



Arctic Council SAO plenary meeting (eDocs code: ACSAOUS203)
5-6 October 2016, Portland, Maine, U.S.A.

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SAO Plenary meeting; Final Provisional, Annotated Agenda

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Agenda

SAO Plenary Meeting

Eastland Grand Ballroom | Westin Portland Harborview Hotel
Portland, Maine, USA | 5-6 October 2016

Final Provisional, Annotated Agenda

Day 1 | Wednesday, 5 October, 2016

7:45-8:45am Breakfast event (by invitation only): SAO Chair meets with Working Group (WG) Chairs and executive secretaries

9:00am Meeting convenes

1. Introduction

1.1 Welcome remarks

1.2 Approval of agenda

2. Reports from other meetings

2.1 Arctic Science Ministers Meeting

Speaker(s): Julia Gourley, U.S. SAO

Background: Report out from the Arctic Science Ministers meeting held in September 2016.

Action: For information

Document(s): None

2.2 Ecosystem approach to management conference read out

Speaker(s): Renée Sauvé, PAME Chair

Background: The Arctic Council approved ecosystem approach to management (EA) recommendations in Kiruna (2013) and work continues to focus on implementation. Further work was requested in the Iqaluit Declaration (2015) to develop “practical guidelines for an ecosystem-based approach to the work of the Arctic Council.” The joint Ecosystem Approach Expert Group is in the process of implementing some of these recommendations. To this end, PAME has convened five EA workshops and co-convened with AMAP and CAFF an international conference on The Ecosystem Approach to Management of Arctic Ecosystems: Status of Implementation in August 2016 with the aim to explore the status of implementation of EA in the 18 Arctic Large Marine Ecosystems and corresponding terrestrial areas, as relevant. Conference proceedings will be developed.

Action: For information

Document(s): None

3. Arctic Council 20th anniversary

Background: Brief read-outs from any celebrations that have already occurred and update from all those planning celebratory events.

Action: For information

Document(s): None

4. Strengthening the Arctic Council

4.1 WG common operating guidelines

Speaker(s): David Balton, SAO Chair

Background: Since November 2015, the SAO Chair and WG Chairs and executive secretaries have worked on a set of common operating guidelines (OGs). The purpose of the OGs is to provide a consistent set of procedures for the six WGs that are meant to be flexible enough to account for the individual needs of the WGs. If desired, WGs may include an annex to the OGs that covers any specific topics not covered elsewhere in the OGs. Each WG may amend its respective annex at any time, subject to final approval by SAOs.

Action: SAOs/PPs may wish to review and consider approving the WG common operating guidelines, including annexes developed by several of the WGs. If approved, the OGs replace the existing individual WG operating guidelines that were provisionally approved previously.

Document(s): WG common operating guidelines and annexes from AMAP, CAFF, PAME and SDWG

4.2 Arctic Council communications strategy

Speaker(s): David Balton, SAO Chair

Background: The Arctic Council's previous communications strategy was adopted for the period 2012-2016. At the March 2016 SAO meeting, SAOs directed the Chairmanship and ACS to review and update the strategy in consultation with the Communications and Outreach Group.

Action: SAOs/PPs may wish to review and consider approving the Arctic Council communications strategy.

Document(s): AC Communications Strategy

4.3 Arctic Council Secretariat status update

Speaker(s): Magnus Johannesson, ACS Director

Background: The Arctic Council Secretariat has, as required, submitted a written report providing a status update on its activities so far this year.

Action: For information

Document(s): Update on ACS activities in 2016

10:30am Coffee Break (~30 minutes)

5. Cross-cutting topic #1 – Climate change and resilience

5.1 Black Carbon and Methane Expert Group (EGBCM)

Speaker(s): Karen Florini, Chair of the EGBCM

Background: The Chair of the EGBCM will provide a progress update and high-level summary of the preliminary recommendations for enhanced action that will be presented to Ministers at the 2017 Arctic Council Ministerial, pursuant to the Arctic Council's Framework for Action on Black Carbon and Methane. This agenda item is an opportunity to provide feedback to the EGBCM Chair so that the views of the SAOs/PPs can be considered at the EGBCM's next meeting on October 25-26, during which the EG is expected to largely finalize its recommendations.

