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## Meeting Summary Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) Inari, Finland, September 21-22, 2017

### **Overview:**

The first regular meeting of the SDWG under the Finnish Chairmanship occurred at Inari, Finland, on September 21-22, 2017. Approximately 60 participants attended this meeting, including representatives of seven Observer states and 10 other Observer organizations. Please see the attached participants' lists for more detailed information<sup>1</sup>.

1. SDWG received presentations from:
  - a. Ms. Tiina Manila-Aikio, Chair of the Finnish Saami Parliament, about the Saami Parliament;
  - b. Mr. Rene Soderman, the Finnish SAO, about Finnish priorities and the SDWG; and
  - c. Mr. Sami Pirkkala, a representative from the Finnish Prime Minister's office, about Agenda 2030 and Finland's approach to it.
2. In Inari, the SDWG reviewed their work plan for the period 2017 to 2019 and received updates on projects under 12 thematic areas set out in the new *SDWG Strategic Framework* adopted at the end of the US Chairmanship.

### **Decisions of Note:**

3. Since its Kotzebue Meeting in February 2017, the SDWG has endorsed 3 new projects intersessionally. These projects were identified as "under development" in the work plan submitted to SAOs prior to the US Ministerial:
  - **Arctic Generation 2030** [Leads: Norway, Finland]: a project to forge a strong and globally-connected community of future Arctic leaders;
  - **Arctic Children-Preschool Education and Smooth Transition to School** [Leads: Russian Federation, Finland, RAIPON] a project aimed at identifying educational projects, methodologies and best practices to prepare Arctic indigenous children for enrollment in school;
  - **Solid Waste Management in Small Arctic Communities** [Leads: Canada, Finland, AIA]: a project to examine, among other things, current best practices in solid waste management among the Arctic States.
4. The *Arctic Resilience Action Framework* (ARAF) was approved by SAOs at their meeting in New York in April 2017. Through an intersessional process in June/July 2017, the SDWG formally approved a project template for ARAF and ARAF has been added to the SDWG work plan.

### **Other activities:**

5. At its Inari meeting, the SDWG discussed possible projects respecting:
  - ***Occupational Health in the Arctic*** [suggested by AHHEG/Finland]
  - ***Arctic Construction Survey: results and possible next steps*** [suggested by Finland].

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<sup>1</sup> Representatives from all Arctic States and Permanent Participants participated in this SDWG meeting. Seventeen observers participated, including seven non-Arctic states (France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, South Korea, Spain & Switzerland) and ten Observer organizations (Arctic Institute of North America, Association of World Reindeer Herders, IASC, IASSA, International Red Cross, Northern Forum, West Nordic Council, WWF and UArctic).

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6. The SDWG discussed a draft SDWG ANNEX to the Arctic Council Common Operating Guidelines with the intention to complete it by an intersessional procedure for submission to SAOs at the earliest possible date.
7. The SDWG also considered a new project proposal template, a tracking matrix, internal operational guidelines and a communications implementation plan and agreed on a process for their finalization at the earliest possible date.

### **Co-Vice Chairs for Finnish Chairmanship:**

8. SDWG welcomed two new co-vice chairs for the Finnish chairmanship: Reid Creedon (USA) is the co-chair for Arctic states and Outi Paadar (Saami Council) is co-chair for the Permanent Participants.

### **SDWG Expert Groups**

9. The SDWG received reports its Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) and its the Social, Economic, and Cultural Expert Group (SECEG). SECEG also met in Inari on 21 September 2017 and conducted a workshop in Inari on 23 September. SECEG is actively examining its role within SDWG and will make recommendations to the SDWG for consideration.
10. SECEG has been involved in PAME's MEMA project which has been continued into the Finnish Chairmanship.
11. The AHHEG reported on its role in SDWG projects relating to health and its upcoming joint meeting in Inari with the AMAP Human Health Expert Group (31 Sept.-01 Oct. 2017). AHHEG continues to cooperate with the International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS) network, a former long-running project of the SDWG that began in 1999 to track infectious diseases in the Arctic.

### **Status of SDWG Projects**

12. In Inari, the SDWG heard progress updates on all its projects:
  - *Arctic Generation 2030*
  - *Arctic Children-Preschool Education and Smooth Transition to School*
  - *Teacher Education for Diversity and Equality in the Arctic*
  - *Arctic Indigenous Youth, Climate Change, & Food Culture (EALLU)*
  - *Operationalizing One Health in the Arctic, Part 2*
  - *Operationalizing Mental Wellness & Suicide Prevention (RISING SUN follow-on)*
  - *Good Practice Recommendations for Environment Impact Assessment and Public Participation in EIA in the Arctic (Arctic EIA)*
  - *Gender Equality in the Arctic II*
  - *Arctic Adaptation Exchange Portal*
  - *The Arctic as a Food Producing Region*
  - *Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA)*
  - *Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas (AREA)*
  - *Arctic Energy Summit 2017*

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- *Solid Waste Management in Small Arctic Communities*

### **Observer Engagement**

13. The SDWG employed a new format for its agenda at the Inari meeting to allow greater Observer engagement in agenda items relating to project work and other SDWG activities where greater Observer involvement would be beneficial.

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

14. The SDWG and SECEG will continue to consider how best to contribute to PAME's request for collaboration on its heavy fuel oil (HFO) project, 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 SDWG Meetings:**

15. The next SDWG meetings will be:
  - Levi/Kittilä, 19-20 March 2018
  - Rovaniemi, 22-23 October 2018
  - Kemi, 5-6 February 2019.