



SAO plenary meeting

Reykjavik, Iceland

16-18 March 2021

FINAL

DAY 1 | 16 March 2021

13:30 GMT Delegates join meeting via **GoToMeeting**

SAO meeting link: <https://www.gotomeet.me/ACSWebmaster/16-18-march-2021-sao-plenary>

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- The meeting link for the SAO plenary will also be provided by email on **14 March 2021**.
- Please do not share link with others than confirmed participants.
- HoD are responsible for the management of their delegation size. The online meeting room will be monitored. **Non-registered attendees will be excluded.**
- SAOC, SAOs and PPs will be on camera during the executive meeting, while other participants are expected to remain in listening mode except when invited to take the floor.
- Guidelines for online SAO meetings have been shared with participants.
- **The SAO plenary meeting will not be recorded. We ask you to refrain from making any recordings of the SAO meeting.**

14:00 (GMT) SAO plenary meeting convenes

1. Introduction

1.1 Opening remarks

Speaker: *Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials*

1.2 Approval of the agenda

Speaker: *Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials*

Document(s):

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_01_Second-Draft-Agenda_FINAL

2. Arctic Council Secretariat annual report 2020

Speaker: *Nina Buvang Vaaja, director of the Arctic Council Secretariat*

Background: The ACS director reports on the Secretariat's activities and accounts for the year 2020 and presents the financial statement and the auditor's report for approval by the SAOs.

Action: SAOs are requested to take note of the ACS annual report and to approve the ACS financial statements and auditor's report for the year 2020.

Document(s):

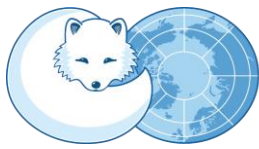
SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_02_ACS-Annual-Report-2020_REV1

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_02_ACS-Financial-Statements-and-Auditor-Report-2020

3. Youth engagement

Speaker: *Nina Buvang Vaaja, director of the Arctic Council Secretariat; Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials*

Background: At the November SAO plenary meeting the SAO Chair took note of the general agreement to strengthen the Council's youth engagement and to move forward with designing an ACS internship program and the goals it could accomplish. The ACS director will present a proposal with regard to such internship at the Secretariat. The Chairmanship will furthermore present a concept note, proposing an additional element aimed to enhance youth participation in the Arctic Council's work.



Action: For discussion and approval

Document(s):

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_03-A_Youth-Engagement-Internship-Program_Draft-Proposal

SAOIS203_2021_RVI-Virtual1_03-B_Chairmanship-Concept-Note_Informal-Arctic-Council-Youth-Group

4. Observer review process and regular reporting

Speaker: *Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials*

Background: The SAO Chair will provide a brief update on the Observer review process and the regular reporting by Observers not under review. He will also inform delegates of the next review process (i.e., the Rovaniemi Group) to be conducted during the Russian Chairmanship (2021-2023).

Action: For information and discussion

Document(s):

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_04_Observer-Regular-Reports-Compilation

16:00-16:30 (GMT) Health Break

5. SMM update and continuation through the Russian Chairmanship

Speaker: *Magnús Jóhannesson, Special Coordinator on Plastics Pollution and Marine Litter; Fredrik Juul Theisen, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, Head of Delegation for Norway in PAME*

Background: A draft concept paper on possible modalities of a continuation of the SMM has been shared with SAOs and PPs proposing a way forward. Furthermore, Norway has submitted a concept paper outlining possible options and actions for enhancing Arctic Council coordination and cooperation on Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) of Arctic marine ecosystems. The SAO Chair will invite delegates to provide feedback and guidance on the proposed way forward.

Action: For discussion and decision

Document(s):

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_05-A_SMM-Concept-Note-for-Continuation

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_05-B_Concept-Paper-EBM-Norway

6. Project Support Instrument update

Speaker: *Ulf Bojö, PSI Facility Manager* (pre-recorded presentation in English and Russian on [Share Point](#) or on [Vimeo](#) with the access code: **SAOIS2021**).

Background: Updates from the PSI are a standing agenda item for SAO plenary meetings since 2019, to ensure that the Arctic Council's funding mechanism continues to be aligned with the goals and interests of the Council. The PSI Facility Manager will provide delegates with a brief progress report on PSI recent and upcoming activities.

