

# 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 December 2022**.

According to the “[Arctic Council Rules of Procedure](#)” (Annex 2), every **two years** Observers are requested to submit to the Chairmanship up-to-date information about relevant activities and their contributions to the work of the Arctic Council. Accordingly, the following **19 Observers** from the Fairbanks Group are requested to submit their regular report by **1 December 2022**.<sup>1</sup>

- Germany;
- The Netherlands;
- Poland;
- Switzerland;
- United Kingdom;
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
- Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM);
- OSPAR Commission (OSPAR);
- Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Regions (SCPAR);
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE);
- United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment);
- West Nordic Council (WNC);
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO);
- Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Seas (ACOPS);
- International Arctic Science Committee (IASC);
- International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES);
- International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH);
- Northern Forum (NF);
- Oceana; and,
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature – Global Arctic Program (WWF).

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<sup>1</sup> The Fairbanks Group includes the Observers reviewed for the first time before the Fairbanks Ministerial meeting in 2017, as well as Observers admitted that year. This group of Observers was reviewed for a second time at the Reykjavik Ministerial meeting in 2021.

## 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 December 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.

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 state or organization:

Federal Republic of Germany

Date of submission:

Observer's website, if appropriate:

[www.diplo.de/en](http://www.diplo.de/en)

### Information for appropriate contact person

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Organization or department: Federal Foreign Office, Division 204 (Arctic Policy,  
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Division 204  
Werderscher Markt 1  
10117 Berlin  
Germany

## Observer Review Report

**a) 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 German government continues to strongly support multilateral cooperation on Arctic issues, primarily in the Arctic Council. Germany actively participated in nearly all working-groups (non-exhaustive list below) and strives to even further enhance its input. Germany operates one of the world's largest Arctic research programs aiming to enhance scientific research on Arctic issues and to inform and educate society and policymakers about the consequences of climate change in the Arctic.

Germany's active participation in working groups:

**AMAP:** Dr. Volker Rachold of the German Arctic Office at the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) participated in the Working Group meeting, November 2021. Together with the Dutch AMAP delegate he developed a questionnaire on the national processes regarding the participation in AMAP, which was sent to the observers prior to the meeting and the results were presented at the meeting. The German Arctic Office at AWI is cooperating with AMAP within the EU Project **Arctic PASSION** which aims at developing a Pan-Arctic Observing System of Systems.

AWI scientists Dr. Melanie Bergmann, Dr. Ilka Peeken, Dr. Sebastian Primpke and Dr. Gunnar Gerds contributed to AMAP's work on Litter and Microplastics. Led by Dr. Bergmann, AWI established a Pollution Observatory in the framework of the Helmholtz Association funded project **FRAM**.

**CAFF:** Germany is represented in the CAFF Working Group by Prof. Ulrike Herzs Schuh and Dr. Dieter Piepenburg (AWI), Dr. Kristina Meise (Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, CWSS) and Dr. Tim Packeiser (WWF Germany).

**EGBCM:** Kevin Hausmann (German Environment Agency, UBA) has participated in the Expert Group of Black Carbon and Methane since 2019. He especially provided expertise in the field of monitoring and reporting of Methane and Black Carbon emissions as well as for a common reporting structure of those emissions. His work contributed to the EGBCM's 2021 Summary of Progress and Recommendations report. Germany provided a first National Report on Black Carbon and Methane by the end of 2017 and annual updates in all years thereafter.

**EPPR:** Hans-Peter Damian (UBA) was a member in EPPR as well as in **TFOPP** (Arctic Council Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention) from 2013 till 2021 and provided comments and remarks to relevant topics including information about the OSPAR Offshore Industry Committee, especially about the major challenges arising from the current decommissioning of many oil platforms in the North Sea.

Dr. Jürgen Holfort (German Federal Maritime Agency, BSH) participated in the Arctic Marine Risk Assessment workshop, which was organized by the Norwegian Coastal Administration.

**PAME:** Since 2019 Dr. Heike Herata (UBA) provided expertise in particular with regard to microplastics, waste, tourism, underwater noise and shipping in the Arctic region. She is a member of the **Shipping Experts Group** (SEG). Together with WWF, Heike Herata was involved in MEPC 76/12/2, so that the recent research findings of the PAME research project on

underwater noise (see below) were considered at MEPC in 2021 as further scientific proof of the need to address underwater vessel noise, and ensure the special case for the Arctic is understood and incorporated in the proposed new output in document MEPC 75/14.

