

**REPORT OF SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS TO MINISTERS
AT THE FOURTH ARCTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MEETING**

**Reykjavík
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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL 2002-2004

This report is intended to provide a detailed overview of the main activities of the Arctic Council during the period 2002-2004 and provide recommendations to Ministers for the period 2004-2006. The first part describes the activities of the Senior Arctic Officials, including the activities undertaken by the Icelandic Chairmanship in cooperation with Member States and Permanent Participants. The second part is devoted to progress reports of the working groups. Both parts contain recommendations to Ministers. The third section covers the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and recommendations are provided as regards mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The report is accompanied by several annexes relevant to the work of the Arctic Council, including the work plans of the working groups.

The Arctic Council, established in 1996, is a high level intergovernmental forum for sustainable development, mandated to address all three of its main pillars: the environmental, social and economic. Its Member States are: Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States. The Council is a unique forum for co-operation between national governments and indigenous peoples. Six international organizations representing many Arctic indigenous communities have the status of Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council and are involved in the work of the Council in full consultation with governments.

An overview of the activities of the Arctic Council involves the work the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, the Senior Arctic Officials, the indigenous peoples'¹ organizations, the Arctic Council working groups and observers.

In addition, there is extensive pan-Arctic cooperation with and among Arctic Council observers, including parliamentarians, regional and municipal authorities, and the academic and research communities. The Arctic Council meetings and other activities provide a means to bring together most of those actors in a coherent network, directly or indirectly, through membership or observership. The fruitful cooperation between the Conference of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic region and the Arctic Council is a good example of such cooperation and has resulted in concrete activities.

Environmental activities remain a pivotal part of the work of the Arctic Council. Its environmental reports, including those of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group, showcase some of the best scientific work done in the Arctic. At the Fourth Ministerial meeting, important additions to this body of work will be produced, including the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR), in addition to several reports on Arctic Council activities providing relevant information to all those concerned about Arctic issues.

¹ The United States notes that the use of the term "peoples" in this SAO report to Ministers and related documents shall not be construed as having any implications as regard the rights which may attach to the term under international law.

Much of the environmental work undertaken by the Arctic Council bears witness to the close link that exists between the natural environment and the general well-being of Arctic residents. Human activity obviously impacts the environment. But changes in the environment also affect people and their conditions of life. In order to establish a more balanced approach to sustainable development in the Arctic, the Arctic Council has in recent years devoted more attention to the social, economic and cultural life of the region. This has been the unifying theme of the Icelandic Chairmanship 2002-2004.

The one Arctic Council project attracting the greatest public attention has been the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), the first comprehensive, regionally based study of climate change to be published since the United Nations Convention on Climate Change in 1992.

Another important issue has been the development of a strategic plan for the protection of the Arctic marine environment, launched by Ministers in 2002. The plan relates to all key activities affecting Arctic marine ecosystems, acknowledging that environmental, economic and socio-cultural changes in the Arctic today are primarily driven by two key factors: climate change and growing economic activity.

The financing of circumpolar projects, in particular, the funding of priority projects to reduce pollution in the Arctic, has been the object of considerable attention over the past two years. While the current practises have worked quite well, SAOs have examined ways of making that system more efficient, rather than replacing or fundamentally altering the structure itself. To this end, ways have been sought, in close cooperation with the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), to develop a concept for a possible Arctic Council Project Support Fund.

Supporting the work of Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council has been another ongoing concern. Funding for the participation of the Permanent Participants in the work of the Arctic Council is based on voluntary contributions of the Member States and indigenous peoples' organizations. The question of expanded participation of Permanent Participants has regularly been discussed.

Much attention has been given to Arctic Council involvement in the European Union's Second Northern Dimension Action Plan, which entered into force in 2004. The Action Plan accommodates many of the concerns presented by the Arctic Council in the course of its elaboration. In addition, the Arctic Council has contributed to the planning process for the International Polar Year (IPY), which is expected to increase public awareness of the relationship of the Arctic to the rest of the world and to engage the upcoming generation of young scientists in polar research.

The Chairmanship programme, presented to the Third Ministerial meeting in Inari in 2002, concentrated on three areas; firstly, the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR), secondly, the use of information and telecommunication technology (ICT) in the Arctic, and thirdly, the need to strengthen cooperation on Arctic research, seen as a means for the smaller communities in the Arctic in particular to gain control of their often harsh external conditions.

Outreach and cooperation with international partners has been at the forefront of activities of the Icelandic Chairmanship. The more the Arctic is studied the more the complex interlinkages that exist between the Arctic and the rest of the world from the point of view of biology and ecology are appreciated. To address many of the changes of the Arctic region, it will be necessary to secure the understanding and cooperation of a number of key international partners.

During the period 2002-2004, SAOs and Permanent Participants have convened in Iceland on four different occasions. The first meeting was held in Reykjavík on 9-10 April 2003, the second in Svartsengi on 23-24 October 2003, the third in Selfoss on 4-5 May 2004 and the fourth in Reykjavík on 22-23 November 2004. The meetings discussed progress reports from the Arctic Council working groups, in addition to the several other ongoing issues on the Council's agenda dealt with in this report.

In addition, SAOs and Permanent Participants met on the following occasions to discuss specific issues: At the invitation of the Government of Norway, they met informally in Svalbard to discuss the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment on 5-7 August 2003. At the invitation of the Government of Denmark and the Greenland Home Rule Government, they gathered in Nuuk, Greenland, for a special ACIA session on 20-22 April 2004. The Government of the Netherlands offered meeting facilities in The Hague for a special ACIA-drafting session from 31 August - 1 September 2004. Finally, SAOs met in Reykjavík on 19-21 October 2004 to address the documents to be issued at the fourth Arctic Council Ministerial meeting.

Furthermore, in order to ensure robust communications with the Arctic Council working groups and the IPS board, the Chairman of the SAOs organized a special session with the Chairmen of the working groups in Reykjavík on 16 January 2003.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL 2002-2004

The Arctic Human Development Report

The Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) was endorsed by Ministers at the Inari-meeting in 2002 under Iceland's lead and as an integral part of its Chairmanship programme, in an effort to strengthen the cultural, social and economic dimensions of the work of the Arctic Council. The report represents the first comprehensive attempt to document and compare systematically the welfare of Arctic residents on a circumpolar basis. Building on the pioneering work of the Arctic Council on environmental issues, it seeks to expand the horizon by highlighting the social, economic and cultural aspects of the lives of the people residing in the circumpolar Arctic. In this way, the AHDR should make a substantial contribution to the work of the Arctic Council in the area of sustainable development.

Following the Inari Ministerial, Member States, Permanent Participants and eight observers nominated representatives to a Report Steering Committee (RSC), convened for the first time in Reykjavík in December 2002. An AHDR Secretariat was established at the Stefánsson Arctic Institute, in Akureyri, Iceland.

The RSC decided it would be difficult to adequately address all the 15 subjects identified in the 2002 project proposal by the time of the 2004 Ministerial. Therefore, it was decided to cover all the subjects, but to a different depth. The AHDR Steering Committee identified writers for specific chapters, all experts in their respective fields, broadly representing the circumpolar region. To ensure that those responsible for producing elements of the report shared a common understanding of the goals of the project, the applicable procedures, as well as the appropriate format, scope and structure of individual chapters, the lead authors met in Reykjavík in June 2003.

In large part, the actual drafting of the AHDR was financed by countries or authors taking responsibility for individual chapters. In addition, the AHDR received considerable support from the government of Iceland, the Nordic Council of Ministers, International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), and the governments of Norway and Finland.

The report reflects the contribution of many people and, as such, does not reflect the views of the Arctic Council nor the policies of its Member States. At the same time, the report is expected to contribute significantly to the work of the Arctic Council, providing an information baseline and a means to identify areas for future work. There are obvious gaps in our knowledge of human development in the circumpolar region. The report should help identify those gaps and suggest specific areas that deserve more attention.

In most respects, the report carries a positive message. There are problems of different magnitude and shape in the Arctic. But many of the chapters also point to success stories and case studies showing how Arctic residents are proving to be resourceful problem-solvers, coping with the pressures of difficult social and environmental conditions.

On 21 November 2004, in Reykjavík, the leaders of the Arctic Human Development Report and chapter authors presented the report's main findings and policy relevant conclusions.

SAOs recommend to Ministers to:

- *Accept with appreciation the Arctic Human Development Report and recommend that the Sustainable Development Working Group make full use of the report as a comprehensive knowledge base for the development of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Programme and encourage Member States and the relevant working groups of the Arctic Council to consider appropriate follow up to the report.*

Information and Communication Technology in the Arctic

The 2003 World Summit on the Information Society identified a common desire and commitment to build a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented information society where people and communities can achieve their full potential in promoting sustainable development and improving quality of life.

In discussions on information and communication technology in a global context, there is a need to bear specific regions in mind. This includes the Arctic. Small remote communities, long distances and a general lack of effective infrastructure and communication characterize life in most of the circumpolar region.

Information technology can be an extremely valuable tool and a major contributor to sustainable development, capacity-building, human health and welfare in the region. For this reason, it is essential that residents in the Arctic be given access to cost-effective telecommunications systems with sufficient carrying capacity.

It is against this background that the Arctic Council has begun to explore ways and means to improve basic ICT services in the most rural areas of the Arctic, particularly in support of education and health services. The 2002 Inari declaration recognizes the usefulness of ICT in circumpolar capacity-building. In addition, ICT as a tool for development in the Arctic was one of the priorities of the Icelandic Chairmanship of the Arctic Council. The Chairmanship hosted a conference devoted to ICT in the Arctic in Akureyri, in October 2003. The conference focused on three main areas; ICT infrastructure, distance education and telemedicine. The conference concluded, among other things that, that the lack of basic ICT services in the most rural areas of the Arctic prevented residents of the region from developing their full potential.

In addition, an international telehealth conference entitled: Innovation and Evaluation, was held in Anchorage, Alaska, on 4-5 March 2004, building, among other things, on the results of the Akureyri conference.

The Arctic Council Sustainable Development Programme provides a platform for the Council to actively explore issues relating to the improvement of economic and social conditions in the Arctic as a whole. This includes the use of information and communication technology in the Arctic.

Cooperation with a number of actors is imperative for developing ways to increase the use of and access to ICT in the Arctic. The Arctic Council has cooperated with the Northern Forum, the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR), the Nordic Council of Ministers and the University of the Arctic, among others. In the future, increased cooperation with the private sector will also be necessary.

At their meeting in Selfoss on 4-5 May 2004, SAOs decided to establish an ICT network (ICTN), composed of nominated representatives from the Arctic Council Member States, Permanent Participants, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the University of the Arctic and the SCPAR. The ICTN has compiled a list of ongoing and possible ICT projects.

SAOs recommend to Ministers to:

- *Maintain the issue of ICT on the Arctic Council Agenda under the auspices of the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group with the aim of sharing information on best practices and promoting ICT initiatives in all relevant fields.*
- *Keep abreast of ICT developments in the international arena that could be of interest to the Arctic. Measures should be taken to highlight the specific needs of the Arctic globally, e.g. in the preparations for and at the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society, and ensure that international regulatory agreements provide fair access of Arctic residents to ICT services.*
- *Acknowledge the outcome of the information communication technology (ICT) conference in Akureyri and encourage the improvement of access to ICT services in the Arctic.*
- *Endorse the aim of sharing information on best practices and promoting ICT initiatives in all relevant fields.*
- *Welcome the U.S. offer to host a scoping workshop to consider appropriate future ICT activities, drawing on, among other things, the ICT activities identified by the ICT network included in Annex 1, and ask the workshop to report to the SDWG.*

Research cooperation in the Arctic

Research in the Arctic is seen as an essential tool for building capacity in the region to deal with common challenges. In addition, Arctic research is of great interest to the rest of world as the region is increasingly seen as a source of important information regarding future environmental processes. In order to make better use of financial and other resources allocated to Arctic research, the Chairmanship programme emphasized in particular the strengthened relationship and cooperation among parties involved in Arctic research. The increased involvement of science and education authorities, as well as Arctic residents, in such cooperation was considered instrumental to its success. This emphasis should be seen in context with the work of

numerous parties involved in Arctic research, science and education, including through the International Polar Year (IPY) (2007-2008).

See also the chapter on the IPY, page 12.

Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW)

In an effort to carry out this aspect of its Chairmanship programme, Iceland hosted the annual meeting of organizations and institutions involved in international research cooperation in the Arctic, i.e. the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW). The ASSW was held in Reykjavík on 21-28 April 2004 and devoted to the theme of sustainable development in the Arctic. In 2003, the ASSW was held in Kiruna, Sweden. The ASSW provides a good opportunity to highlight the need for a closer link between the Arctic Council and the science community.

An important aspect of the 2004 ASSW was the Science Day Conference, which featured “Adaptation to climate change” as a key topic. The programme was divided into two sessions, environmental studies and social and economic studies. Approximately 200 people, engaged in polar science all over the world, attended the ASSW.

In addition, a Project Day was organized during the week and focused on the Second International Conference for Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II) and the International Polar Year (IPY) in 2007-2008.