Action: SAOs/PPs may wish to discuss the draft recommendations and offer feedback to the EGBCM.

Document(s):

- 1) Overview of preliminary recommendations (priority for review)
- 2) Summary report from the second meeting of the EGBCM (for information)

5.2 Climate change: Arctic-related activities planned for COP22 and work with the IPCC

Speaker(s): Julia Gourley, U.S. SAO, and Martin Forsius, AMAP Chair

Background: The U.S. SAO will provide an update on the Arctic-related activities planned for COP22. The AMAP Chair will provide a brief update on their ongoing work to provide relevant WG materials to the IPCC/UNFCCC work, specifically the special report on the implications of 1.5 degrees Celsius as the upper boundary of global average temperature increase and IPCC's planned special report on Climate Change, Oceans and the Cryosphere.

Action: For information

Document(s): None

5.3 Arctic Resilience Action Framework

Speaker(s): Joel Clement, U.S. Department of the Interior

Background:

As requested at the March SAO Meeting in Fairbanks, a team representing Arctic States, Permanent Participant representatives, Observers, and Working Groups has led the development of a draft Arctic Resilience Action Framework (ARAF) that builds on the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Commitments. The ARAF will articulate a set of priorities and objectives for building Arctic resilience, and will serve as mechanism to enhance coordination and collaboration on resilience in the Arctic, both within and outside the Arctic Council.

Action: SAOs/PPs may wish to consider approving the draft Framework and requesting action items, in addition to those already included (suggested by Arctic States/PPs/Working Groups/Observers), that correspond to ARAF objectives. Finally, SAOs/PPs may wish to discuss and provide guidance on ARAF implementation and follow up.

Document(s):

- 1) Arctic Resilience Action Framework (DRAFT): Cooperating for a More Resilient and Prosperous Arctic Region
- 2) Arctic Resilience Action Framework: Background and Discussion Questions for SAOs

3) Adaptation and Resilience in the Arctic - A Primer on the Arctic Resilience Assessment, the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic Report and the Arctic Resilience Action Framework

5.4 Open discussion of climate change work in the Arctic Council

Background: At the March 2016 SAO meeting, SAOs and PPs considered a number of possible new or additional actions that the Arctic Council could take in the coming years to address climate change issues in the Arctic, particularly in light of the 2015 Paris Agreement. Participants recognized that, given limited time and resources, the Council should focus on actions that would truly add value to efforts being made in other fora. As a follow-up to that discussion, SAOs and PPs may now be in a position to decide on one or more such actions to recommend to Ministers in anticipation of the 2017 Arctic Council Ministerial meeting.

Action: For information and possible decisions

Document(s): Climate discussion excerpt from March 2016 SAO plenary meeting report

12:30pm Lunch

1:30pm Reconvene

6. Working Group updates

WG presentations

Speaker(s): WG Chairs

Background: Each of the six WGs will have 10 minutes to present one key WG initiative plus time to answer any questions. If the WG has any reports or issues needing approval from the SAOs those will be addressed in succession. SAOs/PPs should note that this is also an opportunity to ask questions about the progress reports that each WG has submitted in advance of this meeting. The progress reports should include updates on projects that are on/off track and a list of proposed deliverables for the 2017 Ministerial meeting.

Action: SAOs/PPs will have the opportunity to ask any clarifying questions regarding the highlighted initiative, progress reports, and proposed 2017 Ministerial deliverables for each WG.

