

ARCTIC COUNCIL SAO MEETING
1 - 2 DECEMBER, SALEKHARD, RUSSIA
MEETING CODE: SAORU201_2021_SALEKHARD

DOCUMENT TITLE

Chair's Summary: Online meeting of the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane, 27-28 October 2021

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER

9

SUBMITTED BY

EGBCM (25 November 2021)

DOCUMENT FILENAME

SAORU201_2021_Salekhard_09_Chairs-Summary

NUMBER OF PAGES, NOT INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET

9



CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Online meeting of the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane, 27-28 October 2021

Second draft

The Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane (EGBCM) held an online meeting on 27-28 October 2021. Veronika Ginzburg (Russian Federation) chaired the meeting. Participants included eight Arctic States, observer states; Japan, Italy, South Korea and Poland, as well as the European Union. AMAP, ACAP and PAME attended parts of the meeting.

Summary and Progress Report 2023

The Chair from the Russian Federation presented the EGBCM 3rd Summary of Progress and Recommendations Report 2021, which was produced under the Icelandic Chairmanship. Although the group identified areas for future progress, the goal of reducing black carbon emissions has seen significant progress.

The group highlighted that it might be useful to produce a text that contextualizes their future work, and stressed the need for more sustained action under this framework. The EGBCM's Summary Report 2021 indicated that Arctic states are on track to reach the collective goal to reduce black carbon emissions by 25-33 percent relative to 2013 levels by 2025. Analysis conducted by AMAP in the technical report stressed the need to implement current policies if this goal is to be achieved, also noting that significant potential exists for further BC emission reduction by using best available technologies. For methane, the AMAP assessment indicates that increasing trends in methane emissions are inconsistent with the stated objectives of the Arctic Council Framework for Action. The trend was also included in the EGBCM's Summary Report 2021. The group therefore noted that further implementation of the recommendations is necessary to reduce emissions of both black carbon and methane.

One way to improve implementation among the member states could be to widen communication efforts. The Chair pointed out that the report has been made available in two languages (English and Russian). Furthermore, a number of group members argued that the report was visually appealing and a good way to share the messages the EGBCM wants to communicate.

Vigdis Vestreng from the Norwegian Environment Agency appreciated the stronger focus on implementation of the recommendations in the report that the Russian Chairmanship seems to emphasize. She also underscored the importance of scaling up projects, and questioned if it was a good enough link between EGBCM and ACAP, with its several pilot projects) in this regard.

Alice Alpert from the US delegation noted that the format of EGBCM's work is laid out in the Framework for Enhanced Action, and suggested that the group should add action items for each sector. identify barriers to action and add them under each sector area.

The Chair highlighted that there are a wide range of experts in the group, which is a great advantage.

Regarding the continued need for science research, the group agreed to highlight this in its upcoming work.

The U.S. and Canada noted that it is challenging to understand progress on the goal on black carbon without a complete dataset, and offered inventory expertise to facilitate the development of inventories.

Reykjavik Declaration Mandate

Alice Alpert from the Bureau of Oceans, Environmental and International Scientific Affairs, United States presented statements from the Reykjavik declaration and proposed that the EGBCM take up these statements as part of its workplan. This was agreed by the group. .

Alice Alpert from the United States Department of State presented the Declaration's mandate to consider updates to the collective goal to reduce black carbon emissions and the Declaration's statement that additional actions and measures are necessary to significantly reduce overall methane emissions.

She asked whether the group agreed that it should take on these mandates and if they should be included in the work plan of EGBCM, if suggested by the SAOs.

There was general consensus concerning utilization of the existing structures of the Arctic Council, and that the EGBCM is a suitable forum for these discussions.

Canada proposed that the group consider recommending a goal on methane, in addition to updating the collective goal on black carbon. The U.S. proposed a small subgroup within the

EGBCM to work on developing an updated black carbon goal and a possible methane goal. The U.S. shared a proposed schedule, which included a technical presentation from AMAP at the spring meeting of the EGBCM, which would facilitate development of goal updates. A draft update to the black carbon goal and proposed methane goal would be prepared for the fall 2022 meeting, with the summary report and goal updates finalized in spring of 2023.