Meeting of Ministers of Education and Science of the Arctic Council Member States

In order to explore the possibilities for enhanced cooperation in the field of education and research, the Chairmanship, in cooperation with the Icelandic Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, organized a meeting of Ministers of Education and Science and other representatives of the Arctic Council Member States in Reykjavík on 9 June 2004. The objective of the meeting was to discuss strengthened cooperation among Arctic Council Member States in the areas of education and research. The Ministers and other representatives of the Arctic Council Member States decided to further explore possibilities for increased cooperation in the field of education and science in the Arctic and adopted a declaration to that end reflecting several priority areas (see Annex 2).

SAOs recommend to Ministers to:

- *Welcome the declaration from the Meeting of Ministers of Education and Science of the Arctic Council Member States where they reaffirm that education and research are essential tools in building capacity in Arctic communities to deal with economic, social and environmental sustainable development,*
- *Support the Ministers of Education and Science and authorities responsible for education and science in establishing a dialogue at the appropriate levels of government to further define the scope of cooperation in education and research and an appropriate framework to support it.*

Efforts to promote the Arctic Council within and outside the Arctic region

Outreach and cooperation with international partners is of great importance to the Arctic Council. Studies of the Arctic increase serve to improve understanding of the linkages that exist between the Arctic environment and the rest of the world. Therefore, the Arctic environmental agenda cannot easily be separated from the global environmental agenda, making it necessary to engage major international actors, including the United Nations and the European Union, in issues of concern to the Arctic Council.

The Chairmanship attached particular importance to communicating information on the work of the Arctic Council both within as well as outside the Arctic region. Several of the outreach efforts have been directed towards the United Nations, in part as a follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on the Sustainable Development (WSSD).

In his capacity as Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials, the Chair made public statements on different Arctic issues. In addition, written material was transmitted by the secretariat to international organizations bringing attention to Arctic concerns on a wide range of topics. For list of outreach efforts undertaken by the Chairmanship, see Annex 3.

SAOs recommend to Ministers to:

- *Encourage the Chairman of the SAOs to continue, in that capacity, outreach efforts of the Arctic Council aimed at the international community, regional organizations and academic and research communities with the aim of increasing awareness of the work of the Arctic Council and exploring possibilities for cooperation.*

Financing Arctic Council projects

The Inari declaration and the SAO report to Ministers in 2002, emphasize the need for reinforcing efforts to finance circumpolar cooperation. Prior to the first meeting of the SAOs under the Icelandic Chairmanship, in April 2003, the Chair placed the issues of financing Arctic Council projects on the agenda and circulated a discussion paper. Among other things, the paper contained a suggestion concerning a possible Arctic Council trust fund, based on an idea originally put forward by Arctic Council Action Plan (ACAP). The Chair invited Mr. Harro Pitkanen, Managing Director of the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) to the first SAO- meeting in Iceland to discuss project financing.

At the meeting, SAOs decided to further consider the idea of a trust fund and put forward several questions as to its nature and scope. In an attempt to answer those questions and further develop the trust fund idea, the Chair, in cooperation with NEFCO, prepared a background paper for discussion at the second SAO-meeting held under the Icelandic Chairmanship. The paper described current Arctic Council financing arrangements, discussed general requirements for project management and developed possible options for meeting such requirements, including the idea of a technical trust fund. It was underlined that the aim of the possible trust fund should be

to complement and reinforce the current practices of project financing, without changing the current structures of work in the Arctic Council.

At their meeting in October 2003, SAOs decided to continue exploring the trust fund idea, while recognizing that several issues remained to be solved. Several questions and considerations were put forward during and following the meeting. On the basis of those reflections, the Chair, in cooperation with NEFCO, issued a third discussion paper. The paper outlined the concept of the financial mechanism and substituted the term “project support fund” (PSF) for “trust fund.”

The meeting decided that the PSF concept had sufficient merit to warrant exploring its practical aspects and decided to establish, on an ad-hoc basis, a small group of qualified experts to outline and explain the set up of a PSF, as well as developing draft operating guidelines and a template for subscription for demonstrative purposes.

The ad-hoc expert group met three times under the lead of Mr. Harro Pitkanen and reported to the Chair of the SAOs before the SAO-meeting in Reykjavík in November 2004.

SAOs recommend to Ministers to:

- *Emphasize the needs to streamline part of the project financing to ensure swift and timely response to the individual projects, contributing to an uninterrupted and effective project process, to overcome differences in budget years and schedules for release of money between Arctic States and bring in specific project financing competence.*
- *Take note of the report for the Arctic Council project support fund expert group.*
- *Support the project support instrument concept as a mechanism to enhance the process of identifying, mobilizing and transferring financing for specific priority Arctic Council projects.*
- *Request the SAOs to establish a pilot phase of the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument to focus on actions against pollution in the Arctic and to develop a set of guidelines in close cooperation with NEFCO and ACAP for the management of a pilot phase of the Instrument.*
- *Decide that the Instrument be a voluntary, non-exclusive mechanism for financing specific priority projects that have already been approved by the Arctic Council and that the Instrument may make use of a broad range of funding arrangements to include grants and revolving instruments.*
- *Request ACAP to report to the SAOs during the pilot phase of the Project Support Instrument on the progress made.*
- *Invite interested Arctic Council Member States, observers and others to pledge contributions to the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument.*

Financing Permanent Participants participation

Supporting the work of Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council has been an ongoing concern. Funding for the participation of the Permanent Participants in the work of the Arctic Council has been based mainly on voluntary contributions of the Member States and indigenous peoples' organizations.

The question of a more permanent structure for the participation of Permanent Participants became acute during the discussion on project financing at the SAO meeting in April 2003. At the meeting, the SAO Chair invited Permanent Participants to provide the SAOs with information concerning the financing of their participation in the work of the Arctic Council to facilitate discussion among SAOs at their next meeting, in October 2003. Prior to that meeting, Permanent Participants provided a discussion paper explaining their current funding arrangements.

In discussions that took place during the October 2003 SAO-meeting, two suggestions were made, to set up a core fund for the indigenous peoples' activities and to have Arctic Council projects dedicate a part of their budget to indigenous peoples' involvement. In March 2004, Permanent Participants prepared a new draft discussion paper, based on the two suggestions stemming from the October meeting. In particular, the paper elaborated on the proposal to create an Arctic Council Permanent Participant's core fund.

Following the circulation of the draft discussion paper among SAOs, the Chair received comments and questions indicating that not all Member States would be in a position to contribute to a core fund for the Permanent Participants. Those questions and comments were forwarded to the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat.

In the light of difficulties pointed out by some Member States with regard to the core fund proposal, the Chair put forth suggestions for consideration at the SAO-meeting in May 2004. The suggestions were based on previous discussions among the SAOs and on certain aspects of the draft discussion paper prepared by the Permanent Participants.

As a first step, it was suggested that SAOs consider further the proposal to have a part of Arctic Council projects budgets dedicated to indigenous peoples' involvement. Although this approach would not answer all financial needs, it was considered a modest advance. Equally, it was emphasized that the Permanent Participants explore possibilities for further co-ordination among themselves for making the best possible use of the resources at hand. In order to find a workable solution as to its practical implementation, working groups, normally responsible for preparing budgets for individual projects, were invited to present their views.

The consultations pointed to the need to maintain the flexibility inherent in the Arctic Council structure as regards funding the participation of Permanent Participants. The importance of ensuring timely consultations among those responsible for a project and the Permanent Participants was also underlined.

SAOs recommend to Ministers to:

- *Request the working groups, lead countries and/or organizations to communicate with Permanent Participants at the early stages of new projects regarding their interest and possible involvement in the project's design, financing, management and implementation.*
- *Continue to explore, in their respective states, ways and means to better ensure Permanent Participants' active participation and full consultation in the Arctic Council and to continue the dialogue on the issue within the Arctic Council.*

The European Union's Second Northern Dimension Action Plan (SNDAP)

Efforts to involve the Arctic Council in the European Union's Second Northern Dimension Action Plan have been prominent. Throughout the year 2002, the Action Plan was under development with the active participation and contribution of the Arctic Council (for further details see list of outreach activities).

The Action Plan accommodates many of the concerns presented by the Arctic Council in the course of its elaboration. In the plan, the Arctic is defined as a crosscutting theme and one that should be mainstreamed within each priority area of the plan. In addition, several Arctic Council activities, including ACAP, the AMAP monitoring of POP's and the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan, were mentioned specifically in its Annex and a reference was made to the need to monitor and tackle pollutants throughout the Northern Dimension region. Furthermore, as regards the utilization of natural resources, the Action Plan refers to the need to pay attention to indigenous communities that depend on those resources.

The plan entered into force on 1 January 2004, and the Arctic Council has since made efforts to define ways and means for its implementation in cooperation with the European Commission.

In that connection, the Chair organized a joint seminar on Arctic issues with the European Commission in Brussels on 7 July 2004. The aim of the seminar was to explore possible synergies and areas for cooperation between the Arctic Council and the European Commission on issues concerning the Arctic.

In preparing this seminar, the Arctic Council identified a number of projects that are currently being undertaken by the Council and could form a basis for further cooperation, including funding, between the Arctic Council and the European Commission.

A large number of areas were considered suitable for further elaboration, including climate change and monitoring initiatives, support for marine protection strategies, information-sharing, exploring available funding sources, especially the sixth framework programme, and exploiting the potential of the upcoming IPY.

In addition, a number of new project initiatives were emphasized that might be exploited by key stakeholders: the Environmental Network for the European and

Russian Arctic Region (ENERAR); European-Russian-Ukrainian GMES NETWORK for Monitoring of Oil Spills and Oil & Gas Pipelines (ERUNET); GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security). These networks offer opportunities for co-operation on data gathering and information exchange.

At the invitation of the Chair, a representative of the European Commission attended all the SAO-meetings held under the Icelandic Chairmanship in order to update the Arctic Council on the SNDAP (summary of the outcome of the seminar is attached, Annex 4).

SAOs recommend to Ministers to:

- *Continue cooperation with the European Commission with the aim to define and jointly fund concrete projects for cooperation between the Arctic Council and its Member States and the European Commission, taking into account the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan.*

The International Polar Year (IPY)

There have been a number of major international science initiatives in the Polar Regions since the first International Polar Year (IPY) in 1882-83. The IPY scheduled for the period 2007-2008 will afford Arctic Council Member States, Permanent Participants, working groups and observers an opportunity to increase public awareness of the relationship of the Arctic to the rest of the world and to engage the upcoming generation of young scientists in polar research.

Preparations for the International Polar Year have been monitored closely. The Arctic Council has contributed to the IPY planning process through the input of its working groups. The contribution emphasized, in particular, the importance of including a human dimension in the IPY and the importance of climate change in the context of the IPY. This same message was delivered by the Chairmanship at the IPY discussion fora held successively in Paris on 31 March and 13-14 September 2004.

The Chair also drafted a joint statement, in cooperation with several organizations involved in Polar research on the implementation of the IPY, underlining the importance of the Arctic Council's involvement in the IPY. At their Selfoss-meeting in May 2004, SAOs adopted a "reply" to the joint statement in order to reiterate separately the commitment of the Arctic Council to the IPY.

At Selfoss, the Chairman of the International Council of Scientific Union's (ICSU) Planning Group for the IPY, reported on the preparatory work and a special session was devoted to the IPY at the Arctic Science Summit Week.

In the late autumn of 2004, six main themes had been identified, one of which addresses the social sciences and the humanities, showing that the efforts of the Arctic Council and others have had a positive effect. The IPY Joint Committee has issued calls for proposals for the IPY core projects and associated projects, to be submitted by 14 January 2005.

SAOs recommend to Ministers to:

- *Increase the role of the Arctic Council as a high level intergovernmental forum in providing political support for the IPY in the Arctic.*
- *Continue to promote the human dimension in the preparations for the IPY.*
- *Endorse the development of proposals based on the work of the Arctic Council to the IPY Joint Committee, as core projects of the IPY.*
- *Welcome in that context the offer from Sweden to host an organizing session on monitoring and the offer from the United States to host an organizing session on human health.*
- *Actively participate in the education and outreach activities of the IPY.*
- *Seek Arctic Council membership in the IPY Joint Committee established by the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).*

Hydrogen and the Arctic

The possible participation of the Arctic Council in the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy (IPHE) is currently under consideration among Member States and Permanent Participants.

At the meeting in Beijing on 27 May 2004, the Steering Committee of the IPHE took note of the expressed interest of the Arctic Council in its work. The IPHE underlined that the Arctic Council should be seen as a special case by the Steering Committee as there was considerable potential for fruitful cooperation between the Arctic Council and the IPHE.

SAOs recommend to Ministers to:

- *Direct SAOs to continue to maintain liaison with the Steering Committee of the IPHE with a view to identifying possible avenues of cooperation between the Arctic Council and the IPHE.*

New observers

The Ottawa declaration lays out the status of observers in the Arctic Council, open to non-Arctic States, intergovernmental and interparliamentary organizations and non-governmental organizations. At present the following 23 partners have been granted observer status in the Arctic Council.

Observer states; France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom.

