

# Instructions for submitting Observer reports

## Introduction

This document provides the reporting template and instructions for Observers required to report during the **Russian Chairmanship**.

The deadline for submission is **1 December 2022**.

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. Accordingly, the following **19 Observers** from the *Fairbanks Group* are requested to submit their regular report by **1 December 2022**.<sup>1</sup>

- Germany;
- The Netherlands;
- Poland;
- Switzerland;
- United Kingdom;
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
- Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM);
- OSPAR Commission (OSPAR);
- Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Regions (SCPAR);
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE);
- United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment);
- West Nordic Council (WNC);
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO);
- Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Seas (ACOPS);
- International Arctic Science Committee (IASC);
- International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES);
- International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH);
- Northern Forum (NF);
- Oceana;
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature – Global Arctic Program (WWF).

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<sup>1</sup> The **Fairbanks Group** includes the Observers reviewed for the first time before the Fairbanks Ministerial meeting in 2017, as well as Observers admitted that year. This group of Observers was reviewed for a second time at the Reykjavik Ministerial meeting in 2021.

## 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](mailto:acs@arctic-council.org) not later than **1 December 2022**. 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](#) (OAR) after the 2023 Ministerial meeting.

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 Observer State or Observer Organization:

The Northern Forum

Date of submission of regular report:

Observer's website:

www.northernforum.org

### Information for appropriate contact person

Full name:

Vladimir Vasilev

Email:

vnvasilev@inbox.ru

Telephone:

+79142209789

Organization or department:

Job Title:

Executive Director

Full mailing  
address:

Office 407, Kurashova street, 24, Yakutsk, Sakha Republic (Yakutia),  
677000 Russia

## 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.

The Northern Forum used to be involved in the Arctic Council activities closely till March, 2022.

During Icelandic Chairmanship, The Northern Forum participated in all meetings with observers being one of key speakers of Icelandic Chairmanship with all observers in April, 2021.

The Northern Forum addressed with statement to Ministerial meeting in May, 2021.

Russian Chairmanship considered the Northern Forum of key observer organization to be involved in realization of the Chairmanship program.

The Northern Sustainable Development Forum created by The Northern Forum as an annual platform in Yakutsk in 2019 was included into the Russian Chairmanship Events Calendar. This forum was organized successfully 4 times and the 5th forum is planned in 2023.

The Northern Forum was suggested by Russian Federation as the main host organization for the Arctic Resilience Forum and worked closely with SDWG and the Arctic expert society since January, 2021. SDWG and all experts approved the Forum's concept prepared by the Northern Forum and it was planned to be held in Murmansk in October, 2022.

Russian Chairmanship has also asked the Northern Forum to organize Youth Start-Up Forum, Arctic Energy Summit and to be co-organizer of the 1st conference of the Arctic regional chambers of commerce and business-associations as well as to prepare Special Report "Regional Contribution to the Arctic Biodiversity Conservation".

The Northern Forum in cooperation with the Arctic Portal (Iceland) and the Institute of the North (Alaska, USA) started fruitful work to prepare the Arctic Energy Summit, many consultations were organized on it. The Summit was planned in March, 2023.

Russian Chamber of Commerce with active support by The Northern Forum prepared the 1st conference of the Arctic regional chambers of commerce and business-associations in Syktyvkar, Komi Republic for November, 2022.

Unfortunately, Arctic Resilience Forum, Arctic Energy Summit, the 1st conference of the Arctic regional chambers of commerce and business-associations were cancelled due to global conflict around Ukraine.

The Northern Youth Forum was created in 2021 and the 1st Youth Start-Up Forum was held in Khanty-Mansyisk in June 8, 2022.

Special Report "Regional Contribution to the Arctic Biodiversity Conservation" is ready in Russian and it includes materials from all the Russian Arctic as well as from Lapland, Finland. The report is under translation into English which will be ready shortly.

The Northern Forum's Chair, County Governor of Lapland Mika Riipi suggested to the SAOs to create the Arctic Council's Task Force on Regional Cooperation at SAO meeting in Salekhard, December, 2021. And The Northern Forum started preparation of project proposal but that work was also stopped.

So, The Northern Forum should be very active in the Arctic cooperation and especially within the Arctic Council but unfortunately most of activities were stopped.

The Northern Forum started also to construct fruitful relations with Permanent Participants. We supported Inuit Circumpolar Council in organizing meeting with Russian Inuits providing free ZOOM and Russian-English interpretation.

Relevant consultations were organized with the leadership of the Arctic Athabaskan Council during COP 27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022.

Cooperation Agreement was signed with RAIPON within the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok in September, 2022.

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.

Despite the suspension of cooperation between the Arctic countries and Russia, The Northern Forum is ready for cooperation with Working Groups, Task Forces and Experts Groups.

We can provide assistance in projects implementations in Russian Arctic regions or involving experts via our working groups.

The Northern Forum has different working groups:

- Arctic Tourism;
- Assessment of the Life Quality;
- Culture;
- Creative Industry;
- Education and Science;
- Cooperation of Parliamentarians;
- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation.

It would be great to have attendance of the Arctic Council and Permanent Participants representatives on The Northern Forum events. Annual Work Plan and Events Calendar are under construction but will be available shortly.

Northern Youth Forum is ready for cooperation with Youth all over the Arctic. NYF had a fruitful relation with the Arctic Youth Network, for example. And they plan to organize the Arctic Start-Up Expedition. Perhaps, SDWG, Permanent Participants could have an interest to support this initiative.

The Northern Forum's Youth Eco-Forum will be held in Salekhard on September 13-19, 2023.

The Northern Forum is opened for any proposals and initiatives for cooperation within the Arctic Council.

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.

Because of suspension of the UArctic cooperation with Russian universities the Russian-Asian Consortium on Arctic Research (RACAR) was created by initiative of the North-Eastern Federal University in December 2022. The Northern Forum is co-founder. RACAR can also provide assistance for the Arctic Council projects and events.