The group agreed that a valuable first step in considering updates to the goal would be to invite AMAP to give a presentation on current and projected emissions of both black carbon and methane emissions at the next meeting of the EGBCM.

The Chair remarked that the group was established to monitor the progress of black carbon and methane emissions in the region, and all Arctic countries agreed to this goal at the 2017 Arctic Council Ministerial. In addition, the expert group should comprise of both technical experts and policy experts.

EGBCM schedule for 2021 – 2023

Date (tentative)	Action
27-28 October 2021	Meeting of the EGBCM. Plans for the work on evaluating progress and improving projections, discussion on how to best deliver the report, and streamline deadlines. Considering how to complement the work of the Arctic Council WGs; Considering relevant results of work in other fora as appropriate.
15 November 2021	Members of the EGBCM inform the Arctic Council Secretariat (ACS) about their ability to lead and/or participate in subgroups for sectoral/priority area papers
19 November 2021	On-line call – PAME cooperation, goal discussion,
30 November - 02 December 2021	SAO Salekhard: The Chair of the EGBCM provides a Chair's Summary of the first meeting under Icelandic Chairmanship to the SAOs
22-24 March 2022	SAO Arkhangelsk meeting: The EGBCM Chair presents a progress report to the SAOs
15 May 2022	Arctic States and Observer States submit national reports according to the instructions provided by the Chair.
End of may	EGBCM meeting
1 September 2022	Draft of sector papers due from priority area/sector teams to the ACS. EGBCM Chair and the ACS start compiling a first draft of the 4rd EGBCM Summary of Progress and Recommendations report.
End of September 2022	EGBCM Chair distributes all documents to the Expert Group 30 days in advance of the meeting, including draft EGBCM Summary of Progress and Recommendations.

End of October 2022	Meeting of the EGBCM. This meeting focuses on additional information received; whether information gaps remain; beginning to determine recommendations for enhanced actions based on sector papers; beginning to discuss text on the EGBCM for the Senior Arctic Officials' Report to Ministers 2023.
One week after EGBCM meeting	EGBCM Chair and subgroups jointly update the draft report based on received feedback. Chair of the EGBCM circulates the second draft of the 4rd EGBCM Summary of Progress and Recommendations report to the group for comments.
October/November 2022	SAO Murmansk meeting (location: TBC). Chair of the EGBCM presents outcomes of the EGBCM to the SAOs, and if possible, key elements of the emerging 3rd Summary Report.
18 November 2022	EGBCM Chair circulates draft text on EGBCM for the Senior Arctic Officials' Report to Ministers 2023 to the EGBCM for comments
25 November 2022	Deadline for comments from EGBCM representatives on the second draft of the 4rd EGBCM Summary of Progress and Recommendations report. Comments are to be sent to the ACS
30 November 2022	Deadline for comments from the EGBCM representatives on draft text on EGBCM for the Senior Arctic Officials' Reports. Comments are to be sent to the ACS
7 December 2022	EGBCM Chair sends draft text on EGBCM for the Senior Arctic Officials' Report to Russian Chairmanship/ACS
Mid December 2022	Chair of the EGBCM and ACS circulate third draft of the 4rd EGBCM Summary of Progress and Recommendations report to EGBCM members
January 2023	Meeting of the EGBCM. Finalizing the 3rd EGBCM report, including recommendations and determining progress
January 2023	EGBCM finalizes any remaining edits via email and phone calls if necessary.
February 2023 (30 days before the last SAO meeting)	Final deadline for the EGBCM to submit to SAOs reports, work plans and other deliverables and recommendations intended for the Ministerial meeting in May 2021
March 2023	SAO St. Petersburg (location: TBC): the EGBCM Chair presents the draft Summary Report to the SAOs for approval.
20-21 April 2023	Arctic Council Ministerial meeting. SAOs deliver the final 3rd Summary of Progress and Recommendations report to the Ministers.