International organizations; Conference of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region,

International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), Northern Forum, North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Non-governmental organizations; Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS), Association of World Reindeer Herders (AWRH), Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU), International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH), International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), University of the Arctic (UArctic) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Two organizations; The Arctic Circumpolar Route (ACR) and the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) have applied for observer statuses to the Arctic Council. Their applications are to be processed at Fourth Ministerial meeting.

Following informal consultations among SAOs and Permanent Participants in April 2003, the Chair initiated an approach to certain countries inviting them to consider becoming observers to the Arctic Council.

SAOs recommend to Ministers to:

- *Continue to strengthen relations with Arctic Council observers and approach interested countries with invitations to consider becoming observers to the Arctic Council.*

ACTIVITIES OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

See also Annex 5, Work Plans of the Arctic Council Working Groups 2004-2006 and Annex 6, Administration of the Working Groups

Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) AMAP Progress Report 2002-2004

The production of the ACIA and its related deliverables has been the primary task of AMAP during the period 2002-2004.

Other activities associated with ACIA include the arrangement of the ACIA International Scientific Symposium on Climate Change in the Arctic, in Reykjavik, Iceland, 9-12 November 2004.

The five scientific reports providing the background documentation to the 2002 AMAP Assessment (Arctic Pollution 2002) have been published as printed reports and electronic documents, available from the AMAP website (www.amap.no). The Arctic Pollution 2002 report has been published in Russian; publication in Danish and Greenlandic is underway.

AMAP has developed a Strategic Plan for the period 2004+, submitted to the SAOs for their consideration.

The project Persistent Toxic Substances, Food Security and Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North, established by RAIPON, AMAP and the Russian Federation and financially supported by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the Arctic States, the Netherlands, a number of international organizations and a Canadian foundation, has been successfully completed.

AMAP is engaged in the coordination and administration of the ACAP project Multilateral Co-operative Project on Phase-out of PCB Use and Management of PCB-contaminated wastes in the Russian Federation, and participates in several other ACAP projects.

AMAP has produced a fact sheet on Brominated Flame Retardants (BFRs) in the Arctic presenting information from the AMAP 2002 report and new data that have been published after this report, as the scientific basis for ACAP's project proposal on BFRs.

The Lena Basin Project was successfully completed in June 2003, and a project report is available in hard copy and electronic versions.

In a joint activity with NEFCO, AMAP has produced a report entitled Updating of Environmental 'Hot Spots' List in the Russian Part of the Barents Region: Proposal for Environmentally Sound Investment Projects. As a follow-up to the report, AMAP and the Russian Federation have arranged a survey of PCB pollution at Franz Jozef Land in order to evaluate the need for rehabilitation measures in the area.

AMAP has performed and been involved in a number of special projects.

AMAP provided input on contaminants and climate issues to the report Arctic environment: European perspectives, produced by UNEP/EEA, and to the UNEP GEO Yearbook 2003.

SAOs recommend to the Ministers to:

- *Take note of the AMAP progress report 2002-2004 and work plan for 2004-2006.*
- *Encourage AMAP to continue its ongoing contaminants monitoring and assessment activities, including long-term temporal trend monitoring, and monitoring of spatial trends, human health, and biological effects of contaminants in the Arctic, with a special emphasis on the collection of information on new contaminants, assessment of the combined affects of climate (and UV) and contaminants, emerging issues, and providing improved information on sources of contaminants (follow-up of 2002 assessment).*
- *Encourage AMAP to continue its work on human health in the Arctic in relation to contaminants that can influence human health.*
- *Encourage AMAP to assess the vulnerability and threats to Arctic human and ecosystem health associated with sources of radioactivity as a basis for contingency planning, and to continue to compile information on sources of radio nuclides.*
- *Encourage countries to provide greater openness and access to restricted information associated with contaminants.*
- *Take note of the request by UN-ECE that AMAP contribute to the LRTAP POPs Protocol's effectiveness and sufficiency review, take note, furthermore, of AMAP work to support the implementation of the UN-ECE LRTAP and UNEP Stockholm Conventions and encourage AMAP to continue and to further develop these important activities.*
- *Request AMAP to continue to contribute to, or jointly implement, ACAP projects.*
- *Encourage support for new initiatives such as the Lena Basin partnership and the Lena and other Siberian rivers projects.*

**Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
CAFF Progress Report 2002-2004**

The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP) framework document, work on which was led by Iceland, has been completed and is being submitted to the Arctic Council Ministers for endorsement at the Fourth Ministerial meeting. With Ministerial endorsement, the CBMP will be launched as a cornerstone programme of CAFF, with a fully appointed steering committee. CAFF will seek funding from

several sources to execute this monitoring programme at the level required to meet Member State obligations for biodiversity monitoring and conservation put forth by international conventions and agreements, and the ACIA recommendations.

Supporting documents to the CBMP framework document include an executive summary and recommendations; a strategy for coordination of monitoring activities between CAFF and AMAP; discussion papers on cooperation between the CBMP and other organizations including the Permanent Participants on community-based monitoring; and expert network monitoring plans (e.g. seabirds, shorebirds, reindeer/caribou, ITEX) for coordination with the CBMP.

CAFF participated actively in the development of the ACIA process, the Assessment Steering Committee, the ACIA Integration Team and the development of policy recommendations.

The 2002 version of the Protected Areas Country Updates, being led by Canada, has been updated. The final publication with maps will be released at the November 2004 Ministerial. The Circumpolar Protected Areas Network Expert Group of CAFF (CPAN) is working extensively to identify the most significant gaps in national protected area networks, in accordance with international agreements and conventions.

CAFF Technical Report No. 11 entitled “The Conservation Value of Sacred Sites of Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic: A Case Study in Northern Russia – Report on the State of Sacred Sites and Sanctuaries” was published in 2004. Russia and RAIPON led work on this report.

The ECORA project has been funded and is now being implemented. ECORA is an integrated ecosystem management approach to conserve biodiversity and minimize habitat fragmentation in three selected model areas in the Russian Arctic. Russia, Norway and UNEP/GRID-Arendal lead work on this project.

The Circumpolar Seabird Expert Group of CAFF has been developing country update reports on the Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern (led by the US in cooperation with UNEP/WCMC and Wetlands International); the US and Canada lead work on initiatives to improve seabird bycatch reporting methods; and the implementation of action items associated with the Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy and Action Plan, and the International Murre Conservation Strategy and Action Plan are ongoing (led by the US and Canada).

CAFF Map No. 1 is completed – the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map. This map has been a highly successful cooperative effort between the CAFF Flora Expert Group and the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Mapping group (CAVM). The National Science Foundation and the USFWS supplied funding for this map. It is one of the deliverables for the fourth Ministerial.

A project to gather and incorporate traditional knowledge pertaining to the use and conservation of Arctic plants has built up strong momentum with the discovery that a number of organizations are working on this topic. The CAFF Flora Expert Group is

exploring cooperation on this project and many other initiatives to bring more attention to Arctic flora and vegetation.

CAFF has actively participated in the drafting of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan.

SAOs recommend to the Ministers to:

- *Take note of the CAFF Progress Report 2002-2004 and Work Plan 2004-2006.*
- *Endorse the CBMP as a cornerstone programme of CAFF, and encourage the establishment of the CBMP Steering Committee to begin implementation of action items listed in the framework document.*
- *Welcome the CAFF/AMAP Strategy for Cooperation and encourage its implementation.*
- *Note that CAFF is contributing to the Oil and Gas Assessment and implementing biodiversity-related strategic actions in the AMSP.*
- *Continue to support the implementation of the integrated ecosystem management project, ECORA, in the three model areas in Russia.*
- *Consider ways to assist funding Permanent Participants attendance to the Sacred Sites Workshop to be held in Russia in 2005, as a follow-up to the Sacred Sites report published by CAFF in 2004.*

**Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)
EPPR Progress Report 2002-2004**

Since the 2002 Ministerial meeting, the EPPR Working Group has met in Murmansk, Russian Federation (3-5 June, 2003) and Inuvik, Canada (20-22 April, 2004). The next EPPR meeting will be held in Denmark in April 2005.

Following the 2004 meeting, the Russian Federation (Mr. Igor Veselov) was elected Chair and Finland (Mr. Timo Viitanen) was elected Vice-Chair for the period 2004 - 2006.

The EPPR website (<http://eppr.arctic-council.org/>) is currently maintained at the Arctic Center in Finland. Sweden will host the web site for a period of five years, beginning in January 2005

The Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) manual project, led by Canada and the US, has been completed. This manual completes much of the work required within the oil and gas field and fills the last of the gaps identified in the 1998 environmental risk assessment.

Several Source Control Management projects (Phases I and II) have been completed under the leadership of the US and the Russian Federation:

- The source control management and prevention strategies for chlorine handling at the Apatity waterworks.
- The Phase II risk assessment at the NIIAR Fuel Research Department.
- A series of ISO 14001 training programmes.

- A revised 'working draft' of the 'Refined Risk Assessment Methodology' Report

The materials for the Community Radiation Information project for the Kola area have been completed by the U.S. and the Russian Federation.

SAOs recommend to Ministers to:

- *Take note of EPPR's progress report 2002-2004 and work plan 2004-2006.*
- *Agree to expand EPPR's mandate to include natural disasters, and to provide further direction in this regard.*
- *Take note of:*
 - *The production of the Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) Manual.*
 - *Work under the Community Radiation Information Project.*
 - *The ongoing development of the Risk Assessment Methodology documentation.*
 - *The preparation of information booklets on radiation.*
 - *The reports on emergency response exercises.*

**Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)
PAME Progress Report 2002-2004**

The PAME Working Group addresses policy and non-emergency response measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from land and sea-based activities. These measures include coordinated actions, programmes and guidelines, complementing existing international arrangements.

- PAME addressed the Ministerial mandates from Inari through its targeted activities in the 2002-2004 Work Plan. Successfully completed activities include:

Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP):

- The AMSP was developed and finalized under the leadership of PAME. Canada and Iceland acted as the lead countries and co-hosted a workshop in Reykjavik, Iceland 20-22 of October 2003 in support of its development. A collaborative approach was employed, incorporating input from PAME Representatives, Arctic Council Working Group Chairs, Permanent Participants and Observers. A number of consultation meetings have been convened over the last 2 years to ensure their active participation to incorporate their objectives and ensure the marine components of their programmes are accurately and appropriately reflected in the AMSP.
- The purpose of the AMSP October 2003 workshop was to provide a forum for exchanging information and ideas on drivers of change, trends in oceans management and possible circumpolar responses to Arctic oceans issues.
- The AMSP promotes integrated approaches to oceans management, i.e. ecosystem-based, and advocates applying them to achieve the sustainable development of the Arctic marine environment.
- PAME followed the ongoing development of the EU Marine Strategy and exchanged relevant information on the progress of the development of AMSP as a

way to collaborate and ensure synergies in efforts and focus.

Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA):

- PAME did not specifically review the land-based activities chapter of the 1996 PAME Report. This review and the possibility for further development of the Regional Programme of Action (RPA) to cover additional pollutant source categories is addressed in the AMSP and the PAME Work Plan 2004-2006.
- PAME Secretariat continues to participate in UNEP's annual meetings of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. Many of the issues and problems addressed by UNEP have relevance to the Arctic marine environment.

The Russian National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Anthropogenic Pollution in the Arctic Region of the Russian Federation (Russian NPA-Arctic):

- PAME continues the dialogue and information exchange on this project as it relates to the projects' parallel activities, namely private/public sector round tables and the Partnership Conference, which will be organized by the Russian Federation.
- The Russian NPA-Arctic is an important component of the RPA implementation phase and as such PAME follows the process of the GEF/Russian NPA-Arctic Project "The Russian Federation: Support to the National Programme of Action on the Protection of Arctic Marine Environment".
- The first meeting of the projects' Steering Committee is scheduled tentatively for November or December 2004.
- The U.S. has offered to host one of the round table meetings, although no dates have been set for the round tables.

Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines:

- The updated version of the Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (2002) has been translated into Russian and is available on PAME's homepage: www.pame.is. Hard copies have been made available in English and Russian. Translation and printing was financed by the U.S.

Shipping Activities:

- The Arctic Waters Oil Transfer Guidelines, developed under the leadership of Canada, have been finalized by the PAME working group. The U.S. Coast Guard has indicated its willingness to fund the translation of the Guidelines into Russian. Canada will have the Guidelines translated into French and Inuktitut. The Guidelines will be made available on the PAME's homepage at: www.pame.is.
- These Transfer Guidelines will provide assistance in planning marine oil transfers, taking into account the climatic conditions of the Arctic. They are intended to complement oil pollution prevention measures required under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention).