6.1 ACAP

Speaker(s): Ulrik Westman, ACAP Chair

Document(s): ACAP progress report with list of proposed deliverables for 2017 Ministerial meeting

6.1.1 WG initiative: Circumpolar Local Environmental Observer Network (CLEO)

6.1.2 ACAP strategic plan

Background: ACAP has been working on an updated strategic plan for 2016-2020. At the recent ACAP meeting, August 31 – September 2, in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, ACAP agreed on the final provisional document. The Strategic Plan includes ACAP's mission and work to protect the Arctic environment, priorities and objectives, financing and project development considerations and dissemination of project results.

Action: SAOs/PPs may wish to review and consider approving the ACAP strategic plan.

Document(s): ACAP Strategy to Address Contamination of the Arctic Environment and its People 2016-2020

6.2 AMAP

Speaker(s): Martin Forsius, AMAP Chair

Document(s): AMAP progress report with list of proposed deliverables for 2017 Ministerial meeting

6.2.1 WG initiative: Chemicals of Emerging Arctic Concern assessment

Document(s):

- 1) Information note on Chemicals of Emerging Arctic Concern Assessment
- 2) Conference Flyer on International Conference on Arctic Science: Bringing Knowledge to Action (April 24-27, 2017, Reston, Virginia, USA)

6.3 CAFF

Speaker(s): Reidar Hindrum, CAFF Chair

Document(s): CAFF progress report with list of proposed deliverables for 2017 Ministerial meeting

6.3.1 WG initiative: State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report (SAMBR)

Document(s): CAFF Memo on SAMBR

6.4 EPPR

Speaker(s): Amy Merten, EPPR Chair

Document(s): EPPR progress report with list of proposed deliverables for 2017 Ministerial meeting

6.4.1 WG initiative: Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution and Response in the Arctic exercise (MOSPA TTX)

3:30pm Coffee Break (~15 minutes)

6.5 PAME

Speaker(s): Renée Sauvé, PAME Chair

Document(s): PAME progress report with list of proposed deliverables for 2017 Ministerial meeting

6.5.1 WG initiative: Arctic Ship Traffic Data (ASTD) project

6.6 SDWG

Speaker(s): Ann Meceda, Acting SDWG Chair

Document(s): SDWG progress report with list of proposed deliverables for 2017 Ministerial meeting

6.6.1 WG initiative: The Economy of the North III (ECONOR III)

5:30pm Adjourn for the Day

Day 2 | Thursday, 6 October, 2016

9:00am Meeting Convenes

7. Cross-cutting topic #2 – Arctic Council financing

7.1 Project Support Instrument (PSI)

Speaker(s): Patrick Huber, representing the PSI Chair

Background: Patrick Huber, representing the PSI Chair Hodayah Finman, will present how PSI has worked on a very practical level including the successes and challenges. The Managing Director of NEFCO will be available to answer possible questions about NEFCO's role as fund manager for the PSI.

Action: For information

Document(s): None

7.2 PP fund

Speaker(s): Sam Alexander, Gwich'in Council International

Background: The IPS launched an effort last year to develop a capacity building fund for Permanent Participants, which has resulted in the formation of a potential endowment fund and foundation.

Action: For information

Document(s): Two-pager on the PP fund Álgu

7.3 Open discussion of Arctic Council financing

Speaker(s): Julia Gourley, U.S. SAO

Background: In follow up to the March 2016 SAO meeting discussion on funding mechanisms in the Arctic Council, the U.S. (in cooperation with the ACS and all subsidiary bodies) was asked to lead the preparation of a more detailed discussion on the subject.

Action: The SAOs and PPs may wish to consider the next steps for delving deeper into issues concerning AC financing.

Document(s): None

10:45am Coffee Break (~15 minutes)

8. Presentation of Finnish Chairmanship Program 2017-2019

Speaker(s): Aleksi Härkönen, Finnish SAO

Background: In preparation for the upcoming Finnish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, the Finnish SAO will present their proposed chairmanship program for 2017-2019.

