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**Meeting Summary  
Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)  
Kotzebue, Alaska, February 07-08, 2017**

**Overview:**

The final regular meeting of the SDWG under the U.S. Chairmanship occurred at Kotzebue, Alaska, on February 07-08, 2017. Approximately 44 participants attended this meeting. Please see the attached participants' lists for more detailed information<sup>1</sup>.

**Decisions of Note:**

1. In Kotzebue, delegates formally approved a new SDWG Strategic Framework comprised of a vision document and implementation plan. This Strategic Framework is on the SAO agenda for consideration and approval at the Juneau meeting in March 2017.
2. In addition, the SDWG approved a work plan for the period 2017 to 2019. This work plan is also on the SAO agenda for consideration and approval at the Juneau meeting.
3. The SDWG endorsed three projects in Kotzebue:
  - **Arctic Energy Summit 2017** [Co-leads: Finland, Iceland, Russian Federation]
  - **Good Practice Recommendations for Environmental Impact Assessment and Public Participation in the Arctic (Arctic EIA)** [Co-leads: Finland, the Kingdom of Denmark, Canada]
  - **Teacher Education for Diversity and Equality in the Arctic** [Co-leads: Finland, Russian Federation, Norway, Canada]
4. Four other project, will be further developed and may be endorsed by an inter-sessional process if requisite support is obtained:
  - **Arctic Generation 2030** [proposed by Norway]: a project to forge a strong and globally-connected community of future Arctic leaders;
  - **Arctic Sustainable Energy Futures Toolkit** [Proposed by Gwich'in Council International, Aleut International Association, and Canada]: a project to create a proactive and comprehensive long-term energy planning process for communities in the Arctic;
  - **Nomadic Schools ("Children of Nomads")** [Proposed by Russian Federation and RAIPON]: a project aimed at analysis and evaluation of educational practices without interrupting the traditional ways of life of Indigenous peoples;
  - **Solid Waste Management in Small Arctic Communities** [Proposed by Aleut International Association and Finland]: a project to examine, among other things, current best practices in solid waste management among the Arctic States.
5. The SDWG delegates also agreed to use an inter-sessional process to review and approve an ANNEX to the Arctic Council's Common Operating Guidelines, for transmission to SAOs. A Draft Addendum to the new SDWG Strategic Framework was also introduced in Kotzebue and will be further developed for SDWG approval by an inter-sessional process. The Addendum will include a new project proposal template, tracking matrix, operational guidelines and communication plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Representatives from all Arctic States and Permanent Participants participated in this SDWG meeting. Seven observers participated, including three non-Arctic states (Japan, Netherlands, South Korea) and four Observer organizations (Association of World Reindeer Herders, IASSA, AINA and Northern Forum).

## SDWG Chair's Summary

### Co-Vice Chairs for Finnish Chairmanship:

6. SDWG representatives selected two new co-vice chairs for the Finnish chairmanship, commencing 11 May 2017. The United States will provide the co-chair, yet to be named, for Arctic states and the Saami Council will provide the co-chair, yet to be named, for the Permanent Participants.

### SDWG Expert Groups

7. The SDWG approved the Social, Economic, and Cultural Expert Group's continued involvement in PAME's MEMA project which has been continued into the Finnish Chairmanship.
8. The Arctic Human Health Expert Group reported on its continuing relationship with the International Circumpolar Surveillance network, a former long-running project of the SDWG which began in 1999.

### SDWG Project Deliverables

9. In Kotzebue, the SDWG heard progress updates on all its projects, and approved deliverables for the 2017 Ministerial Meeting as follows:
  - ***The Economy of the North (ECONOR III)***: final assessment report.
  - ***Arctic Indigenous Youth, Climate Change, & Food Culture (EALLU)***: a unique cookbook of indigenous foods and indigenous food culture, with recommendations. The recommendations are submitted to SAOs for consideration and approval at their Juneau meeting in March 2017. The final text of the cookbook with recipes and graphics will be forward to SAOs on 22 February 2017 in support of the recommendations.
  - ***Operationalizing One Health in the Arctic***: The One Health recommendations are submitted to SAOs for consideration and approval at their Juneau meeting in March 2017. The final report of One Health activities will be forward to SAOs on 22 February 2017 in support of the recommendations.
10. Other deliverables and achievements will be submitted to SAOs for inter-sessional review and approval prior to the Ministerial Meeting in May 2017 as follows:
  - ***Reducing the Incidence of Suicide in Indigenous Groups—Strengths United through Networks (RISING-SUN)***: a website and online toolkit;
  - ***Improving Health through Safe and Affordable Access to Household Running Water and Sewer (WASH)***: Executive summary of the WASH activities; WASH survey; WIHAH Conference Report;
  - ***Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas (AREA)***: AREA website with renewable energy resource maps;
  - ***Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA)***: a report of first on-site training session will be submitted to SAOs in early April 2017.

## **SDWG Chair's Summary**

### **Follow-up Activities from the Kotzebue Meeting:**

11. The SDWG will continue to develop and revise the addendum to its new Strategic Framework with a view to approving it through an inter-sessional process prior to the Ministerial Meeting in May 2017.

### **Cross-Cutting Issues:**

12. The SDWG will continue to consider how best to contribute to PAME's request for collaboration on its heavy fuel oil (HFO) in the Arctic projects, specifically related to on-shore use by indigenous peoples and local communities of HFO as well as the extent to which peoples and communities rely on ships that burn HFO to deliver supplies and provisions.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- An SDWG inter-sessional process to finalize matters referenced above. Dates to be determined.