SAOs recommend to Ministers to:

- *Take note of PAME's progress report 2002-2004 and work plan 2004-2006.*
- *Endorse the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP), and encourage its implementation through the working groups and other mechanisms and in cooperation with regional and global bodies.*

- *Note with appreciation the work done by the co-lead countries, Canada and Iceland, on the AMSP in collaboration with Permanent Participants, working groups, observers and others.*
- *Support the continued implementation of the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA).*
- *Continue to recognize that the Russian NPA-Arctic is an important component of the RPA implementation phase and request PAME to continue to assist the Russian Federation in conducting the Round Table meetings and the planned Partnership Conference.*
- *Request PAME to continue promoting application of the Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines.*
- *Request a PAME contribution to the Assessment of Potential Impacts of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic, including input to the review process and the development of recommendations to the Arctic Council in 2006.*
- *Endorse PAME's Arctic Waters Oil Transfer Guidelines and encourage their use by Arctic States and others.*
- *Request PAME to carry out a comprehensive Arctic marine shipping assessment as outlined in the AMSP. This will be conducted under the guidance of three lead countries (Canada, Finland and the U.S.) and in collaboration with the EPPR Working Group and other Arctic Council working groups and Permanent Participants as relevant.*
- *Encourage PAME, through Norway as the lead-country, to assess and evaluate existing measures for port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues and develop harmonized guidelines for consideration by States.*
- *Encourage PAME to continue its cooperation with the UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and the GPA Coordination Office on protection of the marine environment.*
- *Encourage the Arctic Council Member States to collaborate on projects that promote communication and information-sharing in the regulatory and technical processes and practices of Arctic offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and ship-to-ship/ship-to-shore transfer.*

Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) SDWG Progress Report 2002-2004

The SDWG saw its work grow in size and complexity in the period 2002-2004. The capacity of the Working Group to cope with this work also increased, notably by the establishment of a permanent secretariat for the group in Canada in 2002, and by the establishment of a SDWG website (www.sdwg.org) in 2003.

The SDWG met four times in the period 2002-2004 in Reykjavik, Svartsengi, Selfoss and Whitehorse. The meeting in Whitehorse was the first SDWG meeting not organized back to back with a SAO meeting. A Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) task force meeting was also held in Ottawa in February 2004.

The SDWG has started to review its methods of work in order to address its increasing workload caused by the growing number of separate project activities. An attempt is being made to focus on “clusters” of related issues.

SDWG work revolved around numerous projects and activities in the period 2002-2004.

Cross-cutting activities included:

- Development of the Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP)
- Development of a Capacity-Building overview document
- Follow-up from the ICT Conference held in Akureyri, Iceland in Oct. 2003

Projects included:

- Women's Participation in Decision-making Processes in Arctic Fisheries Resource Management (Norway)
- Product Development and Processing in the Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry (Ofelas) (Finland)
- Family-Based Reindeer Economy, and the Status and Management of Wild Reindeer/Caribou Populations (Norway)
- Circumpolar Infrastructure Projects (U.S.)
- Sustainable Model for Arctic Regional Tourism (SMART) (Finland)
- Telemedicine (U.S.)
- International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS): Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Arctic (U.S.)
- The Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic (Canada)
- Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLiCA) (Denmark/Greenland)
- Co-Management Of Marine Resources In Arctic Areas With Respect To Indigenous Peoples And Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Saami Council)

In addition, SDWG also heard regular reports on the process of the Arctic Human Development Report, which was overseen by a Report Steering Committee and was a key project of the Icelandic Chairmanship Programme.

Cooperation with other working groups is continuing, for example:

- Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) (PAME)
- Assessment of Petroleum Hydrocarbons in the Arctic (AMAP)

There is also on-going cooperation with the University of the Arctic and other observers on sustainable development issues.

Work progressed on all these activities and projects, and some projects were completed in this period.

SAOs recommend to Ministers to:

- *Take note of the SDWG progress report for 2002-2004 and work plan for 2004-2006.*
- *Note the continued strengthening of the SDWG and the Sustainable Development Programme through, inter alia, the establishment of a permanent Secretariat for the working group in Canada, and a website to serve as an information tool and institutional memory of the SDWG.*
- *Adopt the Sustainable Development Action Plan as a tool for the practical realization of the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Program and assessing the progress made by the Arctic Council in advancing sustainable development in the region, and ask the SDWG to use the SDAP framework to identify new areas of priority cooperation activities.*
- *Welcome the conclusion of the project on Family-based Reindeer Economy, and the Status and Management of Wild Reindeer/Caribou Populations and its final report, and urges relevant parties to review its conclusions.*
- *Welcome the project report from the Phase I of the project Co-management of Marine Resources in Arctic Areas.*
- *Welcome the report on Women's participation in decision-making processes in Arctic fisheries resource management, and welcome the new phase of that project, entitled Women and resource management in the rural North.*
- *Encourage further development of the project Sustainable Development of the Indigenous Peoples of the Russian North.*
- *Approve the project The economy of the north: Impacts and effects of climate change: A proposal for an Arctic Council project 2005-2006.*
- *Welcome the report on Capacity-Building Overview of the Arctic Council, and urge the SDWG and other working groups of the Arctic Council to integrate capacity-building in all their activities.*
- *Ask the SDWG to further develop its activities in the field of human health.*
- *Ask SDWG to continue its assistance to other working groups and Arctic Council activities relevant to sustainable development, including the AMAP Petroleum Hydrocarbons Assessment.*
- *Ask SDWG to continue to seek ways to reorganize its work in light of its wide range of issues and expanding workload, including clustering new and continuing activities in related fields.*
- *Welcome the completion of phase one of the Circumpolar Young Leaders Internship Programme.*

As regards the Arctic Human Development Report and activities related to Information and Communication Technology, see the section on Main Activities of the Arctic Council 2002-2004.

Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic (ACAP) ACAP Progress Report 2002-2004

Phase out of PCBs in the Russian Federation:

The Project is in the third and final phase to conduct technology demonstration for the destruction of 12,000 capacitors containing approximately 200 Tonnes of PCBs and to destroy 250 Tonnes of PCB liquids from transformers in Russia. Phase 3 activities are as follows:

Destruction of PCB-containing capacitors in regions affecting the Arctic:

- Components of the plasma arc system are being prepared for shipment to Russia. Two Russian facilities, one in Yaroslavl and the other in Volgograd, were selected for potential placement of the system. The Yaroslavl Facility has offered to provide in-kind contributions to ship the system to Russia and to construct a new building to house the plasma arc system.
- Cleaning of transformers and destruction of liquid PCBs. This NEFCO Project has received key approvals at the Federal level, but they are still waiting for approvals at the local level. The current plans are to place a facility in Kapitolovo, near St. Petersburg.
- Collection and storage of PCBs. Denmark has initiated bilateral activities in support of the NEFCO transformer project in the Leningrad Region. A draft Fact Sheet is in preparation integrating the work of AMAP and ACAP on these PCB-related projects.

Reduction of Dioxins and Furans Releases in the Russian Federation:

Three priority regions were selected for this project: Murmansk, Arkhangelsk and Komi. Draft dioxin emission inventories have been completed and selection of sites for emissions measurements is in progress. Cleaner Production Training at the Arkhangelsk pulp-and paper industry is underway.

Reduction of Atmospheric Mercury Releases from Arctic States:

Phase 1 (Assessment and Prioritization) is nearing completion. The final draft of the “Assessment of Mercury Releases from the Russian Federation”, prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia has been received and awaits final approval by the Ministry.

A second report, on “Arctic Mercury Releases Assessment” has been prepared and the inventory of source categories is ready for approval by the Project Steering Group. The ACAP Steering Committee agreed that the report should also contain the regional assessment of existing and planned initiatives addressing the source categories in the Arctic states and identify possible measures for follow-up. A combined AMAP/ACAP Fact Sheet on “Mercury –a Priority Pollutant” has been prepared and is under review.

Environmentally Sound Management of Stocks of Obsolete Pesticides in the Russian Federation:

Eleven Russian priority regions that directly impact the Arctic were selected for project implementation. The Arkhangelsk Region was selected as the pilot

demonstration region. As a result of this project, all obsolete pesticides stocks in Arkhangelsk Region, 62.7 Tonnes, were inventoried, repackaged, analyzed for heavy metals and chlorinated compounds and moved to safe temporary storage awaiting final destruction. A promotional event, highlighting the completion of this pilot demonstration project was held in Arkhangelsk on 16 September 2004. All stocks of obsolete pesticides in Komi Republic (18.67 Tonnes) were inventoried, tested, repackaged and moved into safe storage. Inventories have been completed in Tyumen, Magadan and Omsk. Denmark is conducting similar bilateral activities in Pskov and Vologda.

The AMAP/ACAP Fact Sheet on obsolete pesticides is available for the SAO's and Ministers.

Implementation of a Cleaner Production Programme at the OJSC Norilsk Mining Company in the Arctic:

The final report of the "Implementation of Cleaner Production, Eco-Efficiency and Environmental Management Systems...at JSC Norilsk Mining Company in the Arctic City of Norilsk" has been received and approved by the Steering Committee. As a result of the Cleaner Production Programme 87 environmental projects were implemented. Environmental gains achieved through this Programme include: Reduction in fresh water consumption (million cubic meters) – 7.9; Reduction of waste discharge (thousands cubic meters) – 3,354; Reduction of use of electrical energy (million kWh) - 14.9; Reduction of discharges of heavy metals and their oxides into the atmosphere (tonnes) - 850. Economic savings exceeded \$6.8 Million USD. The project has been successfully completed. ACAP invested about \$100K USD.

ACAP Project Financing:

There is sufficient funding currently available to meet the needs of the ACAP projects through the Spring of 2005. Additional donor contributions, particularly for the PCB and Obsolete Pesticides Projects (\$100K to \$200K each), will be needed.

Coordination and Cooperation with Other Organizations:

The Chairs of the ACAP and Barents Euro Arctic Council/Working Group on Environment (BEAC/WGE) participated in the bi-annual Steering Committee Meetings of ACAP and BEAC/WGE. Opportunities for cooperation were discussed. Fourteen Arctic "Hot Spot" projects were identified from the NEFCO/AMAP "Hot Spots" Report. A project on dioxin reduction at a pulp and paper industry in Arkhangelsk was identified as a new cooperative project. The remaining projects will be further reviewed for decisions/recommendations.

Initiatives Implemented by Permanent Participants:

The Gwich'in Council International presented two project proposals to ACAP. These were the first proposals received from a Permanent Participant organization Both the project on management of PCB-containing electrical generating equipment and the one on the reduction of dioxin emissions from barrel burning were accepted, in principle, for implementation in Alaska and the Russian Arctic. ACAP will look for funding for one or both of these projects.

ACAP Website:

The Steering Committee approved the new format for the ACAP web-site.

Reduction of Brominated Flame Retardants' (BFRs) in the Arctic:

At the October 2003 SAOs Meeting it was agreed to initiate a new ACAP Project on reduction of Brominated Flame Retardants. The final project proposal was accepted at the October ACAP Steering Committee Meeting. ACAP requests approval by the SAOs, and recommend to the Ministers inclusion of this project into the Annex "A" list of projects under ACAP.

The Steering Committee agreed to transfer the Annex "B" Project on "Guidelines for EIA on Radioactive Waste" to the Contact Expert Group of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

SAOs recommend to the Ministers to:

- *Take note of ACAP's progress report 2002-2004 and work plan 2004 – 2006.*
- *Endorse the Brominated Flame Retardants Project as an ACAP Annex "A" Project.*
- *Encourage ACAP to continue its action projects addressing priority pollutants of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and the priority pollutants under the LRTAP Convention particularly the Heavy Metals Protocol*
- *Request ACAP to continue its close coordination with AMAP on problems related to emerging chemicals.*
- *Encourage ACAP to continue its evaluation and application of innovative technologies to address the problems of POPs and heavy metals contamination in the Arctic.*
- *Encourage ACAP to pursue cooperative initiatives with the Barents Euro Arctic Council's (BEAC) Working Group on the Environment (WGE) and the Nordic Council of Minister's (NCM) Environmental Working Group (EWG), specifically the Cooperative Programme for the Arctic.*
- *Encourage ACAP to continue its outreach and cooperation with the Permanent Participants to address local and regional contamination problems in the Arctic.*
- *Commend the Russian-Norwegian Cleaner Production Center and Norilsk Mining Company on their successful completion of the ACAP Cleaner Production Project.*
- *Note the excellent work achieved by the Arkhangelsk Regional Administration in successfully completing the model demonstration programme for inventory development, repackaging and safe storage of all stocks of obsolete and prohibited pesticides in the region.*

ARCTIC CLIMATE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ACIA)

BACKGROUND

The Barrow Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council in October 2000, endorsed, adopted, and established the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), requesting it to “evaluate and synthesize knowledge on climate variability and change and increased ultraviolet radiation, and support policy-making processes and the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); further request that the assessment address environmental, human health, social, cultural and economic impacts and consequences, including policy recommendations.”

Since then, a team of more than 300 leading Arctic researchers, indigenous representatives and other experts from fifteen nations has completed its work on the ACIA. They have distilled and synthesised available scientific information, traditional knowledge, and indigenous perceptions in order to examine how climate and ultraviolet radiation have changed in the Arctic, how they are projected to change in the future, and what the consequences of these changes will be for the Arctic and the world. The full assessment is published in a comprehensive science report and synthesised in an overview document “Impacts of a Warming Arctic”, designed to be accessible to the lay person and the policy maker. The documents have been reviewed by more than 160 independent scientists and experts and made available to national reviews. Comments were taken into account by authors, who assume responsibility for the final document.