Dr. Janos Hennicke (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, BfN) has participated in PAME Meetings and their associated Expert Groups on "Pan-arctic network of MPAs" and "Ecosystem Approach to Management" and contributed to scientific discussions, accomplishment of several projects and development of various products. In addition, BfN has conducted a research project on Arctic marine Governance and MPAs, the result of which will feed into the PAME and CAFF work.

Dr. Jürgen Holfort (BSH) participated in and contributed to the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum meetings.

**PAME Project on Marine Litter in the Arctic:** Rita Fabris (UBA) and Dr. Melanie Bergmann (AWI) participated in the project on Marine Litter in the Arctic since 2017. Germany made various contributions to the Desktop Study on Marine litter and Microplastics in the Arctic (Phase I of the project) until its finalization in 2019 and also contributed to the development of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (Phase II). The implementation phase of the Action Plan will continue until 2023. Rita Fabris remains as German contact person for the group.

**PAME Project on Underwater Noise Pollution from Shipping in the Arctic (CAN/Germany/WWF):** UBA was co-lead for this PAME-Project and commissioned a German consultant (DW Ship Consult) in 2020 to jointly carry out this project with Canada and WWF. In this project, multiple data sources, including PAME's Arctic Ship Traffic Database (ASTD) were used to generate information on source levels of underwater noise produced by ships operating in the Arctic between 2013 and 2019 in order to explore potential effects on noise-sensitive species and their importance to Arctic coastal Indigenous peoples.

**PAME-EPPR project on New Low Sulphur Fuels, Fate and Behavior in Cold Water Conditions (NOR):** The PAME-EPPR project started its work in 2019 focusing on the behavior of new fuels in cold water conditions in case of an oil spill and for potential recovery operations that could become more frequent in the future due to a climate change driven higher shipping density and a higher risk of oil spills. UBA joins the PAME-EPPR project as an observer and Dr. Brigitte Behrends, commissioned by UBA, provides her scientific advisory support directly within the project.

**SDWG:** Dr. Nina Doering (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, IASS), has participated in SDWG meetings.

**Cooperation with Arctic Council Permanent Participants:** Researchers from the IASS, as well as researchers from other German institutions (e.g. Ecologic Institute, Arctic Office at AWI) are working together with the **Saami Council** on activities, events and publications focused on research ethics, knowledge co-creation, transdisciplinary research and international law for decolonial Arctic research. IASS, Ecologic Institute and the Saami Council work together in the **DÁVGI project** (funded by BMUV (German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature, Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection)), with the aim of building and strengthening a network for knowledge exchange and to bridge science with Indigenous knowledge through co-creative research for biocultural diversity and Indigenous People's rights in the Arctic. Within a collaborative project, Saami Council and the German Arctic Office at AWI in September 2021 published a paper on the ways of life Indigenous Peoples lead in the Arctic.

**b) 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.**

The following is not meant to be a complete list of intended future contributions. Any contribution will be aligned with the Arctic Council Members' Joint Statements following the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine:

**PAME:** UBA's polar experience will be drawn upon for further focused work and projects of relevance to PAMEs activities with regard to microplastics, waste, wastewater, tourism, underwater noise and shipping in the Arctic region. UBA has commissioned a project that collects and analyzes data and samples on the occurrence of black and grey water discharges from ships in polar regions, including its effects on the marine environment, and the state of the art of wastewater treatment plants on board these ships. The aim of this project is to develop possible courses of action, best practice guidelines and legal requirements.

BSH on behalf of UBA is carrying out a second project (**ImpEx**) regarding the environmental impact of discharge water from exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS) with focus on North- and Baltic Sea. The Status quo Analysis is published. A follow up project called **MOSAB** with focus on modelling the EGCS discharges runs from 2021 to 24. The final results of the Black Carbon emission measurement campaign from another project (MAN, DNV GL, Marena Ltd. on behalf of UBA) were published to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in November 2020. UBA provides experience about the application of the Polar Code within the IMO and PAME framework. Moreover, UBA is already aiming to sensitize the general public in Germany to relevant environmental issues in the Arctic within education and outreach projects.