Discussion on priority areas

The EGBCM has six priority areas: mobile and stationary diesel-powered sources, oil and gas, residential combustion, solid waste, agriculture and animal husbandry, and management of wildfires. Kaarle Kupiainen of the Finnish Delegation proposed a seventh area, which would examine cross-cutting issues, and which would also build upon the governance section that was new to the 2021 Summary Report. The group agreed to the suggestion, and the Finnish delegation would like to take the lead on the project with support from Canada. The priority area was added to the working document. Additionally, the subgroup that will examine the

update of black carbon reduction goal and possibility of methane reduction goal was added to the working document.

The group was divided in two and sent to Zoom breakout rooms to discuss issues to be included under each priority area. Group 1 suggested leak detection and repair be specifically examined under the oil and gas sector or as a cross-cutting topic. The group noted that biogas is an important topic that should be examined, and that it straddles the waste and agricultural sectors. The group recommended that the EGBCM consider analysis related to prioritization of specific recommendations based on factors such as abatement potential.

Group 2 recommended that the group explore whether recommendations related to shipping practices are best placed within the diesel engine sector, or if they should be separated into its own sector. The group noted that reducing emissions from residential faces barriers related to cultural practices and energy security. In addition, group 2 noted that biogas is a bridge to a de-fossilized energy source, and that the EGBCM may want to examine biogas more closely in its next report. They also noted that, when sharing its recommendations with non-Arctic States, the EGBCM should recall that some sectors might not be applicable to all countries, and there are major global sources of methane that are outside of the EGBCM's scope of work (e.g. rice paddies)

Work with Arctic Council WGs and other international fora

Diane de Kerckhove and Maxwell Torney from ACAP gave a presentation of projects that would be of interest to EGBCM. These include a pilot on carbon dioxide and emissions from ships in rivers in the arctic zone of the Russian Federation, community based black carbon assessment and IP ambient air quality detectors in the arctic, solid waste management in remote arctic communities, wildfire practices and emissions project, and the black carbon case studies platform. The latter is a collection of 85 case studies aimed at reducing black carbon emissions in the arctic. It was noted that ACAP used EGBCM recommendations when drafting new projects, , and that better communication the other way around could be beneficial with respect to scaling up projects and implementation.

Simon Wilson (AMAP Secretariat) highlighted the good cooperation between AMAP and EGBCM. He said that AMAP work on SLCFs will focus on consolidation in the coming period. Scientific articles are being produced as a result of the AMAP report and some of these will have new information. What is more, AMAP is awaiting outcomes of COP26 as this may have

implications for their future work. AMAP will present at the EGBCM meeting in the spring of 2022.

Hjalti Hreinsson of PAME presented their work, which includes 40 projects. He highlighted the Arctic Ship Traffic Data project, which main objective is to collect and distribute reliable data on arctic shipping activities. Access is free for EGBCM and Arctic Council Working Group members. PAME has four projects underway: Shipping in the Northern Sea Route, Flags of Ships in the Arctic, Fishing Vessels in the Arctic, and Black Carbon and Methane Emissions from Ships. Hreinsson asked EGBCM to nominate an expert to work with the PAME secretariat and USA on their joint report on BCM emissions from ships. The Chair of EGBCM will arrange a meeting to decide whether to undertake this report and how organize cooperation with PAME.

Jan Dusik of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature Arctic Program presented data on black carbon emissions from Arctic shipping. Two percent of black carbon in the Arctic comes from shipping, but the heating impact is disproportionately large. Black carbon emissions from Arctic shipping increased 85% between 2015-2019 compared to 12% increase globally between 2012-2018. Dusik argued that the current shipping fleet will increase its operations and subsequently accelerate the disintegration and collapse of Arctic ice and permafrost. Furthermore, he proposed potential strategies that the Arctic Council could evaluate to reduce black carbon emissions from ships. That is, inclusion of a specific target for black carbon from shipping in the new set of targets in 2023, exercise support for global reductions of black carbon from shipping, careful assessment of conclusions regarding very low sulphur fuel oil by EPPR/PAME, useful coordination between EGBCM and PAME/SEG, and no use of waivers and exemptions by Arctic countries.

