

**SDWG Report to Senior Arctic Officials**  
**Kautokeino, Norway**  
**19-20 November 2008**

## **Executive Summary**

This report is organized into five main parts as follows:

- PART I. Introduction
- PART II. Progress During the Norwegian Chairmanship (2006-2009)
- PART III. Activities Requiring Guidance from SAOs
- PART IV. Deliverables for Ministerial 2009
- PART V. Work Plans for 2009-2011

During the Norwegian Chairmanship there have been 20 projects and activities under the umbrella of the SDWG, some of which have reached their conclusion during this period or will officially conclude at the Ministerial meeting. Most SDWG projects are generally well advanced. Interim project reports are contained in the Appendices to this report. The SDWG is not seeking formal decisions from SAOs at this time, but provides this report and its appendices to inform SAOs of the status of SDWG projects and activities.

SAOs may particularly wish to note the information relating to the following major deliverables:

- SDWG Report to Ministers on Cooperation on Arctic Energy Issues
- Best Practices in Ecosystems Based Oceans Management
- Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic
- Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium
- Arctic Social Indicators
- ECONOR 2

The SDWG welcomes comments and any guidance the SAOs may wish to provide at this time.

The SDWG has scheduled a Heads of Delegation meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark on 8-9 December 2008 to finalize the deliverables, workplan and recommendations of the SDWG during the Norwegian chairmanship. A final report on these matters will be made to SAOs by the required date of 08 January 2009.

## **PART I. Introduction**

### ***Secretariat and Chairmanship***

Mr. Stein Rosenberg (Norway) has chaired the SDWG since the Ministerial Meeting in Salekhard, Russia in 2006. The elected Co-Vice-Chairs have been Ms. Louise Lee Leth and then Ms. Marianne Lykke Thomsen (Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands) and Ms. Gunn-Britt Retter (Saami Council) representing the Permanent Participants. Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands was indicated its willingness to act as SDWG Chair for the period 2009-2011.

Canada has continued its generous support of the permanent secretariat for the SDWG established in Canada in 2002 following the Inari Ministerial Meeting. Mr. Bernard Funston has continued in the role of SDWG Executive Secretary since 2002. All documents referred to in this report are available on the SDWG website maintained by the secretariat: <http://portal.sdwg.org>.

### ***Meetings, Workshops and Other Activities***

The SDWG has had four regular meetings in Norway during the Norwegian chairmanship period. The first meeting was held in Tromsø on 10-11 April 2007, the second meeting in Vadsø on 30 October to 01 November 2007, the third meeting in Oslo on 19-22 May 2008, and the fourth meeting in Tromsø on 24-25 October 2008. In addition, during the week of 19-23 October 2008 in Tromsø, the SDWG held the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium and workshops on Best Practices in Ecosystems-Based Ocean Management (BePoMAR) and Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic (VACCA). The SDWG is planning a Heads of Delegation meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark on 8-9 December 2008 to finalize the deliverables, workplan and recommendations of the SDWG during the Norwegian chairmanship. The SDWG will also discuss the matter of Co-Vice-Chairs for the Danish chairmanship during this meeting.

## **PART II. Progress During the Norwegian Chairmanship (2006-2009)**

### ***Projects and Activities***

The activities of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) have expanded during the Norwegian chairmanship and its responsibilities have increased. Therefore, SDWG participants feel somewhat strained at the end of this Chairmanship period and are exploring new ways to organize and conduct our work. We have started discussions in this direction. The SDWG has a very broad mandate, and must take a more strategic view of its priorities and work ahead, without losing the flexibility of a "bottom-up" approach, which allows for new ideas and proposals to be explored and added.

The core of the SDWG is a portfolio of projects dealing with a wide range of issues in human development in the Arctic. The range and diversity is illustrated by the Projects & Activities List which appears in Appendix 1 of this report. These projects are not managed directly by the SDWG. The project coordinator from the lead country reports to the Group at our regular meetings and SDWG participants offer their comments. Each project has one or more lead countries with a project team comprised of experts from participating Arctic states, Permanent Participants and Observers. Not all Arctic states and Permanent Participants participate in every project and activity of the SDWG.

