

# Instructions for Observers subject to review

## Introduction

This document provides the reporting template and accompanying instructions for Observers to be reviewed during the **Russian Chairmanship**.

The deadline for submission is **1 June 2022**.

According to the “[Arctic Council Rules of Procedure](#)” (Annex 2), every four years from the date of being granted Observer status, Observers should state affirmatively their continued interest in Observer status, and will be reviewed at the Ministerial meeting. The following **19 Observers** from the *Rovaniemi Group* will be reviewed at the next Ministerial meeting, and are requested to submit their review report by **1 June 2022**.<sup>1</sup>

France;

Italian Republic;

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<sup>1</sup> The **Rovaniemi Group** includes Observers that were reviewed for the first time in 2019 before the Rovaniemi Ministerial, as well as the IMO (accredited in 2019). All 19 Observers from this group will be reviewed at the Ministerial meeting in 2023.

Japan;

People's Republic of China;

Republic of India;

Republic of Korea;

Republic of Singapore;

Spain;

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC);

Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO);

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO);

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

Arctic Institute of North American (AINA);

Association of World Reindeer Herders (AWRH);

Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU);

International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA);

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA);

University of the Arctic (UArctic);

International Maritime Organization (IMO).

## 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](mailto:acs@arctic-council.org) not later than **1 June 2022**. 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](#) (OAR) after the 2023 Ministerial meeting. Observers under review will be invited to take part in individual, 30-minute, follow-up virtual meetings with the Chairmanship and the ACS in November-December 2022.

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 Observer State or Observer organization:

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Date of submission of the Review Report:

27 February 2023

Observer's website:

### Information

name for  
appropriate

LIU Zhibin

contact person

Full name:

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Organization

name or

department

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Job Title:

Second Secretary

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Chaoyang District, Beijing, China  
100701

Is your State or Organization interested in continuing



as an Observer of the Arctic Council?

Yes

## 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 Arctic Council (“Council”) is the leading intergovernmental forum on issues of environmental protection and sustainable development in the Arctic. China highly values the positive role of the Council in Arctic affairs and became an accredited observer to the Council in 2013. In the decade since, China has consistently honored the commitments it made when applying for the observer status, upheld the basic principle of “respect, cooperation, win-win result and sustainability” in participating in the Arctic affairs and fully supported the work of the Council.

In June 2018, China submitted its Observer Review Report, providing a comprehensive description of its relevant activities since its accreditation as an observer. In May 2019, China successfully passed the review at the 11th Ministerial Meeting of the Council. Since the last review, China has attended all online and offline intergovernmental meetings open to observers under the framework of the Council despite the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic. China has been engaged in the activities of the Council's Working Groups, Task Forces and Expert Groups in, inter alia, the following areas:

1. ACAP: Dr. Meng Fan, researcher at the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, has participated in the work of the ACAP for years on end, mainly on the review of black carbon and methane project proposals and research reports. In March 2020, China recommended two engineers from the Polar Research Institute of China to the projects related to solid waste management in the Arctic.
2. AMAP: Since June 2018, Dr. Zhang Xiaoxin, researcher at China Meteorological Administration, has been carrying out Arctic observation and data application as part of AMAP's work. In September 2018, Dr. Qiu Yubao and Dr. Kang Shichang, researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, attended the Arctic Observing Summit in Davos and delivered a statement and a report respectively. In April 2019, Dr. Wang Xiaoping, researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and two other Chinese experts participated in the Workshop on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Climate Change in Sweden. In March 2020, China recommended two experts to the comprehensive monitoring program on plastics in marine environment.
3. CAFF: Since 2018, China has actively participated in the formulation and evaluation of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative Work Plan 2019-2023 (AMBI 2.0) and made robust efforts for its implementation in China. China and CAFF have prepared a preliminary draft of a Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of AMBI 2.0. In October 2018, Chinese experts attended the Second Arctic Biodiversity Congress and the Workshop on AMBI 2.0 Planning and explained the distribution and protection of Arctic migratory birds in China. In December 2018, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China (NFGAC) and CAFF jointly held the AMBI East Asian-Australasian Flyway Implementation Workshop in China's Hainan Province. During the Workshop, participating countries spoke highly of China's efforts to protect Arctic migratory birds in recent years. In 2019, NFGAC and CAFF launched consultations on an Observer's Contribution Record. Preliminary agreement has been reached on the text, though the signing has been delayed by the pandemic. In September 2019, Chinese experts participated in CAFF's regular working group meeting and annual meeting in Sweden and reviewed the implementation progress of the Arctic Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring Plan 2018-2021 and the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan 2018-2021. In March 2020, China recommended two experts to the program on the impacts from plastics on sea birds. In June and September 2020, Chinese experts participated in the working group's online meetings on the mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. In February 2021, Chinese experts attended CAFF biennial meeting.

