

# 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;
- 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 America (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).

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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.

## 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:

International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)

Date of submission of the Review Report:

Observer's website:

<https://iassa.org/>

### Information for appropriate contact person

Full name:

Grete K. Hovelsrud

Email:

grete.hovelsrud@nforsk.no

Telephone:

+47 95806046

Organization or department:

Nordland Research Institute

Job Title:

Professor and IASSA President

Full mailing  
address:

Nordland Research Institute  
P.O. Box 1490  
NO-8049 Bodø  
Norway

Is your State or Organization interested in continuing  
as an Observer of the Arctic Council?

Yes  No

## 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 •

- SDWG Meeting 8-9 June 2020, virtual
- SDWG Meeting 26-28 October 2020, virtual

Please note that IASSA provided a four-year report in 2020. This reporting will include some overlap.

### Participation in Arctic Council Activities 2021 - 2022

SDWG Meeting 8-9 June 2020, On-line

SDWG Meeting 26-28 October 2020, On-line

SAO Meeting 17-19 November 2020, On-line

SDWG Meeting 26 – 28 October 2021, On-line

EPPR Meeting 20 November 2021

SAO Meeting 1 – 2 December 2021 in Salekhard, Russia

Multiple IASSA members take part in Arctic Council projects, and our organization has a broad collaboration with other observers, and with the Permanent Participants. President and Councilors have represented IASSA on several projects endorsed by the Arctic Council or working groups. For example, Past-President Andrey Petrov is a member of the *Arctic Resilience Action Framework (ARAF)* and the implementation team for the *Arctic Resilience Forum (2020)*.

IASSA Councilors and members made major contributions to the *Gender Equality in the Arctic (GEA III)*, *ECONOR IV*, and *the Covid-19 in the Arctic: Briefing Document for Senior Arctic Officials*. Andrey Petrov is an editorial board member for GEA III. IASSA is an observer co-sponsor of SDWG approved or forthcoming projects, including *Digitalization of Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic*, *Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLiCA II)*, and *GEA IV*.

The new IASSA President Grete K. Hovelsrud will continue to represent IASSA in the Arctic Council and its Working Groups, including following: *The EALLU Indigenous Youth, Food Knowledge and Arctic Change project*.

IASSA is also proud that many Arctic Council projects, although not formally IASSA-sponsored, are led by IASSA members who work in various capacities in a diverse set of entities, including Arctic Council chairmanship, national delegations, PPs, and observer countries and organizations.

IASSA has worked with SDWG to bring in a group of eight young Indigenous leaders to the Akureyri meeting in March 2020, but this was cancelled due to global pandemic. We will continue working on this opportunity when in-person meetings resume.

### IASSA Contributions to Subsidiary Bodies

IASSA has continuously expressed our sustained interest in supporting Arctic Council's work and especially working with the **Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)** on relevant projects.

Past-President Peter Sköld, and IASSA Council Member Embla Eir Oddsdóttir are members of the Arctic Council SDWG **Social, Economic and Culture Expert Group (SECEG)**. Many other SECEG experts are IASSA members as well. IASSA is committed to being a valuable contributor to SECEG and has been closely involved in the EG activities, including the COVID-19-focused reporting in 2020. We also collaborate with the **Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG)**, where many experts are IASSA members.

IASSA maintains close connections with the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS) and many individual PP delegations. Working closely with PPs and supporting both Indigenous knowledge and Indigenous knowledge holders, within and outside of Arctic Council activities, are key IASSA priorities. IASSA's latest triennial Congress was a prominent venue for the gathering of Indigenous scholars: IASSA generated more than \$100,000 in stipends to support the participation of the Indigenous peoples, including PPs in IASSA conferences in 2019-2021.

IASSA actively collaborates with other Arctic Council observer organizations, most closely with IASC and UArctic, as well as World Reindeer Herders Association. The IASSA leadership is involved with coordinating meetings held by these organizations, including the UArctic Congresses and the Arctic Science Summit Weeks associated with the Arctic Council agenda. IASSA held its triennial International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences in June 2021. ICASS X was included in the Chairmanship Program by the Russian Federation and was the first major science event of the Russian Chairmanship.

#### **IASSA-IASC SDWG Fellow**

IASSA, in collaboration with IASC, established the SDWG IASSA-IASC Fellow position for the probationary period of two years to assist the SDWG Secretariat. The selection and duties of this Fellow have been developed by SDWG and its Secretariat in collaboration with IASSA and IASC. IASSA will provide logistical, expert and travel support to the Fellow. The first Fellow was announced in January 2022. After the second-year evaluation, we will consider the program's continuation and development, including an increase in the number of Fellows.

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.

### **Participation in Future projects**

IASSA members continue to express strong interest in developing proposals for new AC projects and activities. We will also continue our commitment to assist the science teams of IASSA members and IASSA working groups to develop new proposals for SDWG consideration, including new research on Arctic youth, sustainable development, and the Arctic economy. IASSA is working with SDWG member states and PPs on several projects, including *Digitalization of Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic*, *Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLiCA II)*, *WAGE.*, and *GEA IV*. We are also anticipating being involved in the launch of the next *Arctic Human Development Report*. IASSA Councillors and association members will continue their involvement in the SDWG's Gender Equality in the Arctic Project. In addition, IASSA continuously explores ways to expand our participation in other AC WGs and subsidiarity bodies.