During the Norwegian Chairmanship there have been 20 projects and activities under the umbrella of the SDWG, some of which have reached their conclusion during this period or will officially conclude at the Ministerial meeting. A draft list of deliverables is set out under Part III of this report. The deliverables, like the projects, vary in scope and completeness. However, they are indicators of healthy progress on several practical undertakings that aim, directly or indirectly, to improve people's lives in the Arctic. Following the SDWG Heads of Delegation meeting on 8-9 December 2008, a final report to SAOs will be made by 08 January 2009.

### ***Cross-cutting issues***

Increasingly, the activities of the Arctic Council, not only within SDWG, but across all working groups, have become cross-cutting. This is illustrated by AMAP's *Oil and Gas Assessment*, PAME's *Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment*, CAFF's *Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program* and *Arctic Biodiversity Assessment*, and so on. SDWG has a contribution to make to this cross-cutting work, particularly in the socio-economic dimension, given the success of projects such as the *Arctic Human Development Report* (AHDR), *Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic* (SLiCA), *Arctic Social Indicators* (ASI), *ECONOR I and II*, *ArcticStat*, and numerous others. The SDWG is considering mechanisms to allow it to participate in cross-cutting activities in a more structured and consistent way, for example in relation to SWIPA (*Climate Change and the Cryosphere: Snow, Water, Ice, and Permafrost in the Arctic*) and SAON (*Development of a Sustained Arctic Observing Network*).

### ***Future work and direction***

The projects that are expected to continue their work in the period 2009-2011 are noted in Appendix I. These projects have robust work plans that will spark discussions at meetings, and advance the Council's Sustainable Development Programme. Additional projects and activities may be identified when the SDWG finalizes its workplan for the Danish chairmanship at the SDWG Heads of Delegation meeting scheduled for Copenhagen in December, 2008. Norway announced an intention to lead a new project on the "assessment of cultural heritage monuments and sites in the Arctic". Norway will provide a formal proposal for consideration at the SDWG Heads of Delegation meeting scheduled for 8-9 December 2008.

The Working Group will continue to look at how it can best define priorities, design new activities, and manage its portfolio of projects and other work. Broadening the participation of Arctic States, Permanent Participants and Observers in its projects and activities is among the issues the SDWG has considered during the Norwegian chairmanship, and will continue to consider during the Danish

chairmanship. Apart from its first meeting of the Norwegian chairmanship in April 2007, the SDWG has not organized back-to-back meetings with the SAO meetings, as instructed by SAOs. Some participants, particularly the Permanent Participants but also some Arctic states, feel that although this provides more time for comprehensive discussions, it may compromise participation in the SDWG owing to the overall increase in the number of meetings and the associated travel costs. In addition, some feel it reduces the communications with SAOs on important questions relating to the human dimension of the Arctic. Due the challenging logistics of travel to Greenland, some reconsideration of this matter may be warranted during the Danish chairmanship.

### ***Projects Reports***

As noted above, the SDWG had 20 projects reporting to the working group in the period 2006-2009. The SDWG has begun to review its method of work in order to address its increasing work load caused by a growing number of distinct project activities. During the Danish chairmanship an attempt will be made to further identify priorities and focus more on “clusters” of related issues.

Summaries of progress on each project are provided below under five thematic areas that have been used to organize SDWG work during the Norwegian chairmanship, namely:

- Management of Natural Resources
- Adaptation to Climate Change
- Arctic Human Health
- Arctic Information and Communication Technologies
- Follow on the the Arctic Human Development Report.

Appendix II contains more detailed summary reports of each project. Some project final reports will be primarily informational, while others represent ongoing work which will be reflected in the SDWG workplan for the Danish chairmanship to be submitted to SAOs by 08 January 2009. The summary reports contained in Appendix II were heard at the SDWG regular meeting on 24-25 October 2008 in Tromsø and are recommended to SAOs as a report on the Activities of the SDWG during the Norwegian chairmanship. The SDWG notes that it does not review, negotiate or edit in detail each project final report. These activities are conducted within each project team. The SDWG recommendations to SAOs below are therefore based on the project progress reports throughout the Norwegian chairmanship and in particular on the summary reports during the last SDWG regular meeting on 24-25 October 2008. A few of these projects and activities may require consideration by the SAOs given the nature of the issues, the draft recommendations or the anticipated findings. Where appropriate, the summaries below alert the SAOs to any issues noted by the SDWG.