Ministers of the Arctic Council Meeting in Inari in October 2002 welcomed with appreciation the good progress of the ACIA and emphasized “the importance of continued dialogue on the consequences of climate change and on policy measures among national governments, indigenous and other local communities, regional administrations, the business community and scientific experts with the aim for a transparent and open process, and of enhancing early capacity building to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change”.

Since Inari, Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) and representatives of the Permanent Participants have met with climate experts in Svalbard, Nuuk and The Hague to discuss the scientific findings of the ACIA and to further the dialogue among the Arctic states and others on climate change.

The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) participated in the ACIA Steering Committee. AMAP and CAFF were the conveners of a drafting group of representatives from Arctic Council Member States and Permanent Participants, that produced early drafts of recommendations to relate the findings from ACIA to the policy needs of the Arctic Council. SAOs then assumed responsibility for the drafting of these policy recommendations.

The ACIA is the world’s most comprehensive and detailed regional climatic and ultraviolet radiation assessment to date and documents impacts that are already felt throughout the Arctic region. Climate change, together with other stressors such as ultraviolet radiation, presents a range of challenges for human health, culture and

well-being of Arctic residents, including indigenous peoples and communities, as well as risks to Arctic species and ecosystems.

The authors of the overview document of the ACIA identified the following ten key findings:

1. The Arctic climate is now warming rapidly and much larger changes are projected.
2. Arctic warming and its consequences have worldwide implications.
3. Arctic vegetation zones are projected to shift, bringing wide-ranging impacts.
4. Animal species' diversity, ranges, and distribution will change.
5. Many coastal communities and facilities face increasing exposure to storms.
6. Reduced sea ice is very likely to increase marine transport and access to resources.
7. Thawing ground will disrupt transportation, buildings, and other infrastructure.
8. Indigenous communities are facing major economic and cultural impacts.
9. Elevated ultraviolet radiation levels will affect people, plants, and animals.
10. Multiple influences interact to cause impacts to people and ecosystems.

Such findings, as well as the underlying scientific assessment, will help inform governments as they implement and consider future policies on global climate change.

ARCTIC CLIMATE POLICY ACTIONS

In responding to climate change, Member States are taking two sets of actions: mitigation and adaptation. Both kinds of actions require extensive communication and education about climate change and its impacts. Further research, observations, monitoring and modelling is needed to refine and extend the ACIA findings.

Mitigation

To address the risks associated with climate change in the Arctic of the magnitude projected by the ACIA and other relevant studies, timely, measured and concerted action is needed to address global emissions. Even though overall emissions of greenhouse gases within the Arctic region are limited, there are important mitigation opportunities in the region that would contribute to sustainable development and global emission reduction efforts.

Mindful of their countries' share in total global greenhouse gas emissions, SAOs, taking into account specific national circumstances, recommend to Ministers that the Member States:

- *Consider* the findings of the ACIA and other relevant studies in implementing their commitments under the UNFCCC and other agreements.
- *Adopt* climate change mitigation strategies across relevant sectors. These strategies should address net greenhouse gas emissions and limit them in the long term to levels consistent with the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC, integrating mitigation and adaptation measures, building on partnerships, and, where synergies are possible, addressing other social, economic and environmental issues.

- *Promote* the development and adoption of appropriate energy sources, uses, technologies and efficiencies. The International Partnership for Hydrogen Economy (IPHE) and The Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF), together with initiatives to promote renewable energy production and more efficient energy use, are examples of relevant initiatives.
- *Adopt* policies and programmes that conserve and enhance carbon sinks and reservoirs in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

Adaptation

While mitigation is necessary to address the risks associated with climate change, the scenarios used by the ACIA and elsewhere project that some climate change is inevitable, indicating that continued adaptation is needed.

Adaptation to climate change and its impacts in the Arctic must take into account the especially sensitive and vulnerable natural and human systems of the region. Special attention needs to be paid to strengthening the adaptive capacities of Arctic residents. Recognizing that not all impacts of climate change can be properly addressed through adaptation, the SAOs recommend to Ministers that the Member States:

- *Work* closely with Arctic residents, including indigenous and local communities, to help them to adapt to and manage the environmental, economic and social impacts of climate change and ultraviolet radiation change. Adaptation needs will vary. Arctic residents may need *inter alia* enhanced access to information, decision makers, and institutional capacity building to safeguard their health, culture and well-being.
- *Recognize* that opportunities related to climate change, such as increased navigability of sea routes and access to resources, should be developed and managed in a sustainable manner, including through the consideration of environmental and social impacts and taking appropriate measures to protect the environment, local residents and communities.
- *Implement*, as appropriate, adaptive management strategies for Arctic ecosystems, making use of local and indigenous knowledge and participation, review nature conservation and land and resource use policies and programmes, and to the extent possible reduce risks related to infrastructure damage, permafrost degradation, floods and coastal erosion, taking into account costs and benefits.

Research, Observations, Monitoring and Modelling

The authors of the ACIA have made recommendations for additional research, observations, monitoring and modelling. It is of particular importance to focus on those research needs that play a significant role in developing and applying mitigation and adaptation measures.

Therefore, the SAOs recommend to Ministers that the Member States:

- *Stress* the importance of intensifying natural and social science research on impacts and adaptation, including studies to enhance understanding of fundamental processes and sustainability, procedures for integrating indigenous and local knowledge into scientific studies, and partnerships between indigenous peoples, local communities, and scientists in defining and conducting research and monitoring associated with Arctic climate and ultraviolet radiation changes;
- *Encourage* relevant national and international research bodies and sponsors to take into account the ACIA science recommendations in the planning, development and implementation of their programmes;
- *Seek* to expand and link circumpolar research and monitoring networks, including community-based networks, applying standardized methodologies focusing on year round observations of climate and ultraviolet radiation and their impacts on species and ecosystems, residents and communities, stressing seasonal variations. Given its international character and potential global significance, the Arctic ocean, its ice and atmosphere, are of special importance;
- *Seek* to ensure that relevant data from research, observation, monitoring and modelling activities are made available to local, national and international research and monitoring programmes;
- *Recognize* the need to consider how to conduct further studies of climate change within the Arctic region, especially through added focus on regional and climate variability, socio-economic impacts, vulnerabilities of Arctic human-environment systems, climate modelling, and use of historical and long-term data on climate variability.

Outreach

In order to ensure global, national and local awareness of the ACIA and any follow up activities, the SAOs recommend to Ministers that the Member States:

- *Disseminate* the ACIA documents within international fora in order to advance co-operation to address the environmental, social, economic and cultural implications of climate change in the Arctic.
- *Promote* the ACIA at the national and local level and explore the use of a variety of methods, languages and partners to engage Arctic residents.
- *Seek* to provide Arctic residents and communities with information and knowledge on climate research and monitoring that they require to adapt to Arctic climate change, including taking advantage of new opportunities.
- *Encourage* the incorporation of materials from the ACIA into educational, research and training programmes.

THE ROLE OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Based on the findings of the ACIA, there is a need for the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies to further organize their work. Therefore, SAOs recommend to Ministers to:

- *Direct* relevant technical working groups of the Arctic Council to review the scientific chapters of the ACIA in the context of their ongoing and future work programmes and to report on the progress made at the 2006 Ministerial Meeting.
- *Decide* to keep under review the need for an updated assessment of climate change in the Arctic, drawing *inter alia* on the IPCC fourth assessment report and the results of the International Polar Year 2007-2009.
- *Direct* SAOs to nominate a focal point, to be responsible for an ACIA follow up, including an assessment of gaps in knowledge.
- *Communicate* as appropriate, any Arctic Council ACIA follow-up actions to the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.

Annex 1

ICT activities identified by the ICT Network

- The Target Region Arctic IC Enquiry (TRAICE), a specific ICT pilot project within a limited and carefully selected area in the Arctic. The project should identify specific needs of disadvantaged and disconnected local communities and promote implementation of connecting networks, through appropriate infrastructure and ICT access. The project would be established with a view to the possibility of reproducing it elsewhere.
- The wireless Arctic network.
- The pilot telemedicine project of the State of Alaska, the Sakha Republic and the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug.
- The Northern indigenous peoples' enterprises with the aid of new ICT (NIPE-ICT).
- The eHome Health Care project.
- The Broadband in Rural and Remote Areas (Birra) project.
- Tthe Arctic Virtual Library to support Arctic people and science.
- Take measures to support the use of small Arctic languages.

Further information on the above mentioned projects can be obtained from the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

Annex 2

Meeting of Ministers of Education and Science of the Arctic Council Member States

Reykjavík, 9 June 2004

Declaration

(1) Ministers of Education and Science and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States met on 9 June 2004 in Reykjavík, Iceland to discuss strengthened cooperation among the Arctic Council Member States in the areas of education and research.

(2) Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States were of the view that the particular conditions that prevail in the Arctic region give rise to special requirements in the fields of education and science. The vast geographic scope of the Arctic, dispersed populations, long-distance transport and communications, as well as a demanding climate, require in many instances programs in education, science, technology and innovation to be designed to meet those specific challenges.

(3) At the same time, the Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States recognized that the Arctic region is possessed of a wealth of human and natural resources. The Arctic is home to many thriving communities and cultural traditions of great diversity.

(4) Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States observed that the livelihood of many residents of the Arctic region is closely linked to nature. They noted that the indigenous communities of the region have for generations sustained themselves within their local environment and maintained cultural identities through their application of traditional knowledge in harmony with their environment.

(5) Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States also noted that living conditions in the Arctic have undergone rapid changes in the past century. Today, the Arctic region is facing new challenges. The impact of new technologies on communications, transport and resource exploitation is already far reaching, and global climate change is likely to further transform living conditions in the Arctic, its living resources and the natural environment. The Arctic is expected to become a region of steadily increasing economic activity in the years to come.

(6) Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States reaffirmed that education and research are essential tools in building capacity in Arctic communities to deal with environmental, economic and social challenges. They emphasized that young people of the Arctic must have access to high quality education. International science cooperation is an important vehicle for connecting scientists and scholars and for promoting the exchange of technology and experience

in sustainable management of resources needed to foster the development of socio-economic systems appropriate to Arctic conditions.

(7) Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States noted that the Arctic Council provides an appropriate framework for cooperation on sustainable development in the circumpolar region.

(8) Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States welcomed the several ongoing capacity-building efforts undertaken by the Arctic Council, including, among other things, the Arctic Human Development Report, the Survey of Living Conditions in Arctic, the exploration of ways for increased use of and access to information and communication technology in the Arctic. They also recalled the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014 and noted the efforts by the Nordic Council of Ministers to renew its strategy on sustainable development.

(9) Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States also applauded the efforts of the University of the Arctic to raise awareness and to improve understanding of the natural and cultural circumstances of the Arctic through its different education programs.

(10) Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States welcomed the role of the Northern Research Forum in promoting dialogue among members of the research community and a wide range of other stakeholders in the Arctic.

(11) Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States expressed their appreciation for the regular contribution of Arctic Science Summit Week, sponsored annually by IASC and the host country concerned, to the promotion of Arctic research. They also decided to make full use of the opportunities offered by the International Polar Year in 2007 – 2008, in an effort to foster joint education and research including in the area of social and economic development, as they pertain to sustainable development.

(12) On this basis and with a view to the existing national and regional programs to strengthen education and science cooperation in the different parts of the Arctic region, the Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States decided to further explore possibilities for increased cooperation in the field of education and science in the Arctic. They agreed, in this effort, to focus attention on existing education institutions and research organizations and identified, in particular, the following priority areas:

- a. Supporting intensified international research-cooperation in the Arctic region to better understand the ongoing environmental changes and meet new challenges and opportunities for sustainable development in the region.
- b. Encouraging cooperation in higher education and research training among Arctic Council member states and increase mobility among researchers and students;

- c. Involving young researchers of indigenous origin in national and international research and scientific exchange programs;
- d. Promoting linkages at various levels of government and the private sector;
- e. Exchanging policy experiences on measures to promote socio-economic innovation and sustainable development;
- f. Encouraging programs that promote linkages between education and research activities, including exchanges and internships;
- g. Improving awareness of the Arctic region's cultural diversity and the contribution of indigenous knowledge and culture to the sustainable development of the Arctic.
- h. Supporting efforts to strengthen education in indigenous communities, including education in indigenous languages.

(13) Ministers and other representatives from the Arctic Council Member States decided to further explore possibilities for strengthening their cooperation, including the scheduling of future working group and Ministerial meetings. The Ministers thanked the Government of Iceland for its hospitality and for hosting this first meeting of Education and Science Ministers of the Arctic Council Member States.

Annex 3

The Icelandic Chairmanships's efforts to promote the Arctic Council within and outside the Arctic region

List of Activities 2002-2004

The United Nations system

Upon the request of the UN, the Chair submitted, on two occasions, in January 2003 and January 2004, inputs on Arctic Council ocean activities, which were reflected in the **annual reports of the UN on oceans and the law of the sea**. Among other things, the Council's inputs emphasized the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan, the Assessment of Petroleum Hydrocarbons in the Arctic and the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment.

