

**Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials**  
**FINAL DRAFT AGENDA**  
**12-13 November 2009**  
**Copenhagen**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. Welcoming Remarks**
- 1.2. Introduction to Copenhagen**
- 1.3. Introduction of new SAOs, PP HoDs and Working Group Chairs**
- 1.4. Approval of the Agenda**
- 1.5. Approval of Ad-hoc Observers**

Background: An application to obtain Arctic Council Observer status was received from Japan by the Arctic Council on 7 July 2009. In keeping with their applications to obtain permanent Observer status, the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Italian Republic, the Republic of Korea and the European Commission requested permission to attend the November 2009 SAO meeting as *Ad hoc* Observers. Approval was granted by the SAOs in advance of the meeting.

Action: Japan, participating in an Arctic Council meeting for the first time, will make a brief statement.

**Thematic Areas**

**2. Climate Change**

**2.1. Arctic Council Outreach at CoP15**

**2.1 (a) Report on Melting Ice** (*Norway to present*)

Background: In Tromsø, Ministers received a report from the Co-chairs of the Melting Ice Conference held 28 April 2009. AC Ministers "instruct(ed) the SAO's to consider, following contributions by relevant Working Groups, the outcome of the work by a task force of the Co-chairs of a state-of-the art report on the status of and future scenarios for the melting ice, ensuring complementarity of the task force and the Working Groups activities, with a view to a joint contribution to CoP15." As co-chair of the task force, Norway will provide further information on the process for completion of the report and its delivery to CoP15.

Action: For information and comments and decisions as appropriate to follow up the Tromsø Declaration.

**2.1 (b) Reports on "The Greenland Ice Sheet in a Changing Climate and Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA)** (*AMAP to present*)

Background: The results of the preliminary report "The Greenland Ice Sheet (GRIS) in a Changing Climate" were presented at the Melting Ice/AC meeting in Tromsø in late April by

professor Dorthe Dahl-Jensen. The AC ministers decided to report on it at the UNFCCC COP15 in December.

The peer-reviewed GRIS science report has been finalized and a layman's version of the report has been produced. A 15 min. film conveying the messages of the GRIS report has also been produced. For SWIPA products, a brochure and 15 minute film have been produced by AMAP which are intended to be released at COP 15. A brief report on the status of the work will be given and the films will be shown.

Action: SAOs are requested to approve the GRIS and SWIPA products for public release to COP15 in accordance with the Tromsø decision.

Documentation: Embargoed AMAP products to be released at COP 15 were distributed to the SAOs, PPs and WG Chairs prior to the SAO meeting; SWIPA Updated Brochure (AC-SAO-NOV09-2.1b)

### **2.1 (c) Information booth and side events during COP 15 (SAO Chair)**

Background: As per the mail of 6 October 2009 from the Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials, an “Arctic Venue at COP15” will be hosted at the North Atlantic House in the center of Copenhagen during the second week of COP15. A booth has been reserved at the venue for information about the Arctic Council. The PPs and WGs have been invited to use the booth to present relevant material and be present during the event. In addition, Member States might want to share information about any arctic relevant aspects of their planned national side events/booths.

Action: For exchange of information.

### **2.2. Short-lived Climate Forcers (SLCF): Update on the Task Force (TF Co-Chairs)**

Background: In Tromsø, Ministers decided to establish a task force on short-lived climate forcers reporting directly to the SAOs, drawing on AMAP and other relevant expertise, to exchange information on existing national policies, regulations and opportunities for immediate voluntary action in the Arctic States to reduce emissions of short-lived climate forcers, to develop recommendations for further immediate national and international actions, including joint proposals for the SAOs to consider for submission to relevant international bodies.

The US and Norway have agreed to chair the task force and all member States and PPs have been asked to nominate their representatives to the task force. The Task Force Co-Chairs will present an update on the establishment and next steps of the Task Force. AMAP will provide a brief update on the AMAP expert group on SLCF.

Action: For information and further guidance. Member States that have not yet done so are urged to nominate their representatives to the Task Force.