## **Management of Natural Resources**

### ***1. Arctic Energy Summit (AES)[USA]***

#### **Project Description:**

The USA-led Arctic Energy Summit (AES) project has been coordinated by the Institute of the North in Anchorage, Alaska. It is also an International Polar Year Project (#299).

The AES summit created a network and community in which ideas, knowledge, suggestions and solutions can be exchanged among a wide range of participants including students, researchers, government officials and their colleagues in commerce. The primary objective of the AES is technology transfer on issues related to the Arctic as an energy province, with the goal of bringing together the people of the Arctic to discuss, share and develop a balanced approach to develop extractive, renewable and rural power all in a sustainable way, supporting the vision of creating energy wealth while eliminating energy poverty.

**SDWG Recommendations:**

The AES project has made good progress during the Norwegian chairmanship and anticipates completion of its final report in the autumn of 2009. The Interim Report in Appendix II outlines the progress of AES to date. The SDWG recommends this report to SAOs for their consideration and acceptance.

## *2. Best Practices in Ecosystems-Based Oceans Management (BEPOMAR)[Norway]*

**Project Description:**

The joint SDWG/PAME Best Practices in Ecosystems Based Oceans Management project was initiated by Norway in 2006 and adopted by the SAO meeting in April 2007, following a startup workshop in February 2007. A draft report on Best Practices in Ecosystems Based Oceans Management, with chapters addressing the experiences of 7 Arctic countries and indigenous perspectives, was produced in summer and fall 2007, and discussed at a workshop in Washington DC in February 2008. At that meeting, a short document "Observed Best Practices in Ecosystems Based Oceans Management" was developed as well. Following the Washington workshop, the project and its progress has been presented to SAOs, SDWG, and PAME. Authors have revised their chapters, and a second draft report was out in July 2008. Following review of the second draft report and the Observed Best Practices in Ecosystems Based Oceans Management document in September 2007, a final workshop to finalize the report and the OBP document was held in Tromsø 21-22 October 2008.

**SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the draft final report of BEPOMAR and took note that there is some editing to complete in the country chapters which will be the responsibility of each state to finalize. This project will conclude in the Norwegian chairmanship but new follow on activities may be proposed for the Danish chairmanship. The SDWG recommends the draft final report and the draft Observed Best Practices Document to SAOs for their consideration and acceptance, subject to final editing. The draft report is available on the SDWG website in the password area: <http://portal.sdwg.org>. The draft Observed Best Practices Document is contained in Appendix II of this Report.

### *3. SDWG Report to Ministers on Arctic Energy [Norway]*

#### **Project Description:**

The Arctic Council Ministers requested in their Salekhard Declaration (2006) the following:

“Welcome the increased co-operation in the field of energy, reflected in various AC projects, and endorse energy, including renewable energy and environmentally friendly technologies, as an important component of the AC cooperation, addressing energy issues and their impact on human life and the environment, and request the SDWG to report on this activity to the AC Ministerial session in 2008, and to identify activities that the Arctic Council could consider for future implementation.”

Based on the mandate given by Ministers, the SDWG has prepared this report to:

- Identify some emerging Arctic energy issues
- Reference completed Arctic Council projects and activities relating to energy
- Provide some background information on energy sectors in an Arctic context
- Identify some possible areas for cooperation in the field of Arctic energy.

This report is not intended as a comprehensive assessment of Arctic energy resources, nor of the impacts of Arctic energy development on the natural and human environments in the circumpolar region. Rather, it is intended as an overview report on the Council’s cooperation in the field of Arctic energy so as to allow Arctic Council Ministers to take stock of past activities and to make some strategic decisions about future cooperative activities. In this sense, the report could be seen as an initial planning document on the broad subject of Arctic energy.

#### **SDWG Recommendations:**

The draft SDWG Energy Report will be a separate item for consideration on the SAO agenda for the Kautokeino meeting on 19-20 November 2008. The SDWG is advancing a draft report to SAOs for information purposes only at this time, with a request for any directions or guidance SAOs may wish to give. Further consideration of the draft by the SDWG and other working groups is ongoing with the objective of finalizing the draft for submission to SAOs by 08 January 2009. In particular, the SDWG is considering the recommendations to be included in the final draft for SAOs. The draft report is available on the SDWG website <http://portal.sdwg.org> in the password area, and will be updated as work progresses.