4. EPPR: In October 2020, Prof. Lu Zhibo from China's Tongji University and other Chinese experts participated in the Inter-Laboratory Comparison of Three Low Sulphur Marine Fuel Oils project co-organized by EPPR and PAME and compiled project reports. In January 2021, Chinese government officials and experts attended EPPR annual meeting online.
5. PAME: Since June 2018, Prof. Lu Zhibo from Tongji University and other Chinese experts have continuously participated in the work of PAME, including eight PAME plenary sessions, four seminars and the following projects: Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic Phase I (2017-2019), Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and Microplastics Phase II (2019-2022), Inter-Laboratory Study on the Environmental Risk Assessment of Low Sulfur Oil in the Arctic project Phase II (2020-2022), Wastewater Practices in the Arctic Report, and Report on China's Enforcement of the Polar Code. In addition, Chinese experts have participated in the formulation of several proposals, reports and plans, including China's Contributions and Action Plan under the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and Microplastics project, the Inter-Laboratory Comparison Report on Three Low Sulphur Marine Fuel Oils, the Report on Wastewater Practices in the Arctic, and the Implementation Plan for the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic ("ML-RAP"). They have also provided materials on China's Enforcement of the Polar Code, and contributed to the 2021-2023 Work Plan of PAME. In March 2020, China recommended two experts to the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and Microplastics.
6. SDWG: Since June 2020, Dr. Su Ping's team from Tongji University have attended four SDWG plenary sessions and joined the discussions on its 2019-2021 work plan and projects on social equity, economic development and environmental protection. Dr. Su also provided constructive input on the Arctic Hydrogen Energy Application and Demonstration project and the "Zero Arctic" project. In October 2021, Chinese government officials and experts attended SDWG annual meeting online.
7. China fully supports the Senior Arctic Officials' based Marine Mechanism (SMM) launched by Iceland during its 2019-2021 chairmanship. China was represented at the first SMM webinar series in September and October 2020 by H.E. Gao Feng, Special Representative for Arctic Affairs of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
8. China's Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) is a member of the University of the Arctic (UArctic), an important partner of the Council. In February 2019, the HIT established the UArctic-HIT Training Center. Since 2020, a number of Chinese universities have joined the UArctic network, such as Liaocheng University, Southern University of Science and Technology, Wuhan University and Fudan University, and the number of Chinese universities and research institutes in the network now adds up to 15. In June 2022, experts and scholars from the Chinese member institutions participated in the UArctic online meetings, hosted an International Arctic Scientific Cooperation Seminar, and actively contributed to education and research cooperation on the Arctic.
9. Chinese experts from the Aerospace Information Research Institute and Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources in the Chinese Academy of Sciences participated in a number of events held by the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON), an important initiative on Arctic scientific observing and data sharing supported by the Council. These events include the Arctic Observing Summits 2018, 2020 and 2022 and the 2019 Polar Data Forum. Chinese experts shared the latest information on cold region observing and data service in China, contributing to enhanced international cooperation on Arctic observing.
10. China respects the traditions and cultures of the Arctic residents including indigenous peoples, and is committed to preserving their unique lifestyles and values. China encourages its research institutes, such as the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, to enhance research on the origin of Arctic indigenous peoples and comparative studies on the Arctic indigenous culture and Chinese culture and religions. China also supports increased exchanges and cooperation with permanent participants of the Council through platforms such as the Association of World Reindeer Herders.

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.

China will continue to adhere to the commitments upon becoming observer to the Council, fully support the work of the Council, enhance exchanges and communication with indigenous peoples in the Arctic, and contribute to the environmental protection and sustainable development in the region. For these purposes, China plans to make efforts in the following areas:

1. Continue participation in the Ministerial and Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) meetings under the framework of the Council.
2. Further promote exchanges and cooperation with Working Groups, Task Forces and Expert Groups of the Council, and continue to push forward the existing cooperation projects involving China, including: the drafting of the PAME Regional Action Plan on Marine Microplastics and Litter in the Arctic: China's Contribution and Implementation; the Inter-Laboratory Study on the Environmental Risk Assessment of Low Sulfur Oil in the Arctic project under PAME and EPPR; the Zero Arctic, the Arctic Resilience Action Framework and the Arctic Biosecurity Framework projects under SDWG; the Arctic Marine Microplastics and Litter Monitoring Plan and the Monitoring and Assessment of Climate Change and Ocean Acidification in the Arctic projects under AMAP; and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program and the work of Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane. China will recommend more experts to the projects.
3. Continue to support the work of the Special Coordinator on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter by recommending experts and other means, to jointly promote the protection and sustainable use of the Arctic Ocean.
4. Continue to support the NFGAC and CAFF in resuming, as early as possible, the negotiation and signing of an Observer's Contribution Record and a Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of AMBI 2.0, and advancing such efforts in an orderly manner. Continuously focus on the protection of temporary habitats for migratory birds involved in AMBI, and work for the inscription of the Yellow River Delta Wetland in Shandong, the Beidagang Wetland in Tianjin and the Tanghai Wetland in Hebei as part of China's Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase II) in UNESCO's World Heritage List.
5. Continue to conduct multidisciplinary Arctic scientific expeditions, actively participate in the observation and assessment of climate change in the Arctic, support enhanced research on Arctic climate change and ecological environment, and encourage Chinese universities and research institutes to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with their global peers through platforms including the UArctic.
6. Strengthen policy communication, scientific exchanges and bilateral cooperation with member states and other observers of the Council, share scientific research outcomes, and form synergy to make greater contributions to the Council.
7. Respect the traditions and cultures of the Arctic residents including indigenous peoples, and further promote exchanges and cooperation with Permanent Participants by taking the 10th anniversary of China's formal observer status as an opportunity.