**PAME Project on Marine Litter in the Arctic:** Marine litter has been a major topic on Germany's environmental agenda during its G7 and G20 Presidencies as well as in OSPAR and HELCOM. Suitable measures include eco-design, waste avoidance, optimal recycling and environmentally sound storage of waste. UBA has initiated a project in 2019 to evaluate airborne methods for monitoring beach litter specifically for Arctic regions by establishing an Arctic-wide uniform (or at least comparable) procedure to record and evaluate the environmental status of Arctic coastal sections with regard to the presence of litter now and in the future. The first results will be published in 2023 and presented to PAME for further consideration. A follow-up project is going to start in 2023 to continue the development of airborne methods for litter monitoring.

Dr. Janos Hennicke (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, BfN) will continue to participate in PAME and its associated Expert Groups on "Pan-arctic network of MPAs" and "Ecosystem Approach to Management".

**TFAMC:** If resumed, BfN will also engage in this group.

**SDWG:** German researchers will continue to work on initiatives to improve collaboration between Indigenous rights holders and researchers. Several activities are planned in collaboration between IASS, Ecologic Institute and the Saami Council (together with additional partners) in the DÁVGI project, focusing on co-creative research and collaboration across ways of knowing.

**Cooperation with Arctic Council Chairmanship:** A joint event in Berlin with the incoming Norwegian Chairmanship is under consideration.

BfN will facilitate a research project on **dynamic area-based management tools and Arctic Ocean governance** that will support their contributions in PAME and CAFF.

c) 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.

**Arctic Policy Work:** The guiding principles of German Arctic policy are set out in the **Germany's Arctic Policy Guidelines**, adopted by the Federal Government in August 2019. Germany continues to hold bilateral and multilateral consultations on Arctic issues with Arctic (except for Russia) and Observer countries, as well as within the EU and NATO. Germany has also been maintaining its engagement in matters of **Arctic security and defence cooperation**. Representatives of the Ministry of Defence annually join the NORTHERN GROUP Meetings and the Arctic Security Forces Roundtable (ASFR) as observers for exchange and consultation on Arctic security developments with the counterparts of the Western Arctic nations and other observer nations.

**Involvement and contributions to Fora and Projects:** The German IMO delegation participated in the introduction of MEPC.342.77. The resolution included the voluntarily use of distillate or other cleaner alternative fuels or methods of propulsion that are safe for ships and could contribute to the reduction of Black Carbon emissions from ships when operating in or near the Arctic. BMUV/UBA is actively engaged in further work at IMO (MEPC/PPR) regarding Black Carbon emission reduction and developing mandatory measures for existing ships and newbuilds.

The Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), which is a subordinate of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, regularly conducts landbased geoscientific research expeditions to the Arctic as part of its research programme **Circum-Arctic Structural Events (CASE)**. The goal of CASE is to study the geodynamics of the margins of the Arctic Ocean and the climatic and environmental evolution on a supra-regional scale together with national and international cooperation partners from the bordering countries. Additionally the BGR performs airborne aeromagnetic and geophysical marine surveys to better understand the evolution of the Earth's crust in the Arctic.

**Research Agenda "Polar Regions in Transition":** The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has commissioned an Advisory Board to develop a concept paper within the frame of the research programme of the Federal Government of Germany "**Mare:N – Coastal, Marine and Polar Research for Sustainability**". The concept paper "Polar Regions in Transition" has been finalized May 2021. Based on the concept paper, BMBF published a first dedicated research call about the influence of global and regional stressors in the Polar Regions in January 2022. The funding measure aims to identify the interaction of conflicting usage approaches and will contribute to terrestrial and marine protection concepts for the changing Arctic.

**MOSAIC Data Evaluation:** The **Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAIC)** is a collaborative, international project to address pressing scientific questions in the central Arctic. The project's success relies upon professional coordination, data sharing and evaluation across the participants. The BMBF published the call for proposals on MOSAIC data evaluation in July 2019. The resulting funding measure comprises 17 projects with a total budget of 9.5 Mio €.

**POLARSTERN II:** The Research Vessel Polarstern has been underway in the Arctic and Antarctic for 40 years now, giving experts from around the globe the opportunity to safely and effectively conduct research in two of the most extreme regions on our planet. To ensure this research is also possible in the future, and at the highest scientific and technological level, the BMBF has enabled the AWI to announce call for tenders for a modern, high-performance and sustainable **successor to the Polarstern**. AWI has launched a Europe-wide procurement procedure. The handover of the completed ship is slated for 2027.