Action: For information

Document(s):

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_06_PSI-Update-March-2021

18:30 (GMT) SAO plenary meeting adjourns for the day

DAY 2 | 17 March 2021

13:30 (GMT) Delegates join meeting via GoToMeeting

14:00 (GMT) SAO plenary meeting reconvenes

7. Working Groups: approval of deliverables for the 2021 Ministerial

Speaker: *Working Group Chairs*

Background: The WG Chairs will present a brief overview of their deliverables to be approved before the Reykjavik Ministerial meeting.

Action: For information and consideration for delivery for final approval by the Ministers.

7.1 ACAP

Speaker: *Inger-Johanne Wiese, ACAP Chair*

Deliverables

- Report: the establishment of the Circumpolar LEO Network;
- “ACAP Webinar on Reduction of Black Carbon and Methane. Emissions from the Oil and Gas Sector in the Arctic”;
- “Kola Waste Project: Cleaning of the Sámi Territory in the Murmansk Region (2018-2020);
- “Final Report: Rapid Environmental Assessment Demonstration Project in Russia”; and,
- “Mitigation of Short-Lived Climate Pollutants from APG – Flaring”, Phase 2 “The Use of New Methodology to Reduce APG Flaring at Remote Fields,” Final Report.

Document(s):

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-1-A_Report-Establishment-CLEO (to be issued intersessionally and uploaded to meeting Share Point folder)

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-1-B_Report_Webinar-BC-Methane-Oil-Gas-Sector_REV1

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-1-C_Report-Kola-Waste-Project

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-1-D_Report-Rapid-Environmental-Assessment-Technique-Threats-Pesticides-Arctic-Russia

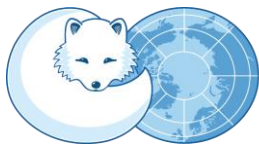
SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-1-E_Final-Report-Phase-2_Use-New-Methodology-Reduce-APG-Flaring-Remote-Fields

7.2 AMAP

Speaker: *Anders Turesson, AMAP Chair*

Deliverables

- “Arctic Climate Change Update 2021: Key Trends and Impacts Summary for Policy-makers;”
- “AMAP Assessment 2020: POPs and Chemicals of Emerging Arctic Concern: Influence of Climate Change” Summary for Policymakers;
- “2021 AMAP Mercury Assessment: Summary for Policy Makers;”
- Short-lived Climate Forcers (SLCFs) 2021 [title to be confirmed];



- “Human Health in the Arctic 2021. Summary for Policy Makers;”
- “AMAP Litter and Microplastics Monitoring Plan;” and,
- “Overview of AMAP Initiatives for Monitoring and Assessment of Plastics Pollution in the Arctic.”

Document(s):

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-2-A_Climate-Issues-Concern-2021 Summary-for-Policy-Makers_Climate-Change-Update-2021-APPROVED

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-2-B_Summary-for-Policy-Makers_POPs-Chemicals-Emerging-Arctic-Concern-Influence-Climate-APPROVED

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-2-C_Summary-for-Policy-Makers_Mercury-Assessment-2021-APPROVED

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-2-D_SLCFs-2021_APPROVED_REV1

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-2-E_Summary-for-Policy-Makers_AMAP-Human-Health-APPROVED

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-2-F_AMAP-Litter-and-Microlitter-Monitoring-Plan-APPROVED

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-2-G_Overview-AMAP-Monitoring-Assessment-Plastics-Pollution-Arctic-final-APPROVED

7.3 CAFF

Speaker: *Mark Marissink, CAFF Chair*

Deliverables

- Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP);
 - “State of the Arctic Terrestrial Biodiversity Report;”
 - “Strategic Plan for the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (2021-2025);”
 - “2021 SAMBR Update: Seabirds”
- “Resilience and Management of Arctic Wetlands: Key Findings and Recommendations;”
- “Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI);”
 - “Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) Revised Workplan 2019-2023;”
 - “AMBI Mid-term Evaluation 2021: Summary of 2019-2020 activities and advice for implementation;”



- “Case studies: Working with Indigenous Communities on Migratory Birds – case studies of relevance to the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI);” and,
- “CAFF Arctic Youth Engagement Strategy: 2021-2026.”

Document(s): (Documents C, F, H, I have been moved to the List of documents for information at the end of the agenda. The SAO Chair decided to remove item E from the agenda, to be dealt with intersessionally.)