### *4. Circumpolar Information Tool Kit on Minerals, and Oils and Gas for Indigenous People and Northern Communities [Canada]*

#### **Project Description:**

The mining toolkit will provide easy- to-read descriptions of the activities related to the sustainable development of minerals and metals for communities, governments and industries throughout the stages of its development. In order to strengthen northern communities and Indigenous People's capacity to take advantage of the potential opportunities and benefits of mining, as well as understand the impacts to Arctic communities, the toolkit will include explanations on the:

- mining industry;
- contributions to sustainable communities;
- integration of environmental, social and economic considerations;
- protection of traditional ways of life;
- issues and problems common to both northern and indigenous peoples; and,
- potential opportunities and benefits for communities.

**SDWG Recommendations:**

The work on this project is ongoing with the objective of completing the Toolkit during the Danish chairmanship. A draft outline of the toolkit is anticipated by the time of the Ministerial meeting in April 2009. The SDWG is advancing the progress report in Appendix II to SAOs for information purposes only.

**Adaptation to Climate Change**

***5. EALÁT-Information: Reindeer herding, traditional knowledge and adaptation to climate change and loss of grazing land [Norway]***

**Project Description:**

Indigenous peoples in the Arctic face major challenges related to changes in their society and the northern climate. There is an urgent need to inform the Arctic nations both about the changes to which they are subjected and give some concrete examples how herders' traditional knowledge relates to adaptation to changing conditions, including traditional use of grazing land. Local community-based workshops organized in the reindeer herding societies in the most important reindeer herding regions focus on information on how traditional knowledge are used and how traditional grazing lands are lost. EALÁT-Information will be the voice of reindeer herders to the Arctic Council on climate change issues, and to promote local competence building for indigenous peoples. The challenge of EALÁT- Information is to transfer reindeer herders' knowledge into action for sustainable development of the Arctic and, in particular, to involve Russian, Scandinavian and Alaskan reindeer herders in this process.

**SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the progress of this project, took note of its continuation into the Danish chairmanship, took note of the draft interim recommendations (see AppendixII) and will further

consider these draft recommendations in December, 2008 at the SDWG Heads of Delegation meeting. The SDWG will then convey any recommendations to SAOs in January, 2009.

## 6. *Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic (VACCA)[Norway]*

### **Project Description:**

This Arctic Council project, VACCA (Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic) was approved by the Arctic Council in 2007 and was designed to provide practical, useful knowledge and information sharing at different governance levels and for different sectors so that this learning can be incorporated into policies and decision making. VACCA has direct and indirect links to several SDWG priority subject areas, and activities of other working groups, including follow-on to the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR, 2004); management of natural resources; Arctic human, community, and environmental health; energy; marine shipping; and information and communication technologies. The output from VACCA has two components:

- To undertake a scoping study which, via a survey, collected information on the expertise, previous and ongoing projects, and strategies and measures on vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the Arctic. The scoping study also forms the basis for the preparation of this background document for the workshop described in the next bullet point. Responses to the survey were solicited via the SDWG website, word-of-mouth, email lists, specific meetings, and by contacting individuals one-on-one to fill in the survey form.
- To arrange an international workshop to discuss relevant issues about, and to exchange information on good practices and lessons related to, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. The workshop will prepare suggestions to give guidance for potential future work on climate change within the Arctic Council.

The report entitled ***An Analysis of the Scoping Study Data*** (available on the SDWG website) represents the background document analysing the scoping study for the workshop held in Tromsø, Norway from 22-23 October 2008. It reports on the data from the survey responses while analysing them through a strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-constraints analysis. Suggestions are made to assist the Arctic Council in moving forward with reducing vulnerability and implementing adaptation to climate change in the Arctic.

### **SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the report of VACCA; took note that the project will conclude in the Norwegian chairmanship but new follow on activities may be proposed the Danish chairmanship; took note of the draft recommendations (see Appendix II) and will further consider these draft recommendations in December, 2008 at the SDWG Heads of Delegation meeting. The SDWG will then convey any recommendations to SAOs in January, 2009.