Documentation: SLCF Task Force Draft Terms of Reference (AC-SAO-NOV09-2.2) Working Draft Task Force Paper on Black Carbon (AC-SAO-NOV09-2.2)

## **3. Biodiversity**

### **3.1. The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (CAFF to present)**

Background: The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) ([www.caff.is/aba](http://www.caff.is/aba)) was endorsed by Arctic Council Ministers in Salekhard 2006 and is an Arctic Council response to recommendations from the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment. Its purpose is to *synthesize and assess the status and trends of biological diversity in the Arctic*. The ABA is led by Finland, Greenland/Denmark and the United States and has two distinct components:

***Arctic Biodiversity Trends – 2010: selected indicators of change report:*** will present 23 indicators of trends in Arctic biodiversity based on the suite of indicators developed by CAFF’s Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme ([www.cbmp.is](http://www.cbmp.is)). This is aimed at a broad audience including governments and residents of the Arctic. It will be the Arctic Council’s contribution to the United Nations 2010 Biodiversity Target, the International Biodiversity Year in 2010, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) target to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, and the CBD’s upcoming third Global Biodiversity report. The key messages from the report will be ready to present to the SAOs at this meeting. An intercessional review process to give SAOs the 30 days needed to endorse the key messages and allow the report to be submitted to the CBD Secretariat for inclusion within the upcoming third Global Biodiversity report will be explained. The finalised report will be submitted to the SAOs at the next SAO meeting.

A full scientific Arctic Biodiversity Assessment is scheduled for completion in 2013. Greenland/Denmark provides the Chief Scientist for the assessment. Its team of lead, co-lead and contributing authors are drawn from all the Arctic Council countries. CAFF will provide a brief statement on the current status of the scientific assessment and any relevant requests.

Actions: SAOs are requested to approve the proposed intersessional process for endorsement of the key messages of the *Arctic Biodiversity Trends – 2010* report.

Documentation: Key Messages of *Arctic Biodiversity Trends – 2010: selected indicators of change* report (AC-SAO-NOV09-3.1); The Arctic Biodiversity Work Plan and Financial Strategy; CAFF Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV09-CAFF)

## 4. Human Development

### 4.1. Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) activities (*SDWG to present*)

Background: Increased focus on human health and the establishment of an Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG), initiated by Canada and the US, has been acknowledged by Ministers in the Tromsø Declaration. The expert group, consisting of health experts from most Arctic States and Permanent Participants, was inaugurated at a meeting in Ottawa in February of this year and endorsed by all Arctic States at the first SDWG meeting during the Danish chairmanship held in Nuuk in June.

The AHHEG is co-chaired by Canada and Greenland. Following its inauguration, the AHHEG met during the 14<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Circumpolar Health in Yellowknife this summer to decide on a preliminary workplan. The workplan lists the “Hope and Resilience Suicide Prevention Seminar” (to be) held in Nuuk on November 7-8, 2009 as one of its first activities and youth suicide as one of its five areas of priority. Members of the expert group, together with Inuit Circumpolar Council and Youth Council and the Department of Foreign Affairs and PAARISA of the Government of Greenland, organized the Seminar.

Action: The preliminary workplan has been circulated to SAOs for their consideration and guidance with the understanding that SDWG in its deliberations during its meeting on November 10-11 may provide additional comments and recommendation to SAOs.

Documentation: "Arctic Human Health Expert Group Workplan 2009-2010" (AC-SAO-NOV09-4.1)

#### **4.2. SDWG Strategic Planning Task Force** (*SDWG to present*)

Background: As directed by SAOs and Ministers, the SDWG has initiated a strategic planning exercise aimed at enhancing its work. As a first step, the Working Group has struck a Task Force comprised Arctic States and Permanent Participant Organizations to lead on the development of a "Sustainable Development Working Group Strategic Plan" over the next two years. Based on the instructions provided during its meeting in June 2009, the Task Force has prepared a draft "Terms of Reference Framework."

Action: SAOs are requested to give guidance on the direction of the Strategic Planning exercise in order for SDWG to proceed to the next stage.

