

Draft ACIA Follow-up Proposal

(22 March, 2005)

In the Reykjavik Declaration, Ministers “endorsed the ACIA policy recommendations for mitigation, adaptation, research, monitoring and outreach contained in the SAO Report to Ministers” and “acknowledged the need to further organize the work of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies based on the findings of the ACIA and directed the SAOs to report on the progress made at the 2006 Ministerial Meeting”. In this connection, the SAOs were requested to “nominate a focal point, to be responsible for an ACIA follow up, including an assessment of gaps in knowledge”.

Following discussions between the working groups, permanent participants and other interested parties, it is proposed that a ‘focal point’ be established to develop the plans for ACIA follow-up activities under the Arctic Council.

This ‘focal point’ would comprise the Chairs (or their designated representatives) of those Arctic Council Working Groups that are actively involved in ACIA follow-up activities, and a representative¹ of the Permanent Participants to the Arctic Council.

The ‘focal point’ will coordinate the ACIA follow-up activities within the WGs and prepare proposals for the Arctic Council in relation to all ACIA follow-up issues mentioned in the Reykjavik Declaration, for submission to the SAOs as soon as possible.

If deemed necessary by the ‘focal point’, appropriate ad hoc groups may be established to facilitate development and implementation of the proposals for ACIA follow-up. This may involve a close cooperation with IASC and other relevant organizations to ensure that proposals for ACIA follow-up by the Arctic Council Working Groups are coordinated and harmonized with activities outside of the Arctic Council.

¹ The intention is to establish the ‘focal point’ as a small group that can work effectively to organize ACIA follow-up by the Arctic Council Working Groups. For this reason it is not considered ‘desirable’ that the ‘focal point’ be based upon national representation, or that the Arctic Council Permanent Participants be represented on the ‘focal point’ by more than a single representative. In this respect, it is considered that both the Arctic countries and the Permanent Participants should have ample opportunity to communicate their individual national and organizational views on ACIA follow-up through their representation on each of the Arctic Council Working Groups, and at the meetings of the SAOs.