

Instructions for Observers subject to review

Introduction

This document provides the reporting template and accompanying instructions for Observers to be reviewed during the **Icelandic Chairmanship (2019-2021)**.

The deadline for submission is **1 June 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. Every four years, from the date of being granted Observer status, Observers will be reviewed at the Ministerial meeting. The following **20 Observers** will be reviewed at the next Ministerial meeting, and are requested to submit their review report by **1 June 2020**:¹

- 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; and,
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature – Global Arctic Program (WWF).

¹These include the Observers reviewed before the Fairbanks Ministerial meeting in 2017 as well as Observers admitted that year.

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 review 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 review reports should be submitted electronically to the **Arctic Council Secretariat** via email: acs@arctic-council.org not later than **1 June 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 during the review process, 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:

International organization of northern regions "The Northern Forum"

Date of submission:

04.09.2020

Observer's website, if appropriate:

www.northernforum.org

Information for appropriate contact person

Full name:

Vladimir Vasilev

Email:

secretariat@northernforum.org; nf.secretariat@gmail.com;
vvasilev@inbox.ru

Telephone:

Office: +7 (4112) 50-84-50; Cell: +7 914 220 9789

Organization or department:

The Northern Forum Secretariat

Job Title:

Acting Executive Director of the Northern Forum

Full mailing address:

Northern Forum Secretariat
Suite 407, Public center,
Kurashova, 24,
Yakutsk, Sakha Republic (Yakutia)
677000 Russia

Is your state or organization interested in continuing as an Observer of the Arctic Council?

Yes No

Observer Review 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 is an international organization for regional subnational governments in the circumpolar North and a platform for collaboration, sharing experiences and best practices across the North in improving the quality of life and promote sustainable development of northern regions. Representatives of regional governments need to be involved in shaping the international agenda and Arctic policies. Therefore, the Northern Forum has to do a lot of work to develop an effective mechanism for regional government's involvement in international Arctic cooperation and strengthening the role of regions in the Arctic Council.

During 2019-2020 the Northern Forum was represented at following Arctic Council's events:

- The Northern Forum participated in the SDWG meeting under Finland's chairmanship in Kemi in February 2019. 3-day Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) Meeting was held Monday-Wednesday, 04-06 February 2018 in Kemi, Finland. The Northern Forum was represented by Maiju Jolma-Taylor - Coordinator in the International Project collaboration, Regional Council of Lapland, Finland.
- The 2nd Northern Forum Governors' Meeting "Sustainable Development of Northern Regions" was held within the framework of the 5th International Arctic Forum "Arctic: Territory of Dialogue", bringing together regional governments in the circumpolar North to discuss sustainable development of the northern regions and the new Northern Forum strategy. The new Strategy dedicated to improvement of all aspects of the Northern Forum activities including strengthening collaboration with the main international organizations of the Arctic and the Arctic Council is highest priority on this direction.
- The Northern Forum at the 11th Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in May 2019, Rovaniemi, Finland. The Northern Forum was represented by the Acting executive director of the Northern Forum Secretariat Olga Timofeeva-Tereshkina and winner of Future Diplomat (a competition for school students from the Sakha Republic) Sabina Davetova.
- The Northern Forum participated in the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group online meeting in June 2020. Acting Executive Director of the Northern Forum Daryana Maximova participated in the plenary session of SDWG virtual meeting, held on June 8-9 2020. The Northern Forum supports one of presented projects – "Digitalization of the Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic" which was presented on the SDWG meeting by Russian Federation.
- Also during these period the Northern Forum collaborated with the Russian Ministry of the Far East Development and the Arctic and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs which are involved on the Arctic Council's work regarding participation of the Northern Forum in activities under Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council.

- The Northern Forum collaborates and has cooperation agreements with the observers of the Arctic Council: The University of the Arctic, International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), Association of World Reindeer Herders.
 - Online International Summer School in cooperation with the North-Eastern Federal University was organized late July – August. Representatives of several Arctic states as well as Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat participated on this event.
 - The Northern Forum organized consultations with members of SDWG and the Permanent Participants regarding opening of new format International Arctic School in Yakutsk, Sakha Republic (Yakutia). This project was presented in earlier years at the SAO meeting and, after that, on SDWG meeting. New building for the International Arctic School open its doors on September 1, 2020 and 185 children of 7, 8, 10 classes started their study.
 - The I Northern Sustainable Development Forum was held in Yakutsk, Sakha Republic (Yakutia) in September 24-28, 2019. More than 40 side events were organized and participants from all Arctic states as well as Observer countries like China, Japan, Republic of Korea, France, Germany attended the Forum. This new international platform is intended to bring together Arctic and Asian regions, countries. Arctic Council's Observers: University of the Arctic, International Arctic Science Committee granted the I NSDF.
 - The II Northern Sustainable Development Forum will be held on September 27-30, 2020. Due to COVID-19 pandemic all events will organized online. More than 50 events will be organized this year. Discussion around coming Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council will also take place. The main topics of this year Forum are "Transport Infrastructure of the Arctic and the North", "Human in the Arctic", "Management of the Arctic Territories", "Global Partnership of the Arctic and Asian States". Youth Northern Forum will also organize several events.
- Participation of the Arctic Council's representatives is very welcomed. Detailed information is available on website: www.nsd.ru
- Northern Sustainable Development Forum is becoming excellent platform to discuss all aspects of regional cooperation and regional involvement into global Arctic cooperation. The Northern Forum is ready to host any event of the Arctic Council or its members, Permanent Participants, Observers within the framework of the NSDF.

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.

The Northern Forum collaborates with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Arctic Council's issues. Mr. Nikolay Korchunov, the Ambassador at Large for the Arctic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Russia and the Senior Arctic Official of the Russian Federation to the Arctic Council supports the Northern Forum's work and initiatives on collaboration with the members of the international organization. Mr. Korchunov supported idea to involve Northern Forum's secretariat to the future work of the Arctic Council Hosting Committee during the period 2021-2023 the Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council. Also the Northern Forum collaborates with the Russian Ministry of the Far East Development and the Arctic which is involved on the Arctic Council's work.

The Northern Forum suggested to organize SDWG meeting within the III Northern Sustainable Development Forum in Yakutsk in 2021, and ready to provide all necessary assistance in organizing Arctic Council's meetings and implementation projects on the territory of the Northern Forum member regions.

The Northern Forum plans to create the Arctic Business Directory initiated by the Arctic Portal – NF Business Partner and also the Northern Forum Chambers of Commerce' Network to organize regional contribution into the Arctic Economic Council's activities.

The Northern Forum will continue close work with all working groups, Permanent Participants to initiate new projects to strengthen regional involvement in global Arctic cooperation.

The Northern Forum General Assembly and the Northern Governors Summit are planned in 2021. Representatives of the Arctic States, Permanent Participants will be also invited.

The Northern Forum will be represented in all Arctic Council's main events.

To develop the Northern Forum's policy for participation in the Arctic Council:

- To create a regular data collection mechanism on the NF member regions' proposals and information on topical issues, which are discussed in the Arctic Council. Thus we will be able to create a communication channel and gradually synchronize our activities with the activities of the Arctic Council, as well as to show the participants of the Arctic Council that we can contribute to the debate on Sustainable Development of the High North.
- To strengthen the Northern Forum member regions' involvement in the Arctic Council projects
- To create an effective mechanism of regional government participation in the international Arctic cooperation and strengthening the regions' role in the Arctic Council.
- Urge the Northern Forum member regions to take part, if possible, in the projects of the Arctic Council.
- To continue to highlight the Arctic Council's activities among the NF member regions and business partners.

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.