Documentation: Draft SDWG Strategic Planning 2011 Terms of Reference Framework (AC-SAO-NOV09-4.2)

## **5. Oceans**

### **5.1. The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment Recommendations** (*PAME to present*)

Background: In Tromsø, Ministers directed SAOs to identify appropriate follow-up actions to respond to the recommendations in the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) 2009 Report. The AMSA was finalized shortly before the Ministerial meeting in Tromsø, hence no follow-up activities could be developed into projects and **included** to the PAME Work Plan 2009-2011 at that time. The PAME Work Plan states that: "*Activities to be added based on the outcomes/findings of the approved AMSA and as agreed by SAOs/Ministers in 2009*".

Norway took the lead on behalf of PAME to develop and set priorities for follow-up activities of the AMSA recommendations. The PAME Meeting (30 Sep- 2 Oct 2009) approved a working matrix dividing the 17 AMSA recommendations into the following three categories, and indicating the most appropriate leads and relevant partners:

1. Actions to be followed up/implemented by PAME as identified in the AMSA Matrix are recommendations I(A), I(B), I(C), I(D), II(D) and II(G). Canada, Denmark and Norway have indicated possible lead roles for follow-up of recommendations I.B and II.D.

2. Actions to be followed up/implemented by other Arctic Council working groups are AMSA recommendations I(E), II(C), II(F) and III(C). The PAME Chair to communicate this to the relevant working groups chairs for their consideration.

3. Actions to be followed up within national implementation processes/policies with possible future requests for reporting on national activities, if needed, are AMSA recommendations II(A), II(B), II(E), II(H), III(A), III(B) and III(D)

With respect to the six PAME follow-up recommendations mentioned in paragraph 1 above, potential follow-up commitments by countries are currently under review and consultations

within respective Arctic Council countries, with a view to include in the current or 2011-2013. PAME Work Plan.

Action: SAOs are asked to consider this follow-up approach agreed by PAME with a view that SAOs may provide further guidance to the work.

<u>Documentation:</u> Matrix for AMSA follow-up (AC-SAO-NOV09-5.1)
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## **5.2. Search and Rescue (SAR) Task Force (TF Chairs)**

Background: At their meeting in Tromsø in April 2009, Ministers decided to establish a task force "to develop and complete negotiation by the next Ministerial Meeting in 2011 of an international instrument on cooperation on search and rescue operations in the Arctic". The US has agreed to chair the task force and all member States and PPs have been asked to nominate their representatives to the task force. The first meeting of the task force will take place in Washington December 9-11, 2009. The Task Force Chair will present an update on the establishment and next steps of the Task Force.

Action: For information and further guidance. Member States that have not yet done so are urged to nominate their representatives to the Task Force.

## **5.3. The Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) Project (PAME to present)**

Background: The Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) is a multi-phased project that will result in a review of the global and regional measures that are in place for the protection of the Arctic marine and coastal environment, and options to address any gaps or weaknesses. This project will address both sea and land-based activities influencing the state of the central Arctic Ocean and its marginal seas, and will result in a phase I report on existing measures (2011) and a final report with recommendations (2013) for endorsement by the Arctic Council Ministers.

The AOR project is led by Canada, Iceland, Norway, Russia, and the United States and a detailed project plan has been developed by the leads and approved by PAME. PAME HoDs have been asked to confirm representatives on the AOR Project Group by 2 November 2009. The AOR Project Group will contribute to the organization of a technical workshop and international conference, and the production of various documents and solicit input from Permanent Participants and other Arctic Council Working Groups as per the AOR Project Plan. Work on the AOR Project is proceeding according to its plan.

Action: For information and comments.

<u>Documentation:</u> PAME Approved Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) Project Plan (AC-SAO-NOV09-5.3)
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## **6. Contaminants**

### **6.1. Update on the Project Support Instrument (PSI) (NEFCO to present)**

Background: Arctic Council Project Support Instruments (PSI) Guidelines, approved by the SAOs, on 7 April, 2005, requires that the Funds Manager (NEFCO) shall semi-annually present a report to the SAOs about the activities of the PSI. The PSI Update from NEFCO

documents provides information on the status, as of 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009, of contributions to the PSI and progress made in efforts to make PSI operational since the 1 January 2009 NEFCO Report.. The deposit into PSI, from Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, as of 8 October 2009 stands at a total of EURO 717 593.34. The amount pledged stand at a total of EURO 2,450,000.00.