The Chair participated in the twenty-second session of the **UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Nairobi** on 3-7 February 2003, and delivered a statement to the session, focusing mainly on mercury pollution the protection of the marine environment and regional implementation of the WSSD.

The Chair took part in the twenty-fifth session of the **Food and Agricultural Organization's (FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI)** in Rome on 26 February 2003. In his intervention at the meeting, he drew attention to two areas of the work of the Arctic Council relevant to the FAO, i.e. the development of a strategic plan for the protection of the Arctic marine environment and the Arctic Council regional program of action for the protection of the marine environment.

A statement was delivered on behalf of the Chairmanship at the **World Water Forum in Kyoto** in March 2003 as part of the follow-up to the WSSD, focusing on climate change and its possible impacts in the context of freshwater.

The Chair attended the 11th session of the **United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development**, held in New York on 28 April - 9 May 2003 and explained how the Arctic Council intends to contribute to the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

The Chair took part in the **4th meeting of the United Nations open-ended informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea**, held in New York on 2-6 June 2003. In his statement, he presented the work of the Arctic Council on marine issues.

On 16 September 2003, the Chair attended the **Arctic Science Policy Workshop at UNEP/GRID-Arendal** in Norway and delivered a statement on the future and emerging priorities of the Arctic Council. The Chair also discussed ways of strengthening co-operation between the Arctic Council and UNEP/GRID-Arendal with the Managing Director on the margins of the meeting.

The Chair submitted an article to the October 2003 edition of the **UNEP/GRID Arendal's Polar Environment Times**, entitled: Bringing sustainable development into better focus.

The Chair attended the **UNESCO/IOC Global Conference on Oceans Coasts and Islands in Paris** on 12-14 November 2003. The conference focused on the implementation of commitments stemming from the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. At the conference, the Chair introduced the Arctic Council's work on the Arctic marine strategic plan.

A contribution regarding ICT in the Arctic was made to the **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)** declaration. In addition, an Arctic message was delivered at the WSIS in Geneva in December 2003.

A statement was delivered on behalf of the Chair to the **UN-ECE meeting in Geneva** on 16 January 2004, addressing the main topics of the upcoming CSD session; water, sanitation and human settlements, in an Arctic context.

The Chairmanship has made arrangements for an ACIA side-event at the **UNFCCC Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP10)** in Buenos Aires, on 13 December 2004.

A statement was delivered on behalf of the Chair to the **UN-ECE meeting in Geneva** on 16 January 2004, addressing the main topics of the upcoming CSD session; water, sanitation and human settlements, in an Arctic context.

A statement on the ACIA and the AMSP was included in a statement by the Permanent Representative of Iceland to the **United Nations General Assembly's debate on ocean issues and the law of the sea on 16 November 2004**.

Regional Actors

In October 2002, a message was delivered on behalf of the Chairman of the Arctic Council, at a **Ministerial Conference on the European Union's Northern Dimension** in Luxemburg.

Following the conference, the Secretariat submitted its preliminary **comments to the European Commission**, pointing out examples of environmental work, i.e. pollution and climate change, carried out under the auspices of the Arctic Council and underlining possibilities for increased co-operation with the Commission.

The Chair participated in a meeting of the **Chairmen of four Northern regional bodies, the Arctic Council, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Barents-Euro Arctic Council** in Helsinki on 12 December 2002.

In February 2003, an **overview of Arctic Council priorities and activities** was transmitted to the European Commission as an Arctic Council input to the elaboration of the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan.

In March 2003, the Chair, together with the Chairs of the Northern regional bodies participated in a **special session of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the European Commission** to discuss the new Northern Dimension Action Plan.

A statement was delivered, on behalf of the Chair at a seminar on **Northern Dimension Environmental Cooperation in the Adjacent Areas, in St. Petersburg**, on 24 April 2003, organized by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The statement focused on the work of the Arctic Council on pollution prevention.

The Chair accepted an invitation to deliver a keynote presentation at **Northern Forum's 6th General Assembly in St. Petersburg** on 25 April 2003. The topic of the intervention centered on the priorities of the Icelandic Chairmanship.

A statement was made on the Chair's behalf at a conference of the **West Nordic Council in Greenland** on 10-13 June 2003. The statement focused on the work of the Arctic Council related to health issues, the findings of AMAP and the efforts of the SDWG.

An address was delivered on the Chair's behalf at the **26th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting** in Madrid on 16 June 2003, providing an overview of the Arctic Council priorities and the possibilities of cooperation on issues of mutual Polar concern.

The Chair accompanied the President of Iceland on his working visit to **Anchorage, Alaska** on 16-22 August 2003, presenting the work of the Arctic Council to the Governor's cabinet and addressing the Alaskan Arctic ad hoc working group.

A statement was made on behalf of the Chair at the **World Climate Change Conference** held in Moscow on 29 September - 3 October 2003.

The Chair accepted an invitation to address a **Workshop on the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP)**, held in Reykjavík on 20-22 October 2003.

The Chair participated in a meeting of the **Northern regional bodies** in Stockholm on 2 December 2003. At the meeting representatives exchanged views on relations with the European Union and the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan, among things.

The Chair addressed the **Presidium of the Nordic Council** in Reykjavík on 2 February 2004, providing an overview of the Arctic Council and its main activities.

On 4 February 2004, the Chair attended a meeting of **Northern regional bodies and the European Commission** in Brussels. The meeting discussed the implementation of the Northern Dimension Action Plan, the different priorities and activities of the regional bodies and the exchange of information on activities related to the Action Plan.

A statement was made on the Chair's behalf, a meeting of the **IPHE Liaison Committee** in Germany on 3 March 2004, on the possible involvement of the Arctic Council in the work of the IPHE.

The Chair provided an overview of the activities of the Chairmanship at the **6th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region** on 3-6 September 2004, in Nuuk, Greenland.

The Chair delivered a statement to the **3rd Open Meeting of the Northern Research Forum** on 15 September 2004, in Yellowknife, Canada, addressing the topic of Global change affecting the North.

Other outreach efforts

The Chair accepted an invitation to address a conference of the **Greenwich Forum**, entitled "Unlocking the Arctic's Assets", at the Royal Society in London on 18 November 2003. An article based on the Chair's speech was later published in the daily Morgunblaðið in Iceland.

In March 2003, the Chair participated in a conference at **Wilton Park** entitled: Arctic Cooperation 12 years on: How successful? and delivered a statement.

The Chair met with the Director of the **Nordic Investment Bank (NIB)** in December 2002, to discuss the financing of Arctic Council projects. Following the meeting, a fact-sheet pointing out examples of environmental work, i.e. pollution and climate change, carried out under the auspices of the Arctic Council, was transmitted to the NIB.

The Executive Secretary attended a meeting organized by the **AARI and the Russian Academy of Science on the IPY** on 22-23 January 2004 in St. Petersburg and delivered a statement on behalf of the Chair on the commitments of the Arctic Council to the IPY.

A message was delivered on behalf of the Chair, at a **International Round Table; Indigenous Peoples of the North and the Parliamentary System of the Russian Federation**, in Moscow on 12-13 March 2003. The statement highlighted the role of indigenous peoples in the work of the Arctic Council and the relevance of several Arctic Council projects for indigenous peoples.

A statement was delivered on behalf of the Chair at an **informal IPY discussion forum** in Paris on 13-14 September 2004, emphasizing, among other things, the importance of including the human dimension in the IPY.

A statement was made on behalf of the Chair at a meeting of the **International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change Research (IGFA)** in Reykjavík, on 6 October 2004, devoted to the theme: The Arctic science - policy interface.

The so-called “about” text of the **Arctic Council web-site** was updated in order to provide a practical overview of the nature and activities of the Council, as well as links to relevant pages on the site and to other web-sites.

Annex 4

Joint Arctic Council and European Commission Seminar

Brussels 7 July 2004

The Icelandic Chairmanship of the Arctic Council organised a joint seminar on Arctic Issues with the European Commission in Brussels on July 7 2004. The Seminar was held in the EFTA headquarters and was co-chaired by Mr. Thórir Ibsen Deputy Head of the Icelandic Mission to the EU and Mr. Alistair MacDonald Head of Unit, DG Relex.

The aim of the seminar was to explore possible synergies and areas for co-operation between the Arctic Council and the European Commission on issues concerning the Arctic. The seminar was attended by representatives of the European Commission (DG Relex, DG Environment, DG Research, DG Regio and the Joint Research Center), representatives and experts from the Arctic Council, and representatives from the Missions of Arctic Council members states to the EU. The list of participants is attached.

In an introductory statement of the Icelandic Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, the importance of the relations between the Arctic Council and the European Union were stressed; relations that were both of institutional nature and related to shared interests. The Arctic Council had followed closely the development of the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan and had the opportunity to contribute to its elaboration. One of the objectives Iceland set when assuming the chairmanship of the Arctic Council two years ago, was to seek a stronger co-operation with the EU, not merely on the policy level, but also on projects in areas where both the Arctic Council and the European Commission were working. To signal this intention, one of the first acts of the Icelandic chairmanship was to meet with representatives of the EU Presidency. Subsequently a contact was taken with DG Relex to explore the possibility of a joint seminar on Arctic Issues. In preparing this seminar the Arctic Council identified a number of projects that are currently being undertaken by the Council that could form a basis for further co-operation between the Arctic Council and the European Commission. Some of these projects, which had been presented in writing to the various Directorate Generals of the European Commission with the help of DG Relex, would be presented in more detail during the seminar. It were the sincere wish of the Icelandic Chairmanship of the Arctic Council that this seminar would be the beginning of fruitful co-operation of the Arctic Council and the European Commission on the development and implementation of concrete projects in the Arctic Region.

DG Relex during an introductory statement underlined the importance the EU puts on Arctic issues. This is seen for example under the Northern Dimension with the Arctic as a cross-cutting issue, to ensure that key priorities relevant to the Arctic such as the environment and nuclear waste, economic development and human resource development are given proper attention. A seminar such as this gives an important opportunity to learn about each others' activities, to share results, to provide the

opportunity to identify “gaps” to be further addressed, and to develop networks and contacts among all actors. DG Environment in a brief introductory statement underlined the importance of the Arctic as the climate memory of the past, and the Commission’s interest in further research, noting also the importance of knowing more of the costs arising from climate change and mitigation efforts. DG Research stressed the support provided to Arctic issues under the Framework Programme for RTD and in its coming Calls for Proposals. DG Joint Research Centre stated that its interests in security and reliability of energy supplies, climate change (monitoring and measurements of methane releases in permafrost and wetland areas), fisheries monitoring and mapping of boreal forests and tundra had important Arctic components that should be exploited. Importantly, impacts of climate change is of common interest to these areas of study.

A series of very informative presentations were made at the seminar on a number of current projects and areas of work of the Arctic Council, including the Arctic climate impact assessment, human development, environmental monitoring and assessment, and protection of the marine environment. The agenda of the seminar is attached.

There was a general consensus that closer co-ordination and sharing of information would certainly bring mutual benefits to the work of the Arctic Council and of the European Commission. Such co-operation might focus on circumpolar issues of global significance and should permit the proper involvement of a wide range of stakeholders.

An exchange of views addressed possible areas for co-ordination, identification of shared interests and the approach towards areas of common interest. A large number of areas were mentioned by participants as suitable for further elaboration, including for example:

- Identification of areas of common interest and potential synergy, e.g. impact assessments of climate change that link the Arctic to central regions of Europe and Eurasia supported by long term monitoring initiatives and selected field studies in relation to for example the permafrost areas.
- Parallel efforts to support Marine Protection Strategies which all countries should have an interest to support. All the EU member states are already covered by this strategy, which should form a strong platform of support within the Arctic Council, make possible a more proactive support and involvement.
- Co-ordination and information-sharing in relation to on-going activities is important. The actors have to find a flexible and well-adapted way of promoting co-ordination and easy access to information.
- A wide range of funding sources was mentioned at the seminar. These available instruments must be explored thoroughly to ensure that arctic issues can be given their proper priority there.
- The potential that is offered by the upcoming International Polar Year (2007) could be further elaborated and exploited by the participants including the EC.

A number of new project initiatives were emphasised that should be exploited by key stakeholders: the Environmental Network for the European and Russian Arctic Region (ENERAR); European-Russian-Ukrainian GMES NETwork for Monitoring of

Oil Spills and Oil & Gas Pipelines (ERUNET); GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) that offers a broad platform for co-operation on data gathering and information exchange.

Participants expressed their thanks to the Arctic Council and the Icelandic Mission to the European Union for having taken the welcome initiative to organise this seminar.