Simon Wilson (AMAP Secretariat) informed the group on the final outcomes of the EU-funded action on black carbon, implementation of which ended in June 2021. Although not an AC/AMAP project, several EGBCM members were involved in the EUA-BCA work which contributed significantly to the 2021 AMAP assessment as well as work on BC under the EGBCM, Air Convention and OECD, etc. A proposal for a follow-up project has been submitted and is awaiting a reply. The follow-up will focus on the outreach and continuing to build on stakeholder engagement initiatives in Russia and the United States, as well as Canada.

Work program and schedule of the EGBCM

The Chair presented the EGBCM work schedule. Regarding the deadline for national reports to be submitted to the Arctic Council, the group pointed out that reporting to the reporting deadline for reporting emissions under LRTAP and UNFCCC is March 15 and April 15, respectively. Delaying the deadline for national reports to May 15 would allow for the inclusion of the most recent emission estimates. The group agreed to add May 15th as the new deadline for national reports in the online schedule document.

Chelsea Kealey from the Canadian Delegation proposed that an editor assists the EGBCM in final editing the report. The Arctic Council Secretariat clarified that they can offer general editing services. A suggestion was made that a science communicator could edit the report. This view was supported by several delegates. The Secretariat clarified that it cannot offer a science-specific editor.

Biennial national reporting

The group discussed the importance of national reports as a source of information on country specific measures to mitigate emissions, as well as emission estimates. Finland noted that the existing template is useful, and suggested the countries consider more clearly outlining regulatory action from more general policy actions. Canada noted that the national report is a valuable domestic product, and will tailor its report contents for both domestic and Arctic Council purposes. It was agreed that an Annex with a common format in all reports would be an ideal solution for standardizing presentation of information for the EGBCM's purposes. The group also recommended adding a "cross-cutting" policy section to the national report template.

The Chair requested that each delegation inform the chair of their ability to lead priority sector groups by November 15th.

Submission deadline

The group agreed that the deadline for submission of national reports to the Arctic Council will be 15th of May 2022

Any other business

Presentation of the Russian translation of the summary report

The Chair thanks Canada for translating the report into Russian. Canada inquired when the Russian report will be made available online. A timeline is not currently available, as the report needs to be sent to the Secretariat for editing and layout.

Announcement regarding the U.S. co-led Global Methane Pledge

Alice Alpert of the U.S. Department of State oriented the group to the U.S. and E.U. led Global Methane Pledge. It was first announced in September and will be formally launched at COP26. The Pledge aims to reduce global methane emissions 30% below 2020 levels by 2030.

The U.S. recognized that many Arctic and Observer states have already joined. It was also noted that the Pledge will be relevant to the EGBCM's discussion about a potential Arctic goal on methane.

AMAROK update

Kristina Baer, Head of Communications, from the Arctic Secretariat updated the group on AMAROK. AMAROK is the Arctic Council project tracker and is updated twice as year by Working Groups. It is an internal reference for project contacts and status, and is synchronized with the Arctic Council website to share details with the public.

Projects which have been marked as to be archived are now hidden in the default view, and projects are sorted from newest to oldest. The Arctic Council site has a better web search, improved visual appearance, related news articles and all projects are available.

Norway noted that the communications efforts of the ACS are valued and commented that there is still a need to make information more easily available and ensure targeted and efficient communication from the EGBCM and across working groups within the Arctic council, as there exists various project websites and platforms.

The EGBCM should see if any revisions are necessary.

Arctic Council at COP26

Kristina Baer, Head of Communications, from the Arctic Secretariat updated the group on Arctic Council activities at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland. The Working Groups are either

organizing or involved with seven different sessions. One session is particularly relevant for EGBCM: Arctic Climate Short Lived Climate Forcers.