as well as emergency responses can potentially enrich Arctic Council discussions with lessons learned and practical experiences from other contexts.

Going forward, a few specific areas of cross-fertilization could include:

The social and economic impact of COVID-19 is still shocking the world and will do so for years to come. UNDP's work is centred on minimizing the socio-economic effects and ensuring that we have the resources—and the best ideas—to protect lives and jobs and ensure a just and fair recovery.

The pandemic has also drawn attention to the need to act as one to address the challenges of inequality, climate change and governance. It has created heightened awareness of the connections between the pandemic and habitat loss, the climate emergency, growing inequality, contested democratic values and protracted conflicts—as well as the need for responses that take 'the whole picture' into account.

UNDP has a large and active programme on advancing effective ocean governance in many of the world's major ocean areas outside of the Arctic, including support to around 80 countries sharing a dozen of the world's Large Marine Ecosystems (of which the Arctic Ocean is one of 64).

UNDP also maintains an active portfolio of projects supporting coastal and marine ecosystem management and Marine Protected Areas in over 25 countries including support to both the creation and strengthening the management effectiveness of MPAs. UNDP welcomes the opportunity to share its experience with AC members including marine ecosystem assessments, ocean strategic planning processes and methodologies, best practice and lessons learned in the sustainable management of marine areas at multiple scales.

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.

n/a