Annex 5

Work Plans of the Arctic Council Working Groups 2004-2006

AMAP Work Plan 2004-2006

- Perform the 2006 Oil and Gas Assessment.
- Perform the 2006 Acidification Assessment.
- Continue ongoing monitoring activities, including (long-term) temporal trend studies, and monitoring of spatial trends, human health, and biological effects in the Arctic, with special emphasis on the collection of information on new contaminants, assessment of the combined effects of climate (and UV) and contaminants, emerging issues, and improved information on sources of contaminants (follow-up of 2002 assessment).
- Take part in arrangement of the 2nd International Conference on Radioactivity in the Environment and the 6th International Conference on Radioactivity in the Arctic and the Antarctic that will be held in Nice in October 2005.
- Arrange an International Symposium on Oil and Gas in the Arctic, in Russia, September 2005.
- Translate and print the ACIA Overview report in other languages (e.g., Russian, Saami, French, German and Dutch).
- Prepare updated reports on issues of concern, e.g. related to POPs and Mercury.
- Continue to review the AMAP Monitoring Programme and update the AMAP Guidelines for Monitoring and Assessments to reflect requests from Ministers and latest recommendations from science (concerning methodology, etc.).
- Produce fact-sheets reflecting AMAP's assessment.
- Support ACAP projects, in particular those on PCBs, mercury, obsolete pesticides, dioxins and furans, and any additional projects that are related to issues addressed by AMAP, and the development of AMAP/ACAP joint fact sheets.
- Continue a close cooperation with international bodies to avoid duplicating work and to coordinate work programmes in an efficient and cost effective manner.
- Participate in planning and implementation of the IPY.
- Participate in relevant international meetings and symposia to communicate AMAP results and information on ongoing activities.
- Develop harmonized monitoring activities jointly with CAFF.
- Coordinate GIS related activities with EPPR and other working groups.
- Improve the financial support for the AMAP work.

CAFF Work Plan 2004-2006

The 10th meeting of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group of the Arctic Council took place in Anchorage, Alaska, 14-16 September 2004. The CAFF 2004-2006 Work Plan represents a consensus of the expert groups of CAFF, the Arctic States National Representatives, Permanent Participants, and Official Observers to CAFF.

CAFF's Work Plan for the period 2004-2006 emphasizes cooperation and

collaboration with other Arctic Council Working Groups, and organizations outside of the Arctic Council, and makes efforts to actively contribute to the global conservation agenda. This Work Plan responds to the findings and recommendations of the ACIA report, the Oil and Gas Assessment, the Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Strategic Plan and ECORA. There are several projects under consideration for the IPY initiative, which will be further discussed at the next board meeting of CAFF and then added to the Work Plan at that time. CAFF will also enhance efforts to communicate the results of its projects to ensure that communities, regional organizations, national audiences and international organizations are aware of CAFF's work, and the contribution of these efforts to the well being of Arctic residents, the conservation of Arctic flora and fauna, and sustainable development in the Arctic.

Conserving Arctic Species

FAUNA

Complete a review on "Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern" in 2005. Lead: US and Wetlands International.

- Complete a review of impacts of bycatch and harvests on seabirds by 2006. Lead: Greenland and US
- Complete a review of progress on the CAFF Circumpolar Eider Conservation Strategy by 2006. Lead: Canada.
- Complete a Circumpolar Ivory Gull Conservation Strategy by 2006. Lead: Canada and Norway

FLORA

- Complete checklists of Arctic lichens and bryophytes. Lead: Iceland and Canada.
- Complete a project on "Traditional Use and Conservation of Plants From the Aleutian, Pribilof, and Commander Islands by 2006. Lead: Aleut International Association.
- Publish results of the "Second International Workshop on Circumpolar Vegetation Classification and Mapping" by 2006. Lead: Norway, Greenland and US

Conserving Arctic Ecosystems and Habitats

- Prepare an Implementation Plan for the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network (CPAN) Strategy and Action Plan, which AC Ministers approved in 1996. Lead: CPAN Chair Country - to be determined.
- Contribute to the identification of large marine ecosystems of the Arctic in cooperation with PAME per the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan. Lead: US and Canada.
- Develop a framework and criteria to identify marine sensitive areas in the Arctic in cooperation with PAME and other working groups per the AC Arctic Marine Strategic Plan. Lead: Greenland.
- Convene a circumpolar workshop, in cooperation with Permanent Participants, based on RAIPON's Sacred Sites Project to address the importance of sacred sites in biodiversity conservation, inter alia identification and protection of sacred sites, and management of ethnographic and cultural landscapes in the Arctic in 2005. Lead: RAIPON.
- Conduct a workshop on the values of protected areas, and indigenous subsistence lands in Russia by 2006. Lead: Finland, Norway, Sweden, Russia, RAIPON, and UNEP/GRID-Arendal.

Assessing and Monitoring Arctic Biodiversity

Complete the framework for a circumpolar seabird monitoring network in 2005. Lead: Iceland and US

- Complete a review of the status and trends of Arctic seabirds in 2006.

Lead: Iceland

- Complete an evaluation of monitoring of local flora in Russia, and determining its application in a circumpolar context by 2006. Lead: Russia and US.

- Implement the CAFF/AMAP Strategy for Cooperation as endorsed by the SAOs.

Lead: Iceland

- Complete an inventory of active Arctic biodiversity monitoring programs and projects in each CAFF country and complete a gap analysis by 2005. Lead: Canada.

- Implement the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) as endorsed by the SAOs. Lead: Iceland

Global Issues

- Implement priority CAFF-relevant recommendations of the ACIA report in cooperation with the other working groups and IASC. Lead: To be determined.

- Continue to implement the ECORA project in the three model areas in Russia.

Lead: Russia, Norway, RAIPON, UNEP/GRID-Arendal.

- Implement priority CAFF-relevant action items of the Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP). Lead: To be determined.

- Contribute to the Arctic Council's Oil and Gas Assessment in cooperation with AMAP. Lead: US

Engaging Society

Produce a CPAN Poster. Lead: US

EPPR Work Plan 2004-2006

- Continue work on the oil and gas-related issues will continue through information sharing and in following up on the recommendations from two recent workshops in Anchorage and Trondheim on oil spill response in ice-covered waters.

- With Norway as lead country, conduct a pilot study with GRID Arendal to develop an interactive web-based map series that will include radiological source data from AMAP and the known locations of radioactivity from other sources. Based on the results, hold a workshop and make recommendations at the next EPPR meeting. The pilot project is the follow-up to the completion of the 'Circumpolar Map'.

- As part of the 'Arctic Rescue' initiative, identify potential sites for a network of stations throughout the Arctic to the Russian Federation.

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is fostering development of international response capabilities to address nuclear events. Led by the U.S., EPPR member countries are invited to help shape the Arctic component of this ongoing project. This effort should lead to the development of the nuclear response component of the Arctic Rescue initiative.

- Undertake the Phase III Source Control Management pilot project on risk assessment in the Murmansk Region. This project is led by the US and Russian Federation. The working draft of the 'Refined Risk Assessment Methodology' Report may be revised based on lessons learned.

- Participate, as appropriate, in a tabletop emergency exercise involving the transport of radioactive material to be conducted by the Arctic Military Environmental Cooperation (AMEC) partners in the Murmansk region.
- Prepare a Community Information booklet to provide radiological response information for government officials in the Russian Federation. This is a joint effort led by the US and the Russian Federation.
- Contingent on the Ministers agreement to expand the mandate of EPPR to include natural disasters update.

EPPR will continue to cooperate with other organizations by:

- Participating in the AMAP-led Petroleum Hydrocarbon Assessment project (2006) and the upcoming Oil and Gas Symposium (2005).
- Testing the emergencies component of PAME's Oil Transfer Guidelines (subject to agreement from PAME).
- Providing input to the PAME-led Arctic Marine Strategic Plan.
- Providing comments on the SDWG's draft Sustainable Development Action Plan.
- Undertaking activities with the Northern Forum that support the EPPR agenda.
- Maintaining liaison with the University of the Arctic.

SDWG Work Plan 2004-2006

The SDWG will continue to deal with a number of issues and projects in the period 2004-2006. Of great importance is the implementation of the SDAP and related developments. The work in this respect will include:

- Preparing a document on mechanisms to implement SDAP for approval by SAOs;
- Analysis of state of the problem and revealing gaps and priority actions to be taken within each priority area;
- Examining of the development of criteria and indicators for evaluation of the progress in the SDAP implementation;
- Preparing new actions on the basis of the revealed gaps, recommendations of the AHDR and other completed projects of the Arctic Council.

In addition, work will continue on the follow-up to the WSSD, inter alia in the context of the work on SDAP, and in clarifying procedures and criteria for endorsement of new projects and related processes within the SDWG.

The projects under the auspices of the SDWG have also submitted their individual work plans for the period 2004-2006. Following is a summary of their work plans for information purposes:

SliCA Project work plans for the period 2004-2006

- Whereas aggregated data for some of the regions/countries will be ready late 2004, the region specific analyses and reports will not be developed for all regions and countries until 2005. The first comparative studies including all regions and countries will too be carried out in 2005. Not all SLiCA regions/countries have the necessary funding for a full-fledged analysis, which might extend the activities to 2006.

- The SLiCA project has the potential of becoming an International Polar Year (2007/2008) activity for several reasons: SLiCA's research design can be employed in other Arctic regions and among other Arctic indigenous peoples; SLiCA might inspire and be inspired through cooperating with other social science research activities and through networking between the SLiCA team members and other social science researchers within the Arctic.

Product Development and Processing in Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry (Ofelas) work plans 2004 - 2006

- In the Fall of 2004 the Educational Center of Sami Area will receive two exchange students from the Yakut State Institute of Art and Culture. A teacher from the Educational Center of Sami Area will hold a ten-day seminar on reindeer husbandry in Komi Republic, Russia. From October – December 2004 the annual educational sections will take place again in the fall of 2004 training reindeer herders, veterinarians and slaughterhouse workers from different herding regions of Russia and for the first time also from the Seward Peninsula of Alaska. In March 20 – 25, 2005 there will be the third World Reindeer Herder's Congress in Yakutsk, Sakha Republic, Russia.

Sustainable Model for Arctic Regional Tourism (SMART) work plans for the period 2004-2005

- The original project duration was intended to be 01 January 2003 to 31 May 2005. Training program modules will be created for tourism companies and they will be delivered by various methods such as mixing face-to-face and distant learning techniques. Plans to join a recognition scheme or a label will be made during this period. The continuation of the project after 2005 is also being considered. Plans to apply for more project funding will be made by the end of 2004.

Future of Children & Youth of the Arctic work plans for 2004-2006:

- The Initiative will concentrate efforts on producing results through several new projects, which fall within its original mandate, for the coming two years. Overall, the Children and Youth Initiative will need to have greater active participation from Member states and Permanent Participants. In the next two years, more emphasis will be placed on building up a network of committed contacts, initially via conference calls and emails. The Initiative will focus on a few key deliverables and work towards achieving them, as opposed to taking on too many projects, which has been done previously, with limited success.

Health Programme:

- The Programme will develop a set of Best Practices for the Health Programme that will be useful for Northern communities.

Networking Programme:

A. Internship Programme:

The Circumpolar Young Leaders Internship Programme will develop its own identity and efforts will be placed on the branding of the Programme. To this end:

- The University of the Arctic will develop and deliver a two week on-line course for the interns that will cover topics in northern sustainable development, the workings of the Arctic Council, cross-cultural communications and leadership skills.

- A mentor programme will be set up, whereby Elders and former interns will act as mentors to new interns.
- At the mid point of their placements, there will be an in-person debriefing. This event will coincide with an Arctic Council meeting, workshop or an event related to an Arctic issue held in one of the circumpolar countries (e.g. Arctic Circumpolar Universities Conference).
- At the end of the Programme, participants will be subscribed to an alumni listserv where they will continue to interact with one another as well as, be kept informed of upcoming events and issues in the North.

B. On Top of the World Website: (www.ookpik.org)

- The website will continue to be marketed and promoted throughout the circumpolar world. The aim is that it will become a valuable tool to both teachers and students. Depending upon the level of activity and interest, the website will continue to be developed and modified as necessary. If funding can be secured, the site will be translated into Russian.

Possible Activities will be explored in the following two areas:

- A Youth Camp and Literature for Youth (taking existing Arctic Council Reports, such as the AHDR, or other already existing relevant circumpolar reference books, and rewriting them for a young audience.

Circumpolar Infrastructure:

The circumpolar infrastructure activities were commenced in September 2000, with the USA as lead country, to identify opportunities for international cooperation to advance circumpolar infrastructure, including aviation, marine transport, and telecommunications sectors.

Arctic Marine Shipping work plans for 2004-2006:

In the marine dimension, CITF has crosscutting linkages with work being conducted by PAME, EPPR, AMAP, and ACIA. In anticipation of the release of ACIA, a workshop on the future of Arctic marine transport was held 28-30 September 2004 at the Scott Polar Research Institute Research Institute of Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. The workshop of 60 international experts from throughout the Arctic and beyond produced a research agenda for a range of themes associated with the changing marine access in the Arctic Ocean including historical perspectives; climate/sea ice change; economics and development; technological considerations; international cooperation; and, marine environmental safety. The research agenda will be provided to all the working groups of the Arctic Council and to the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), one of the workshop sponsors. The outcomes of the Cambridge workshop will, consistent with the marine shipping assessment led by three countries under the PAME Work Plan, be used for developing a larger international conference on Arctic marine transport for all stakeholders planned for late summer 2005. CITF will also continue its close cooperation with the Noncommercial Partnership of the Northern Sea Route Usages, which was represented at the Cambridge venue.