Action: For information

Document(s): None

12:00pm Lunch

1:00pm Reconvene

9. Arctic Council strategic planning

Speaker: David Balton, SAO Chair

Background: The Arctic Council has, in different ways and at various times, articulated its basic objectives and the fundamental principles that inform its work. The Arctic Council as a whole has not, however, undertaken the development of an overarching strategic plan with a long-term view; e.g., looking out 10-20 years into the future. At the Fairbanks SAO meeting, most seemed willing to consider the development of an Arctic Council strategic plan or similar document.

Action: SAOs and PPs may wish to consider the ideas proposed in the discussion paper including the proposed basic parameters, the potential substantive areas that might be included, and the process and timeline for development of an Arctic Council strategic plan.

Document(s): Discussion Paper: Towards an Arctic Council Strategic Plan

10. Sustaining Arctic Observing Network (SAON) update

Speaker(s): Larry Hinzman, Vice-Chair SAON

Background: The Nuuk Declaration (2011) called for SAON to be reviewed at regular intervals. The first external review was conducted in spring 2016. On 1 September 2016, a SAON External Review Committee will release their report of the SAON internal review. The External Review Committee concluded that SAON is valued by the Arctic observing

community, but has yet to reach its full potential. With refinements to its Vision, Mission and Goals, improvements to its Organizational Structure, a new focus on funding and sustainability, and increased outreach and communication efforts, SAON should be able to make great strides in the next five years to enhance pan-Arctic observing networks to meet the needs of Arctic peoples.

Action: For information

Document(s):

- 1) SAON External Review: Review Report
- 2) SAON External Review: Executive Summary

11. Task Force and other subsidiary body updates

11.1 The Task Force for Enhancing Scientific Cooperation in the Arctic (SCTF)

Speaker(s): Vladimir Barbin, Russian SAO and SCTF Co-Chair

Background: The SCTF was established at the 2013 Ministerial Meeting in Kiruna and is co-chaired by the U.S. and Russia. The SCTF held its ninth meeting in Ottawa in July 2016.

Action: For information

Document(s): None

3:00pm Coffee Break (~15 minutes)

11.2 The Task Force for Arctic Marine Cooperation (TFAMC)

Speaker(s): Brian Israel, U.S. Co-Chair

Background: The TFAMC was established at the 2015 Ministerial Meeting in Iqaluit, Canada, and is co-chaired by Norway, the U.S., and Iceland. The fourth meeting of the TFAMC took place in Portland, Maine in September 2016.

Action: For information

Document(s): Co-Chairs' Summary from the third meeting of the TFAMC

11.3 The Task Force on Telecommunications Infrastructure in the Arctic (TFTIA)

Speaker(s): Bo Andersen and Niels Andersen, TFTIA Co-chairs

Background: The TFTIA was established at the 2015 Ministerial Meeting in Iqaluit, Canada. The TFTIA is co-chaired by Norway and the Kingdom of Denmark. The third meeting of the TFTIA took place in Copenhagen, Denmark in September 2016.

Action: For information

Document(s): Summary report from the third meeting of the TFTIA

12. Other Business

12.1 Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)

Speaker(s): Kevin Gallagher, Arctic SDI Chair (tbc)

Background: The Arctic SDI, a collaborative work by the National Mapping Agencies of the eight Arctic countries, is an effort to improve access to geospatial data in the Arctic. The Iqaluit Declaration (2015) and the CAFF 2015-2017 Work Plan identified the Arctic SDI as a partner in the CAFF Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS) and highlighted the importance of a Pan-Arctic digital elevation map.

Action: For information

Document(s): Arctic SDI- FAQ

5:00pm Adjourn

List of documents submitted for information

Info Doc 1: Amarok: Arctic Council Tracker

Info Doc 2: Conference Statement from the 12th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

Info Doc 3: Project Support Instrument- NEFCO progress report to SAOs