## Arctic Human Health

### *7. SDWG Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG)*

#### **Activity Description:**

Over recent years, the Arctic Council has become increasingly concerned with the human health challenges facing Arctic peoples. These include the health impacts of environmental contaminants, climate change, rapidly changing social and economic parameters within communities, the changing patterns of chronic diseases, the high rates of injuries that occur in the Arctic region, and the continuing health disparities that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations in the Arctic.

Human health activities have tended to be concentrated in two of the Arctic Council Working Groups, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) and the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), though recently other Working Groups, such as the Arctic Contaminants Action Plan, are also engaging in human health activities.

Canada and the US accepted the SDWG Chair's request for their continued leadership and a small ad-hoc group was struck (the lead countries and two Permanent Participant Organizations, the Gwich'in Council International and the Saami Council) to take on the development of terms of reference for an SDWG human health group. The lead countries were also directed to report back at the next Meeting of the SDWG in May 2008.

The ad hoc group completed the SDWG Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) Terms of Reference and in May 2008 these were approved by the SDWG. Succinctly, the AHHEG is an integrated research community with interest in circumpolar community health and wellness. The mandate of this expert group is to support and advance knowledge gained through ecosystem and community based research to support circumpolar communities in developing practical responses to the human health impacts. Moreover, the AHHEG aims toward greater collaboration and synergies between Arctic Council Working Groups, Indigenous communities and organizations, academic institutions and other relevant circumpolar organizations in the development of sustainable and integrated approaches to address attendant human health issues.

#### **SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the progress report on the AHHEG; took note of the need to hold the first meeting of AHHEG, preferably before the Ministerial meeting in April 2009; and agreed to report this progress to SAOs. (see Appendix II)

### *8. Arctic Human Health Initiative*

**Project Description:**

The International Polar Year (IPY) represents a unique opportunity to focus world attention on arctic human health and to further stimulate circumpolar cooperation on emerging arctic human health concerns. The Arctic Human Health Initiative (AHHI IPY#167) is an Arctic Council SDWG IPY initiative that aims to build and expand on existing Arctic Council and International Union for Circumpolar Health's (IUCH) human health research activities. The human health legacy of the IPY will be increased visibility of the human health concerns of arctic communities, revitalization of cooperative arctic human health research focused on those concerns, the development of health policies based on research findings, and the subsequent implementation of appropriate interventions, prevention and control measures at the community level.

**SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the progress report on the AHHI and agreed to report this progress to SAOs. (see Appendix II)

## *9. International Circumpolar Surveillance*

**Project Description:**

Human health is a critical component of any sustainable development program. Sustainable economic development is frequently accompanied by changes in a number of factors, which impact human health and promote the emergence of infectious disease problems. With increased air travel and international trade, Arctic communities are no longer isolated from infectious disease threats. Circumpolar surveillance of infectious diseases may serve as an early warning system of emerging threats and provide increased capacity to monitor the effectiveness of public health control measures.

The purpose of this project is to establish an integrated International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS) system for infectious diseases by creating a network of hospital and public health laboratories throughout the Arctic. The network allows collection and sharing of uniform laboratory and epidemiologic data between Arctic countries which describes the prevalence of infectious diseases of concern to Arctic residents and assists in the formulation of prevention and control strategies.

**SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the progress report on the ICS; took note that ICS can contribute as a Sustainable Arctic Observing Network for human health; and agreed to report this progress and note to SAOs the potential of ICS as a SAON for human health. (see Appendix II)

### *10. Research & Action Plan for Human Health Risk Reduction [Russian Federation]*

The SDWG did not receive a report on this project and was unable to discuss the project further given the absence of a representative of the Russian Federation at the meeting.

### *11. Advancing Alcohol & Drug Abuse Treatment in the Circumpolar North [USA]*

#### **Project Description:**

This is a project participated in by the USA and the Russian Federation to support mutual efforts on healthy lifestyle promotion in northern regions, to facilitate knowledge and experience exchange in the areas of drug addiction and alcoholism.

