



Arctic Council SAO Plenary meeting
22-23 March 2018, Levi, Finland
Meeting code: SAOFI202

Document Title

Preparations for the Arctic Resilience Forum, Background paper

Agenda item number

10

Submitted by

Finland

Document filename

SAOFI202_2018_LEVI_10-2_Arctic-Resilience-Forum-Background-Paper

Number of pages, not including this cover sheet

1

Preparations for the Arctic Resilience Forum

Background paper submitted by Finland

19.2.2018

Background: The Arctic Resilience Forum will be held in Rovaniemi, Finland on 10-11 September 2018. The Forum is part of the implementation of the Arctic Resilience Action Framework (ARAF). In ARAF, *Resilience is defined as an ability of a system to bounce back and thrive during and after disturbances and shocks*. Resilience is a cross-cutting issue that is increasingly important for the Arctic Council. Arctic States, Permanent Participants, and all six of the Arctic Council Working Groups are involved in activities that build resilience. A resilience approach emphasizes interlinked social-ecological systems; interdisciplinary collaboration; the integration of scientific disciplines and knowledge and learning systems; interactions across local, regional, national and international scales; and the bridging of knowledge, policy and practice.

The aim of the Forum is to enhance understanding of Arctic resilience through examples of best practices and to promote implementation of Arctic solutions and co-operation opportunities to strengthen resilience.

The program of the Forum will consist of an open seminar on the first day. The second day will consist of a workshop primarily dedicated to the Arctic Council's Working Groups and other key Arctic stakeholders. The Forum is prepared by a conference committee in Finland, in close cooperation with the ARAF Implementation team and with support from the Arctic Council Secretariat. For the preparation of the Forum, Finland has conducted a pre-study on resilience with examples about Finnish best practices to strengthen climate resilience adaptation actions. The focus is to find, analyze and share the concrete tools available for the urgently needed immediate resilience building in the Arctic. The Arctic States, the Permanent Participants and the Working Groups are invited to provide circumpolar input to the preparation process.