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.

As an active participant, builder and contributor in Arctic affairs, China makes practical efforts related to understanding and protecting the Arctic, and actively promotes international exchanges and cooperation on Arctic affairs. China is committed to advancing peace, stability and constructive international cooperation in the Arctic region, and continuously contributes to the goals set by the Arctic Council, particularly its 2021-2030 Strategic Plan. Since the last review, China has made, inter alia, the following efforts:

1. Continuing to carry out scientific research on the Arctic. From 2018 to 2022, China organized the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Arctic Expeditions, and sent nearly 400 experts and scholars for more than 270 days of multidisciplinary field surveys on ocean, atmosphere, biology, ecology, geology and the environment. In 2021, Chinese scientists took part in the JASMINe project, the MOSAiC Expedition and other international scientific cooperation programs under the frameworks of the International Arctic Science Committee and the World Meteorological Organization, and successfully facilitated the establishment of a joint international expedition project on Arctic Deep Observation for Multi-sphere Cycling under the framework of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
2. Making an active response to climate change. In September 2020, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly that China will scale up its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions by adopting more vigorous policies and measures and aim to have CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. In September 2022, Special Representative of President Xi Jinping and the then Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated at the Informal Leaders' Roundtable on Climate Action that China is committed to a green and low-carbon path to development that prioritizes ecological conservation, and will make the biggest reduction in carbon emission intensity in the world. China's emission reduction measures will contribute to the improvement and protection of the climate and ecological environment in the Arctic.
3. Pushing forward environmental protection and resources conservation in the Arctic. China attaches great importance to the protection of the unique natural ecology and environment in the Arctic. In recent years, China has kept enhancing the protection of the sanctuaries of Arctic migratory birds in China. In July 2019, UNESCO approved the inscription of the Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I) in the World Heritage List, which was of great significance to the protection of the sanctuaries of spoon-billed sandpiper and other Arctic migratory birds. China has actively participated in the negotiations on the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean and follow-up rules and the formulation of joint scientific research monitoring plans and data sharing agreements, and worked with other countries to promote the conservation of fishery resources in the Arctic high seas. China has also actively participated in drafting amendments to the Annexes of the International Maritime Organization's International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, and facilitated the entry into force on 1 November 2022 of the requirement prohibiting ships from using and carrying heavy oil in Arctic waters. In addition, experts from the Chinese Academy of Forestry participated in the review of the Arctic Ocean Plastics Policy and Action Plan jointly completed by Iceland and Harvard Kennedy School in October 2019.
4. Actively carrying out exchanges on Arctic affairs. China has conducted bilateral consultations on Arctic affairs with all Arctic countries. Since June 2018, China has held dialogues on Arctic affairs with Arctic Council members such as Russia, the US, Norway, Denmark and Iceland, as well as observers such as the UK, France, Japan and the ROK, to exchange views on Arctic policies and Arctic cooperation. In June 2018 and June 2019, China, Japan and the ROK conducted the third and fourth rounds of the Trilateral High-Level Dialogue on the Arctic in Shanghai, China and Busan, the ROK, and jointly decided to set up a trilateral Arctic expert group to strengthen scientific cooperation on the Arctic.
5. Actively hosting or participating in Arctic-related international meetings. Two meetings of the China-Nordic Arctic Cooperation Symposium were held respectively in Tromsø, Norway in June 2018 and Shanghai, China in May 2019, during which experts and scholars from China and Nordic countries had in-depth discussions on frontier issues concerning scientific cooperation on the Arctic and Arctic governance. In 2018 and 2021, China participated in the second and the third Arctic Science Ministerial Meetings, and made proposals on enhancing scientific cooperation on the Arctic. China participated in the first Conference of the Parties to the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean, and meetings of multilateral mechanisms on Arctic governance such as the Arctic Circle Forum, the Arctic Frontiers and "The ARCTIC-A Region of Dialogue", taking a constructive part in Arctic affairs and actively contributing Chinese wisdom and strength to Arctic governance.