#### **SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the progress report on this project and took note that the project intends to continue into the Danish Chairmanship. (see Appendix II)

### *12. Telemedicine [USA]*

#### **Project Description:**

This is a project participated in by the USA and the Russian Federation. The goal of the Telemedicine pilot project is to promote the establishment of a mutually beneficial collaboration in telemedicine, telehealth, mobile medicine and distance learning in remote areas of the Russian north. Project implementation sites – Sakha Republic and Khanty- Mansiysk AO.

#### **SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the progress report on this project and took note that the project will conclude during the Norwegian chairmanship. (see Appendix II)

## **Arctic Information and Communication Technologies**

### *13. Arctic Information and Communication Technologies Assessment (AICTA)[USA]*

#### **Project Description:**

The AICTA project grew out of a 2005 workshop to consider appropriate Information Communications Technology (ICT) activities for the Arctic Council under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG). A project for an Arctic ICT assessment was

approved at the 2006 Salekhard Ministerial Meeting. As outlined in the Arctic ICT Network Draft Committee's Proposal and Rationale, the overall goals of the assessment are to determine how ICT can: (1) increase the human and social capital in the North, (2) contribute to northern economic development, and (3) improve the quality of life in the Arctic. Subsequent meetings defined the scope of the project and assessment chapters outlined in detail, projected, and data gathering strategies. The last meeting of the executive project committee was a conference call held on 31 March 2008. Funding for the first phase of the project has been provided by the United States and Canada.

A report on phase one of the Assessment of Information and Communications Technology in the Arctic (AICTA) was prepared. It presents the results of an initial survey of ICT in the Arctic regions of the eight Arctic Council nations and summarizes ICT activity in each of those eight states. The report makes recommendations should future phases of this assessment be undertaken.

**SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the draft report of phase I of the AICTA; took note that the project will not be able to continue beyond the Norwegian chairmanship given the lack of support; took note that further work is required on the draft report and draft recommendations before they can be forwarded to SAOs; and agreed to give further consider to the draft report and recommendations in December, 2008 at the SDWG Heads of Delegation meeting.

#### *14. Action Arctic ICT [Sweden]*

**Project Description:**

Arctic Action is an initiative to develop solutions for Arctic populations, especially the rural populations. The activity is organized as: 1.) Research and development in the EU FP7 financed project Networking for Communications Challenged Communities (N4C). The coordinator is Luleå University of Technology in Sweden (LTU). This European project is a development of the previous nationally funded Sámi Network Connectivity project. 2.) Exchange of ideas between the LTU environment and research and development in U.S.A/Alaska with contact person Richard Beck, University of Cincinnati. The base of activities is Ukpæagvik/Barrow, <http://www.arcticsscience.org>.

**SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the draft report of Action Arctic ICT; took note that the project will continue into the Danish chairmanship and attempt to broaden its participation; took note that no deliverable is planned for the Ministerial meeting in April 2009; and agreed to report this progress to SAOs. (see Appendix II)

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## Follow on to the Arctic Human Development Report

### *15. Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) [Iceland]*

#### **Project Description:**

The Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) project was initiated by the Stefansson Arctic Institute, Akureyri, Iceland, which also hosts the secretariat. ASI has been endorsed by the Arctic Council, and has also received the endorsement of the IPY. The ASI project is a project following up on the activities of the *Arctic Human Development Report* (AHDR). The AHDR does not provide time series data regarding the various elements of human development in the Arctic, and nor does it present a suite of quantifiable indicators suitable for use on the part of those seeking to monitor or track changes in human development in the Arctic. The goal of the ASI project is to move toward filling this gap. It is the first step in a long-term effort to monitor and track human development in the Arctic. The goal is to devise Arctic social indicators which will help facilitate the tracking and monitoring of human development in the Arctic over time. The development of indicators falls within six domains:

- (1) Fate control and or the ability to guide one's own destiny;
- (2) Cultural integrity or belonging to a viable local culture;
- (3) Contact with nature or interacting closely with the natural world;
- (4) Material Well-being;
- (5) Education;
- (6) Health/Population.

It is apparent that the development of some means of monitoring trends in human development in the Arctic would be extremely helpful from the perspective of those involved in the policy process. An executive summary and the full draft ASI report (8 chapters) are available on the SDWG website in the password area: <http://portal.sdwg.org>.