Action: SAO may wish to:

- a) Note NEFCO's report on progress regarding the appointment of the Russian Executing Agency (REA) and Russian Federation Authorised Government Agency (AGA) that is to be the focal point for PSI and the status of contributions and information on pledges as contained in document AC-SAO-NOV09-6.1;
- b) Encourage all Parties who have pledged to deposit their contributions with the Fund Manager to enable PSI Fund to become operational as early as possible during Q4 2009.

<i>Documentation:</i> NEFCO Update on the PSI (AC-SAO-NOV09-6.1)
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## 7. Data, Observations and Monitoring

### 7.1. Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) (*CAFF to present*)

Background: The CBMP is a response to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment's (ACIA) recommendation to expand and enhance long-term Arctic biodiversity monitoring. It is an international network of scientists and local resource users working together to enhance Arctic biodiversity monitoring to improve detection, understanding and reporting of important trends in biodiversity and to facilitate effective and informed management decisions. The CBMP is in the process of developing five Expert Monitoring Groups tasked with developing long-term integrated monitoring plans for the Arctic's major ecosystems (Marine, Coastal, Freshwater, Terrestrial Vegetation and Terrestrial Fauna).

#### 7.1 (a) Seabird Information Network

Background: Seabirds play a key role in the function of the Arctic marine ecosystem. They are also important to many indigenous and local people for subsistence hunting and as an economic resource. Arctic countries share both seabird populations and the environmental stressors that threaten these populations; accordingly, there is a joint responsibility for the conservation of these animals. SIN focuses on the development of a data entry and analysis web-based portal system that will allow for circumpolar seabird colony information to be contributed, mapped, and shared by scientists and monitoring programs around the Arctic. Data is being compiled to generate a circumpolar seabird colony assessment. CAFF will make a presentation on the SIN, an important CBMP and Seabird expert group deliverable. It is an important example of the practical applications coming from the CBMP.

Action: SAOs are asked to support further funding, contributions and updating of datasets for the SIN, and funding and support for adoption of the web portal.

<i>Documentation:</i> CAFF Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV09-CAFF)
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#### 7.1 (b) Arctic Species Trend Index (ASTI)

**Background:** The ASTI is an index in which vertebrate population abundance data are being used to produce an indication of the trends in arctic biodiversity. The index spans the last 35 years. It tracks 965 populations of 306 species, representing 35% of all known vertebrate species found in the Arctic. This is an important CAFF/CBMP deliverable and represents a unique product which will have numerous practical applications as we try to assess and manage arctic biodiversity in this dynamic time of climate change. The ASTI is in draft format and is undergoing review. The practical applications of the index, including its contribution to outreach/communication, data integration, circumpolar datasets and analysis will be presented to the SAOs.

**Action:** SAOs are asked to support further funding, contributions and updating of datasets for the ASTI.

**Documentation:** CAFF Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV09-CAFF)

## **7.2. SAON – Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (AMAP to present)**

**Background:** The SAON SG Report to SAOs defines the organization of the new SAON Steering Group (SAON-SG), states its decisions on initial priority actions, and describes accomplishments to date.

**Action:** SAO's are asked to express views on SAON SG priorities and approaches, and to agree to work nationally to enhance government-wide support for the work of the SAON-SG.

**Documentation:** SAON SG Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV09-7.2)

## **7.3. Proposal for an Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Mapping agencies to present)**

**Background:** In response to consideration of the current and potential use of spatial information within the Arctic Council, the Arctic Council received a proposal to enlarge the Barents Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) into an Arctic SDI, i.e. to also include Russia, Canada and the USA. Working Groups have noted the usefulness of an Arctic SDI to their activities. Some Member States requested more time to review the proposal.

Coordinators from Danish, Norwegian and Swedish mapping agencies will provide an update on the proposed project.