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-3-A_Report_State-Arctic-Terrestrial-Biodiversity (START)

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-3-B_CBMP-Strategic-Plan-2021-2025

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-3-D_Seabirds-SAMBR-Update

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-3-G_Wetlands-Key-Findings-Recommendations

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-3-J_Revised-AMBI-Work-Plan

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-3-K_Revised-AMBI-Eval-Summary

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-3-L_AMBI-IK-Case-Studies-Document

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-3-M_CAFF-Arctic-Youth-Engagement-Strategy-2021-2026

16:00-16:30 (GMT) Health Break

7.4 EPPR

Speaker: *Jens Peter Holst-Andersen, EPPR Chair*

Deliverables

- “Arctic Marine Risk Assessment Guideline Web-based Tool;”
- “Circumpolar Oil Spill Response Viability Analysis (COSRVA) Phase II Web-based Tool;”
- “Prevention, Preparedness and Response in Small Communities Phase II” ([movie](#));
- “RADSAR Report. Sharing of competence within search and rescue in a maritime radiological/nuclear scenario;”
- “RADEX 2019 TTX Final Report;”
- “Report: Arctic Oil Pollution Research and Development Workshop;”
- “EPPR Consensus Report: Radiological / Nuclear Risk Assessment in the Arctic;” and,

- “Arctic Coast Guard Forum (ACGF) and Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)” Arctic Guardian Table-Top Exercise After-Action Report (AAR).

Document(s):

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-4-A_Arctic-Risk-Assessment-Guideline-Web-Tool

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-4-B_Circumpolar-Oil-Spill-Viability-Analysis-Phase2-Web-Tool

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-4-C_PPR-Small-Communities-Phase2-Movie

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-4-D_Report_RAD SAR

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-4-E_Report_RADEX-2019

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-4-F_Report_Reasearch-Development-Initiative-Workshop

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-4-G_Report_RAD-EG-Risks-Project-Consensus

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-4-H_Report_EPPR-ACGF-Arctic-Guardian-MOSPA-TTX-After-Action

7.5 PAME

Speaker: *Paula Kankaanpää, PAME Chair*

Deliverables

- “Proposed Joint Policy Statement with the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC) on Hydrography in the Arctic Region;”
- “Information Briefs on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Food Security in changing Arctic conditions. Marine Protected Areas in a Changing Arctic;”
- “Information Briefs on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in changing Arctic conditions. Indigenous Food Security in the Arctic;”
- “Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities (MEMA) Reference Guide;” and,
- “Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic”.

Document(s):

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-5-A_Arctic-Council-ARHC-Joint-Policy-Statement-Hydrography-Arctic

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-5-B_Information-Brief_MPAs-Under-Change

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-5-C_Information-Brief_Indigenous-Food-Security-Arctic-Implications

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-5-D_MEMA-Reference-Guide

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-5-E_Marine-Litter-Regional-Action-Plan-Arctic

7.6 SDWG

Speaker: *Stefán Skjaldarson, SDWG Chair*

Deliverables

- “Blue Bio-Economy in the Arctic Region. Project Report 2021;”
- “Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas (AREA);”
- “ZERO ARCTIC. Concepts for carbon-neutral Arctic construction based on tradition;”
- “Gender Equality in the Arctic Report;”
- “Arctic Resilience Forum 2020 Report;” and,
- “Economy of the North (ECONOR) IV.”

Document(s):

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-6-A_Blue-Bio-Economy-Arctic

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual_7-6-B_AREA-Overview-2021

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-6-C_Report_Zero-Arctic

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-6-D_Report_Gender-Equality-Arctic

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-6-E_Report_Arctic-Resilience-Forum-2020

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_7-6-F_Economy-North-IV (to be issued intersessionally and uploaded to meeting’s Share Point folder)



8. EGBCM deliverables for the 2021 Reykjavik Ministerial

Speaker: *Kristín Linda Árnadóttir, EGBCM Chair*

Background: The EGBCM Chair will provide an update on the EGBCM's third Summary of Progress and Recommendations for delivery at the Reykjavik Ministerial meeting.

Action: For information on work in progress aimed for delivery at the Reykjavik Ministerial meeting.

Document: None

18:30 (GMT) SAO plenary meeting adjourns for the day

DAY 3 | 18 March 2021

13:30 (GMT) Delegates join meeting via **GoToMeeting**

14:00 (GMT) SAO plenary meeting reconvenes

9. Arctic Council work related to COVID-19 in the Arctic

Speaker: *Stefán Skjaldarson, SDWG Chair*

Background: The SDWG has prepared a briefing document for the consideration of SAOs and PPs with options for additional work under the auspices of the WG.