#### **SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the draft ASI project report; took note that the project will conclude in the Norwegian chairmanship but new follow on activities will be proposed for the Danish chairmanship; took note that ASI can contribute to the Sustainable Arctic Observing Networks initiative; took note of the draft recommendations (see AppendixII) and agreed to forward this report to SAOs for their consideration.

### *16. ArcticStat [Canada]*

**Project Description:**

ArcticStat is a web-based socio- economic statistical database which is intended to bring together data pertaining to population, language, health, education, economy, employment (and other social data) collected by the Arctic Council member states. ArcticStat covers 30 Arctic sub- regions within Alaska, Northern Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Northern Norway, Northern Sweden, Northern Finland and Northern Russian Federation. ArcticStat operates mainly as a user-friendly portal with direct linkages to the National Statistics Agencies web sites. It serves to centralize relevant Arctic research data; facilitates comparative research between circumpolar statistical agencies databanks and other data sources; and supports timely policy decision- making by continuously updating its data information. It is also a primary statistical research instrument for circumpolar academic institutions, especially for those involved in circumpolar studies such as the universities affiliated with the University of the Arctic.

**SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the report of the ArcticStat project; took note that the project is an ongoing tool that is complementary to SDWG and other AC Working Groups initiatives by providing socio-economic data; took note that ArcticStat can contribute to the Sustainable Arctic Observing Networks initiative; noted the challenges set out in the ArcticStat report and agreed to forward the ArcticStat report to SAOs for their consideration. (see Appendix II)

**17. ECONOR 2 [Norway]****Project Description:**

The main purpose of the ECONOR II project is to produce an updated and enhanced version of the report of the ECONOR I project, *The Economy of the North*, that was presented to the Arctic Council SAO meetings in Tromsø in March 2007 and Svolvær in April 2008. In addition, two supplementary reports on petroleum in the Arctic and the subsistence economy in the Arctic will be produced. In 2008, the ECONOR II project team has continued the work on model based analysis of petroleum production in the Arctic regions, with updated estimates of reserves, production and costs. A theoretical basis for studies of the mixed subsistence-market economies of the Arctic has been defined. Preliminary research papers have been presented at international conferences.

**SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the draft ECONOR progress report (see Appendix II); took note that the project will conclude in the Norwegian chairmanship but new follow on activities may be proposed for the Danish chairmanship; took note that further work is required on the draft final report and draft recommendations before they can be forwarded to SAOs; and agreed to give

further consider to the draft final report and recommendations in December, 2008 at the SDWG Heads of Delegation meeting. The SDWG will then convey any recommendations to SAOs in January, 2009.

### *18. Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic [Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands]*

#### **Project Description:**

SLiCA's phase I (development of an international core questionnaire to be used among Inuit, Sami and the indigenous peoples of Chukotka and the Kola Peninsula) is well documented in a number of scientific articles and conference papers: see [www.arcticlivingconditions.org](http://www.arcticlivingconditions.org). A report entitled *Living Conditions in the Arctic – How to Measure Living Conditions and Individual Well-being among Inuit and Saami Peoples in the Arctic* by Thomas Andersen has been handed out to the participants in the Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council, November 2004 and at the Meeting, August 2005 for the Nordic ministers responsible for co-ordinating Nordic activities. SLiCA's phase II (validation of data, data entry, processing of data and analyses) has been split into two parts (an Inuit focused analysis to be followed by a Saami focused analysis) due to the fact that interviewing was first concluded in Arctic Canada, Alaska, Greenland and Chukotka. Interviewing in Sweden was concluded in 2006/07 whereas data collection in Norway and in the Kola Peninsula has been concluded in the summer 2008. The Arctic Centre/Rovaniemi in collaboration with the Sami Council is still trying to develop the preconditions to include Finland in SLiCA.

#### **SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the draft progress report of SLiCA (see Appendix II); took note that the project will continue data analysis, and consideration of a mechanism to access the data, into the Danish chairmanship; took note that no deliverable is planned for the Ministerial meeting in April 2009; and agreed to give further consideration to SLiCA in December, 2008 at the SDWG Heads of Delegation meeting. The SDWG will then convey any recommendations to SAOs in January, 2009.

### *19. Sustainable Development of Indigenous Peoples [Russian Federation/RAIPON]*

The SDWG did not receive a report on this project and was unable to discuss the project further given the absence of representatives of RAIPON and the Russian Federation at the meeting.