**Action:** SAOs are asked to welcome the proposed initiative.

**Documentation:** Letter from Nordic mapping agencies to the SAO Chair (AC-SAO-NOV08-14.1a); Proposal for building an Arctic SDI (AC-SAO-NOV08-14.1b)

## **7.4. Bering Sea Sub Network (BSSN) (AIA to present)**

**Background:** Bering Sea Sub Network began as an International Polar Year project and completed its two-year pilot phase in August 2009. It is implemented by the Aleut International Association and the University of Alaska Anchorage under the auspices of CAFF. Six villages participated in the research. Hundreds of fishermen and hunters were interviewed about various important subsistence and commercial species such as salmon, Broad Whitefish, smelt, Arctic Grayling, trout, Pacific Cod, Arctic Char, seal, and walrus. An increasing competition for such species, coupled with environmental changes may require more efficient regulatory policies, so that coastal communities can better adapt and mitigate

negative impacts on the marine biological resources they depend on, as well as use emerging opportunities.

The US National Science Foundation has awarded 3 million dollars to BSSN for the continuation of systematic gathering of local observation on the changing environment around the economically important Bering Sea. The multi-year research will help better understand the occurring changes, their consequences to the local societies, and will improve the ability of coastal communities to respond to these changes. BSSN will include four more villages in Alaska over the course of five years.

Action: SAOs are invited to consider recommending BSSN to other working groups as a model for gathering of local observation, and recommend partnerships with the BSSN to help expand gathering of observations in important hotspots in the Bering Strait area on the Russian side.

<u>Documentation:</u> Summary of Results (AC-SAO-NOV09-7.4)
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## 8. IPY Legacy

### 8.1. Maximizing the Legacy of IPY (*Norway to present*)

Background: In Tromsø, Ministers supported continued international coordination to maximize the legacy of IPY. During the Norwegian Chairmanship, an Arctic Council project led by Norway, brought together a group of experts to undertake scoping work to identify areas where the Arctic Council might contribute to sustaining scientific cooperation and also promote outreach activities to communicate relevant IPY findings to decision makers and Arctic residents. The group's final report was delivered to SAOs in April 2009. The report addresses the following four areas: 1) observations, data access and management, 2) access to study areas and infrastructure, 3) education, recruitment and funding, and 4) outreach, communication and assessment for societal benefit. For each of these areas potential follow-up actions for the Arctic Council are identified. Please see the full annotations and the scoping study. Due to time constraints, consideration of the report was deferred to the SAO meeting in the autumn 2009.

Action: SAOs are invited to consider the report and its recommendations and decide on next steps.

<u>Documentation:</u> Maximizing the Legacy of IPY- Full Annotations; Maximizing the Legacy of IPY in the Arctic: A scoping study for the Arctic Council 23April09 (AC-SAO-NOV09-8.1)
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## 9. Working Group Progress Reports

Background: Working Group Progress Reports contain information on project progress and outcomes intended for Ministers, including special issues for SAO consideration.

Action: SAOs are asked to refer to the Working Group reports for progress on projects which are not being presented, and raise questions to the Working Groups if needed under this agenda item.



Documentation: Working Group Progress Reports:  
 ACAP Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV09-ACAP)  
 AMAP Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV09-AMAP)  
 CAFF Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV09-CAFF)  
 EPPR Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV09-EPPR)  
 PAME Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV09-PAME)  
 SDWG Report to SAOs (AC-SAO-NOV09-SDWG)

## 10. Administrative Issues/ Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Arctic Council

### 10.1. Information about Deputy Minister's meeting 2010 (*SAO Chair*)

Background: As stated in the Tromsø declaration, Ministers decided “to further strengthen the political role of the Arctic Council by having a meeting at deputy Minister level, with representatives of Permanent Participants, to discuss emerging issues between Ministerial meetings”. The SAO Chair will provide information on the planning of the first Arctic Council Deputy Minister's meeting.

Action: SAOs are asked to comment on planning for the DM meeting.

### 10.2. Information Symposium (*SAO Chair*)

Background: As per the SAO Report approved by Ministers in Tromsø, SAOs decided to “institute a biennial “Symposium” for more general information exchange with both Working Groups and Observers”. As per the mandate, the key objective is to invite more detailed communication of WG information to SAOs, as well as to invite observers to highlight their contributions to work of AC and of related activities. The Information Symposium may also provide an opportunity for broader information exchange with organizations outside of the Arctic Council. The SAO Chair will provide information on the planning for the first biennial Information Symposium.