Action: For discussion and decision

Document(s):

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_09_SDWG-Briefing-Document-COVID-19-Arctic

10. Arctic Council – Arctic Coast Guard Forum Statement of Cooperation

Speaker: *Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials*

Background: A draft statement on cooperation between the Arctic Council and the Arctic Coast Guard Forum was distributed in January and is up for approval at this meeting.

Action: For approval

Document(s):

SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_10_Arctic-Council-ACGF-Statement-of-Cooperation_Final-Version

16:00-16:30 (GMT) Health Break

11. International Symposium on plastics in the Arctic and the sub-Arctic region

Speaker: *Magnús Jóhannesson, Special Coordinator on Plastics Pollution and Marine Litter*

Background: The Special Coordinator on Plastics Pollution and Marine Litter will provide a summary from the International Symposium that was held online earlier this month on 2-4, 8-9 March.

Action: For information and discussion

Document(s): None

12. Update on preparations for the 12th Arctic Council Ministerial meeting

Speaker: *Jón Erlingur Jónasson, Director General, Directorate for Bilateral and Regional Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland*

Background: The Director General will provide an update on preparations for the upcoming Ministerial meeting on 20 May and the series of planned activities on the margins of the meeting i.a. marking the Arctic Council's 25th Anniversary.

Action: For information and discussion

Document(s): None

13. Update on the incoming Russian Arctic Council Chairmanship 2021-2023

Speaker: *Nikolay Korchunov, SAO for the Russian Federation*

Background: The SAO the Russian Federation will update delegates on the incoming Chairmanship's priorities for the Arctic Council, 2021-2023.

Action: For information

Document(s): None

14. Any other business

14.1 MOSAiC Expedition Briefing for the Arctic Council

Speaker: *Markus Rex, Professor, Head of the MOSAiC Expedition*

Background: The Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of the Arctic Climate (MOSAiC) completed its work in 2020 on the German research vessel *Polarstern*. The Head of the MOSAiC Expedition will provide delegates with a briefing on the expedition and findings.

Action: For information

Document(s): None

15. Closing of the SAO meeting

18:30 (GMT) SAO plenary meeting adjourns

List of documents submitted for information

CAFF

- SAOIS203-2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_CAFF_Overview-Deliverables-March-SAO-Meeting
- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_CAFF_Mainstreaming-Biodiversity-Arctic-Mining-Progress-Report
- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_CAFF_Actions-Biodiversity-Progress-Report
- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_CAFF_Arctic-Biodiversity-Data-Service (ABDS) Progress-Report
- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_CAFF_CBMP-Freshwater-Progress-Report-2020

ACAP

- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_ACAP_Chair-Summary

AMAP

- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_AMAP_Chair-Summary

EPPR

- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_EPPR-Chair-Summary

PAME

- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_PAME_Chair-Summary
- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_PAME-Compendium-Arctic-Ship-Accidents-CASA-Project-Final-Report
- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_PAME-Underwater-Noise-Arctic-Impacts-Management-Solutions-Final-Phase-1-Report
- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_PAME-Arctic-Safe-Low-Impact-Marine-Corridor-Initiatives-Final-Report
- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_PAME-Arctic-Marine-Tourism-Report
- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_PAME-Modelling-Arctic-Oceanographic-Connectivity-Connect-MAP-Toolbox-Final-Report



- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_PAME-Progress-Implementation-AMSP-2015-2025-Third-Reporting
- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_PAME_Arctic-Council-ARHC-Confirmation-Letter
- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1-InfoDoc_PAME_Arctic-Shipping-Best-Practice-Information-Forum-2019-2021-Progress-Report
- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1-InfoDoc_PAME_Increase-Arctic-Shipping-2013-2019-Status-Report
- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1-InfoDoc_PAME_Heavy-Fuel-Oil-HFO-Use-By-Ships-in-Arctic-2019

SDWG

- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_SDWG-Chair-Summary
- [Covid-19 in the Arctic: A Briefing Document for Senior Arctic Officials.](#)

EGBCM

- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_EGBCM-Chair-Summary

AMAROK – Arctic Council project tracking tool

- SAOIS203_2021_RVK-Virtual1_InfoDoc_AMAROK-Mini-Update