### *20. Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium [Canada]*

#### **Activity Description:**

At the Moscow SDWG Meeting (September 2006), Canada put forward a proposal for an Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium. The Symposium, held in Tromsø, October 19-21, 2008, is Canada's response to the priorities identified in the Declaration from the January 2006 "Conference on the Cultural Dimension of Cooperation among Arctic Council Member States". This project continues to be strongly supported by the Permanent Participant organizations and has received endorsement and approval from both the SDWG and Arctic Ministers. The underlying objective of the Symposium was to provide an opportunity for the participants to engage policymakers and linguistic experts in discussions on the state of indigenous languages in the Arctic, and on strategies to help in their revitalization. The intention is to build stronger relationships between state governments and indigenous peoples and foster a partnership approach toward the revitalization of languages; facilitate sharing of best practices in this area; and create networks of common interest, with a view to strengthening policies related to indigenous culture.

**SDWG Recommendations:**

The SDWG welcomed the draft report from the symposium; acknowledged all the excellent work to plan and carry out the symposium; took note of the symposium recommendations (provided for information purposes only in Appendix II); and agreed to give further consider to the relevant draft recommendations in December, 2008 at the SDWG Heads of Delegation meeting. The SDWG will then convey any recommendations to SAOs in January, 2009.

### **PART III. Activities requiring guidance from SAOs**

#### ***Matters Requiring SAO Decisions***

At its regular meeting in Tromsø, Norway on 24-25 October 2008, the SDWG did not identify any matters requiring an immediate decision of SAOs at their meeting in Kautokeino on 19-20 November 2008.

#### ***Matters Requiring SAO Guidance***

At their meeting in Kautokeino on 19-20 November 2008, SAOs will receive reports from several SDWG projects and activities (see below). Some these projects and activities (marked below with an asterisk\*) continue to be under consideration by the SDWG with a view to providing SAOs with recommendations by 08 January 2009:

- SDWG Report to Ministers on Cooperation on Arctic Energy Issues\*
- Best Practices in Ecosystems Based Oceans Management\*
- Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic\*
- Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium\*
- Arctic Social Indicators
- ECONOR 2\*

The SAOs may wish to give guidance on one or more of these projects:

### **PART IV. Deliverables for Ministerial 2004**

The SDWG anticipates several deliverables for the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Tromsø, Norway scheduled for April 2009:

1. Management of Natural Resources
  - a. Interim Report of the Arctic Energy Summit [USA]
  - b. Final Report of the project on Best Practices in Ecosystem-based Ocean Management, including an Observed Best Practices Document [Norway]
  - c. Final Report to Ministers on Cooperation on Arctic Energy Issues [Norway]
2. Adaptation to Climate Change

- a. Interim Report of EALAT: Reindeer herding, traditional knowledge and adaptation to climate change and loss of grazing land; and an information book entitled “Reindeer Herders’ Voice: Reindeer herding, traditional knowledge and adaptation to climate change and loss of grazing land” [Norway]
  - b. Final Report of the project on Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic [Norway]
3. Arctic Human Health
  - a. Announcement of the establishment of the new SDWG Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) [USA/Canada]
  - b. Report on the activities of the Arctic Human Health Initiative [USA]
  - c. Report on the activities of the project on International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS): Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Arctic [USA]
4. Arctic Information and Communication Technologies
  - a. Report from the Arctic Information and Communication Technologies Assessment [USA]
5. Follow on to the Arctic Human Development Report
  - a. Final Report of the project on Arctic Social Indicators [Iceland]
  - b. Final Report of the project on ECONOR 2 [Norway]
  - c. Report on the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium [Canada]

## **PART V. SDWG Work Plan for 2009-2011**

As indicated in the sections above, the SDWG will continue to deal with a number of issues and projects in the period 2009-2011. The SDWG workplan will be finalized at the SDWG Heads of Delegation meeting scheduled for 08-09 December 2008 and will be submitted to SAOs by 08 January 2009. Finalization of the workplan will take into consideration the planned Danish chairmanship program and any directions received from SAOs.

## **APPENDICES**

APPENDICES to this report are contained in a separate document.