Action: SAOs are asked to comment on planning for the Information Symposium.

### 10.3. Communication and outreach (*SAO Chair*)

Background: In Tromsø, Ministers “Decide(d) to develop guidelines for engagement in outreach activities and an Arctic Council communication and outreach plan based on common priorities” . The SAO Chair will provide information on advancing the Arctic Council's communication and outreach activities.

Action: SAOs are asked to comment on advancing the Arctic Council's communication and outreach activities.

## 11. Any other business

### 11.1. Megatrends in the Arctic (*Denmark to present*)

Background: Megatrends in the Arctic is a Danish study initiated as a part of the programme for the Kingdom of Denmark during the chairmanship of the Arctic Council. It is financed by the NCM and Denmark. The purpose of the project is to establish an

overview of development trends and mechanisms, which, within given societal, environmental and natural conditions, will be of significant importance for the development in the Arctic in the time to come. From this, the key characteristics of the present processes of change in the Arctic which might be of importance for the next decade will be identified. Initiatives and activities which might influence the processes of change – either positive or negative – might be identified in order to help a future prioritization of tasks in relevant international organizations.

The project is not an Arctic Council project and does not intend to make use of the Arctic Council structure, neither member countries representatives, PP's or WG's. However individual persons might be approached by the project team in order to further the project.

Action: For information purposes.

### **11.2. The 4 Councils of the North (SAO Chair)**

Background: The Tromsø declaration welcomed the increased cooperation with regional bodies such as the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), the Barents-Euro Arctic Council (BEAC), and the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and acknowledge their contributions to circumpolar cooperation. The chairmanship countries of the 4 "councils of the North" were invited to a meeting in St. Petersburg 29-30 September 2009 at the deputy minister level. The objective was to discuss if the activities of the 4 councils offer scope for co-operation. Representing Denmark, as chair of the Arctic Council, was Undersecretary of State Kim Jørgensen. The SAO Chair will provide a brief report of the meeting.

Action: For information only.

Documentation: Chairman's Summary of the Meeting of the Regional Organizations of the North

### **11.3. Report on the 12th Ministerial Meeting of the Barents-Euro Arctic Council (BEAC) and the Murmansk International Economic Forum (Russia)**

Background: Russia will report on 12th Ministerial Meeting of the Barents-Euro Arctic Council (BEAC) held 14-15 October 2009 in Murmansk, the and the first Murmansk International Economic Forum held 15-17 October 2009.

Action: For information only.

Documentation: Joint Communiqué of the 12th Ministerial Session

### **11.4. The Arctic Governance Project (Prof. Oran Young to present)**

Background: The Arctic Governance Project (AGP) is an 18 month project funded by members of the Arctic Funders Group: the 444S Foundation, J. M. Kaplan Fund, Oak Foundation, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation and Wilburforce Foundation. It is not an Arctic Council project. The project will survey and develop an inventory of current governance systems and proposals for new or revised arrangements, and come up with proposals for reformed or new arrangements promoting sustainable development in the Arctic. An Arctic Governance Compendium is under construction. This is an electronically searchable collection of existing and new proposals for governance systems applicable to the Arctic.

Action: For information and comment.

**11.5. University of the Arctic** (*UArctic to present*)

Background: UArctic's formal foundation is the Iqaluit Declaration of the Arctic Council in 1998 when the Ministers of the Arctic Council recognized the University of the Arctic as a network, "a University without walls". This endorsed UArctic's governance structure as a network of members. UArctic soon also gained observer status in the Arctic Council. Consequently, UArctic was launched in conjunction with the first SAO meeting of Finland's Chairmanship.

UArctic is now moving forward and establishing UArctic's legal basis as the UArctic Association based on the Finnish law. Plans are underway to also incorporate the legal basis for UArctic in other countries, Canada being the next (UArctic Canada).

Action: As the initial governance structure was recognized by the Arctic Council, UArctic proposes that the SAO's of the Arctic Council now recognize this next step in the institutionalization of UArctic as a network serving the entire circumpolar region on education and research collaboration.

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**12. ANNEX: Documents for information purposes** (*posted on website for reference*)

**12.1. Arctic Data- CAFF/PAME Arctic data project.**