### **Arctic Resilience Action Framework (ARAF) and Arctic Resilience Forum**

IASSA supports ARAF and the Arctic Resilience Forum. The IASSA past-President has been a member of ARAF (since March 2018) and has been involved in organizing the Second Arctic Resilience Forum, as well as collaborating on developing the agenda for the Third.

### **Supporting efforts to implement Arctic Council Science Cooperation Agreement**

IASSA is committed to working with UArctic and IASC to assist in any way possible and if, as requested by the Arctic Council, in the implementation of the Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation. We are engaged in consultations with AC's science observer organizations and other stakeholders to develop best approaches for efficient and effective support of the Agreement by the science community.

President Grete Hovelsrud recently participated in an event partially hosted by EALLU, an Arctic Council SDWG project.

### **Commitment to engaging Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and Support to PPs**

IASSA continues its commitment to advancing the role of Indigenous knowledge and IK holders. In the next few years IASSA will work with PPs, IPS, member states and observers to continue fostering the engagement of Indigenous Peoples in science and decision making through knowledge co-production and international collaboration. We have revised IASSA's Arctic social science research ethics standards to better accommodate the nature and needs of Indigenous knowledge holders and Indigenous communities and are making progress in establishing an IASSA Working Group on Indigenous Knowledge that would include PP representatives. Our commitment is reflected in the organization of a round-table at ICASS X together with the IPS on Indigenous Peoples and the Co-production of Knowledge. The report from the round-table has been published as: *Shaping the Arctic Tomorrow through Indigenous Knowledge Engagement and Knowledge Co-Production* in the journal *Sustainability* (2022, 14(3), 1331)

We hope to integrate this important work in the agenda of the Arctic Council and its WGs.

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.

IASSA is actively engaged in Arctic conferences, workshops, activities and projects that support Arctic Council goals. We continue to collaborate with two other AC observer science organizations, IASC and UArctic. Our Council member Annette Scheepstra is a member of IASC, and Gary Wilson and Embla Oddsdóttir are involved in UArctic. The three science organizations worked with the organizers of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> **Arctic Science Ministerial Meetings** to develop the agendas for the meetings. Past-President Petrov is serving on the ASM 3 Science Advisory Board. President Hovelsrud and Past-President Petrov participated in the Arctic Science Summit Week ASSW, 26 March - 1 April 2022 in Tromsø, Norway and online.

IASSA is an active member of the International Science Council (ISC) and has worked successfully to advance the role of Arctic social sciences in the world of Arctic sciences, and IASSA seeks to advance the profile of Arctic social sciences in the context of global science. IASSA's collaboration with IPs may serve as an inspiration for the non-Arctic social sciences. Another opportunity is the collaboration with ISC on building a coalition for a potential **International Polar Year in 2033** (ISC was the co-sponsor of IPY 2007-2008 with WMO). The IASSA Secretariat and President Hovelsrud are involved in discussions of the next IPY, IPY5 2032-2033

One of the IASSA priorities is to provide institutional and intellectual support for interdisciplinary, international connectivity through active cooperation with professional associations beyond the AC observers, such as International Geographical Union Cold and High-Altitude Commission (IGU-CHAR), International Permafrost Association, American Geophysical Union, American Association of Geographers, etc.). President Hovelsrud will develop cooperation with the Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research, where she is the current president.

IASSA actively participates in major Arctic fora, such as Arctic Circle, Arctic Frontiers, Arctic Futures, Arctic-Territory of Dialogue, High North Dialogue, ICARP and others. We also organize our own meetings, including and most prominently the **International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences** (ICASS). ICASS X took place in Arkhangelsk and online with nearly 1,000 attendees from 30 countries. SDWG held a special session devoted to its business at the conference. ICASS XI in Bodø, Norway will be held in collaboration with UArctic Congress and the High North Dialogue, illustrating solid connections between major educational and scientific players in the Arctic.

IASSA partners with IASC in developing the agenda for the upcoming International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (**ICARP IV**, 2025), where Past-President Petrov will serve as a co-chair.

IASSA works closely with IASC to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and recently renewed the MoU. Past Presidents Sköld and Petrov have consecutively chaired the Social and Human Working Group of the International Arctic Science Committee. Peter Sköld now chairs the University of the Arctic Board of Governors. IASSA supports the International Science Initiative in the Russian Arctic (ISIRA) and other similar programs to stimulate international cooperation in the Arctic. IASSA maintains a MOU with APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists). IASSA Councilors participate in science and policy networks and organizations in Arctic Council member and observer countries (ARCUS, ACUNS, EU-Polar-Net, Arctic-Net, etc.)

President Hovelsrud participated in a meeting with the Norwegian SAO Morten Høglund in conjunction with his visit to Nord University and Bodø. The purpose of the meeting was to explore collaboration on activities related to ICASS XI in Bodø, 2024.