Circumpolar Aviation work plans for 2004-2006:

In relation to the aviation dimension, in the 2004-2006 period CITF will work to integrate into and expand participation in other international fora on aviation. The

three basic areas under focus are: establishing air links; utilization of advanced technology; and dynamic data base development to catalogue and identify gaps in infrastructure in Arctic regions. CITF will also conduct workshops on expanding air links. In respect of advanced technology, CITF will continue to explore implementation of Capstone and ADSB systems in northern Canada and possibly Russia. Work will also proceed with Sweden on compatibility of technology. Collaboration on the design and access dimensions of a dynamic database will continue.

Circumpolar Telecommunications work plans for 2004-2006:

The telecommunications dimension of CITF is the most complex because of large distances between Arctic populations and the small numbers of Arctic residents. Satellite technologies are the focus area for cooperation. CITF will continue to explore the Wireless Arctic Network (WAN) as proposed at Akureyri, Iceland ICT meeting. CITF intends to convene a regulators meeting in 2005 to look at practical options for a connected Arctic. CITF has offered to host a scoping workshop to consider appropriate future ICT activities, in early 2005.

Telemedicine work plans for 2004-2006:

- New project activities may be contemplated in the context of the ICT scoping workshop. Telemedicine activities are anticipated to continue with the cooperation project between the US and Russia.

The International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS): Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Arctic work plans for 2004-2006:

The ICS project is ongoing and long-term. The work plan for 2004-2006 includes:

- Continue surveillance of invasive diseases caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, and groups A and B streptococcus in the US Arctic, northern Canada, and Greenland.
- Expand surveillance of invasive diseases caused by *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, and groups A and B streptococcus to include Iceland, Norway, Finland and northern Sweden.
- In collaboration with Health Canada, provincial and territorial public health partners we plan to investigate the apparent emergence of *Haemophilus influenzae* type a among aboriginal children in the US Arctic and northern Canada.
- Continue the pneumococcal Quality Control program between reference laboratories in the US Arctic and Canada, and extend this program to include reference laboratories in northern Europe, and other pathogens under surveillance.
- Plan and conduct ICS steering committee meetings in conjunction with the 15th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases to be held in Copenhagen Denmark, April 2-5, 2005, and in conjunction with the International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases to be held in Atlanta GA in 2006.
- Plan and conduct an ICS invasive bacterial disease working group meetings in 2005 and 2006.
- Plan and conduct an Infectious Disease Working Group meeting in conjunction with the International Conference on Circumpolar Health to be held in Novosibirsk, Russian Federation June 2006.
- Support the establishment of an ICS hepatitis B working group and laboratory activities focusing on the determining the incidence, risk factors and possible interventions among persons with chronic hepatitis B in circumpolar countries.

- Through the Arctic Council and the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and other multinational cooperatives continue to establish partnerships within the Sanitary Surveillance and Epidemiology Centers in the Barents Sea and Far East regions of the Russian Federation.
- Explore options for establishing an ICS International Fellowship program for 2005-2006.
- Explore options for expanding ICS to include surveillance of injuries and non-infectious diseases of concern in circumpolar regions.

Women and resource management in the rural North work plans for 2004-2006:

- This is a continuation of the Arctic Council project “Women’s participation in decision-making processes in Arctic fisheries resource management”, where the scope is broadened to include other natural resources. In keeping with the initial project, women and gender equality would again be the focus of attention. As is repeatedly mentioned in public policy documents, the continued rural settlements in the North depend on the gender balance in the local communities. Women are often the first to move to more central areas in search of education and work. If they do not return then the future of these communities is threatened. Since these communities are often resource-based, it becomes vital to see how women are included or not in these sectors. This is part of ensuring economic and socio-cultural development in the northern areas. Project work starts January 1st, 2005, with a view to full participation from July 1, 2005. The project period is two years; the final report is to be presented in 2006. The final report will be distributed to politicians, the natural resource-based industry, media and local communities in the project area. In the project period, progress reports will be submitted to the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group at their meetings. In addition, workshop papers and reports will be published in the project period. These will be distributed as outlined for the final report.

The Economy of the North work plans 2004-2006:

- The study will strengthen the statistical description of the circumpolar market based economic activities.
- It will provide the financial basis for establishing a national and international network of economists, who in co-operation with relevant natural science disciplines will be able to describe how the economic activities in the far north is linked to the world economy, and how climate change in the north is likely to impact both the regional economies as well as the global economy.
- The project will include a special study on existing literature on subsistence economy, and will arrange a seminar on the issue, in order to integrate the results, if possible economic model of the study.

PAME Work Plan 2004-2006

The PAME working group addresses policy and non-emergency pollution prevention and control measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from land and sea-based activities.

The PAME Work Plan 2004 – 2006 was developed according to its mandate and agreed priorities and identifies 4 objectives followed by a set of specific actions. This

Work Plan is in line with the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan that outlines the overall direction for the PAME program.

Objectives and actions:

Objective I: Improve knowledge and respond to emerging knowledge of the Arctic marine environment

RATIONALE:

- Scientific findings (e.g. IPCC and ACIA) have estimated that warming of the Arctic with longer ice-free season will lengthen the navigation season followed by increased access to Arctic resources. - - Activities such as development of hydrocarbon and mineral resources, cruise ship tourism and commercial fishing are expected to expand with improved access and the opening of a northern east-west corridor linking Europe and Asia across the North Pole. Increased accessibility and marine transportation in the Arctic will require greater support and pose increased environmental risks to the Arctic marine environment and its ecological processes, including the introduction of alien species and increases in marine pollution (e.g., oil spills). This work will build on and be coordinated with other organizations involved in Arctic marine transportation such as IMO (Arctic Shipping Guidelines), Northern Sea Route (INSROP the International Northern Sea Route Programme, Northern Maritime Corridor), SDWG and the EPPR Working Group on accident related issues and other existing work related to this issue.

ACTIONS:

Actions	Activities	Lead
1. Conduct a comprehensive and integrated Arctic marine shipping assessment at current and projected future levels in collaboration with the EPPR Working Group and other Working Groups as required. <i>(From sections 7.1.4; 7.2.2 and 7.2.6 in the AMSP)</i>	Develop Terms of Reference, a work programme and a timeline, for the assessment. The goals, objectives and scope of the assessment will be defined and additional partners identified and confirmed as first step in the process and an initial scoping of issues will be completed. The full assessment will be completed over the 2006-2008 biennium. In developing the assessment it will be critical to take into account the relevant work and initiatives of the IMO, International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), Circumpolar Infrastructure Task Force (CITF) and the ACIA.	CANADA FINLAND USA
2. Respond to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) findings and recommendations. <i>(From section 7.2.1 in the AMSP)</i>	Review the ACIA findings and recommendations and identify possible measures as it relates to land-and sea-based protection and pollution prevention measures for the Arctic marine environment as and when appropriate.	PAME Chair/Secretariat
3. Contribute to the Arctic Council <u>Assessment of Potential Impacts of Oil and Gas Activities in the</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide PAME input to the review process. ➤ Contribute to the peer review process and the development of recommendations to the Ministers in 2006. 	DENMARK/ GREENLAND/ FAROE

<p><u>Arctic</u> (Lead by AMAP to report to Ministers in 2006). Response to identified measures will be included in the 2006-2008 Work Plan. (From section 7.2.3 in the AMSP)</p>	<p>➤ Participate in the symposium, scheduled for August 2005 in Russia.</p>	<p>ISLANDS USA</p>
<p>Assess existing measures for port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues and develop harmonized guidelines for consideration by States. (From sections 7.2.4 and 7.2.6 in the AMSP)</p>	<p>➤ Availability and measures for existing port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues in the PAME region, based on a survey of existing information. ➤ Identify gaps in existing coverage and possible improvements in the availability and incentives for delivery. ➤ Develop recommendations for harmonized guidelines for consideration by States.</p>	<p>NORWAY</p>

OBJECTIVE II: Determine the adequacy of applicable international/regional commitments and promote their implementation and compliance

RATIONALE:

- Promote the implementation and compliance of applicable international instruments and governmental commitments through increased coordination and collaboration and trends towards integrated approaches such as ecosystem approaches in addressing the challenges of coastal and marine environment. An integrated ecosystem approach to management requires that development activities be coordinated in a way that minimizes their impact on the environment and integrates thinking across environmental, socio-economic, political and sectoral realms.
- The Arctic Council has an opportunity to provide international leadership on the global sustainable development agenda through the adoption and application of an integrated, ecosystem-based approach to managing the Arctic marine environment.

ACTIONS:

Actions	Activities	Lead
<p>1. Apply the ecosystem approach. This work will be carried out in collaboration with other Arctic Council working groups, in particular CAFF. (From section 7.3.2 in the AMSP)</p>	<p>This action item has various components, which can be carried out independently, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Compile an inventory of ecosystem-based projects ➤ Initiate the identification of Large Marine Ecosystems in the Arctic. (From section 7.4.1 	<p>USA USA</p>

Actions	Activities	Lead
	<p><i>in the AMSP)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Initiate the identification of indicators of ecosystem health and ecosystem objectives. 	USA
<p>2. Advance the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action (RPA) and assess the need to expand its scope to address additional priority source categories not already covered.</p> <p><i>(From section 7.3.3 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<p>This action item has various components, which can be carried out independently, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assess the adequacy of the RPA, taking into account new information since 1997, and if necessary propose broadening it to address other source categories and update the 1997 RPA document. Liaise with relevant organizations (e.g., Regional Seas, GPA Coordination Office, University of the Arctic). 	CANADA (to be confirmed)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Facilitate technical cooperation for Russian Federation’s activities aimed at protecting the Arctic marine environment (<i>From section 7.5.3 in the AMSP</i>) and continue support for Russian NPA Arctic GEF project. The exact nature of future cooperation will be determined on the basis of opportunities identified. ➤ Assist in the execution of a private sector roundtable to implement partnership projects that are developed for the Russian NPA-Arctic. ➤ Contribute to the 2006 GPA review. (<i>From section 7.7.2 in the AMSP</i>) 	<p>Russia PAME Chair/Secretariat</p> <p>USA</p> <p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p>

OBJECTIVE III: Facilitate partnerships, programme and technical cooperation

RATIONALE:

There is a need to coordinate work with other working groups of the Arctic Council, regional and international organizations and programmes, local authorities and indigenous organizations in an effort to promote capacity building, sharing of information and technology transfer on the state of the Arctic marine environment.

ACTIONS:

Actions	Activities	Lead
<p>1. <i>Increase cooperation and collaboration with international/regional organizations.</i> (From section 7.5.2 in the AMSP)</p>	<p>➤ Liaise with fisheries organizations and organizations associated with marine-related conventions and agreements to inform and be informed of possible cooperative opportunities including information exchange.</p>	<p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p>
	<p>➤ Participate in the development of the EU-Marine strategy as a means of information exchange in this forum.</p>	<p>DENMARK PAME Chair/Secretariat</p>
<p>2. <i>Promote capacity building, information exchange and technology transfer related to oil and gas development and transportation activities.</i></p>	<p>Organize a workshop to encourage implementation of the Arctic Council Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines, taking into account the AMAP Assessment of Potential Impacts of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic.</p>	<p>USA</p>

OBJECTIVE IV: Support communication, reporting and outreach both within and outside the Arctic Council.

RATIONALE:

PAME is the Arctic Council focal point for information exchange and updates on Arctic marine protection issues and recognizes the importance of engaging and providing an opportunity for Permanent Participants, other governments and appropriate NGOs in the sustainable development of the Arctic marine environment (e.g. provide a periodic watch briefs on IMO projects and ISO Arctic Standards). PAME recognizes that coordination and collaboration with all subsidiary bodies of the Arctic Council is important in forwarding common objectives of respective work plans on the protection of the Arctic marine environment.

ACTIONS:

Actions	Activities	Lead
1. Information outreach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Provide AMSP progress reports to the Arctic Council with assistance of all Arctic Council subsidiary bodies.</i> ➤ Information exchange with UNEP Regional Seas Programme regions, and other regional programs. ➤ Website/Clearing House update. 	<p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p> <p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p> <p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p>
2. <i>Build the capacity and engagement of indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants.</i> (From section 7.6 in the AMSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop a communication plan to support understanding and involvement in implementation of the AMSP. <i>(From Section 8.0 in the AMSP)</i> ➤ Promote oceans education and training related to best operating practices through appropriate institutions such as the University of the Arctic <i>(From section 7.6.1 in the AMSP)</i> 	<p>CANADA ICELAND</p> <p>PAME Chair/Secretariat</p>

ACAP Work Plan for 2004-2006

- Complete the AMAP/ACAP Fact Sheets on PCBs, Dioxins/Furans, Mercury and Cleaner Production
- Sponsor and participate in the International Conference on “Cleaner Production as a Contribution to Sustainable Development” in Moscow, Russia on 6-9 December 2004
- Implement Phase 3 of the PCB Project to include shipment, assembly and testing of the plasma arc PCB-destruction systems
- Complete inventory and repackaging and safe temporary storage of the obsolete and prohibited pesticides in the remaining six priority regions in the Arctic
- Achieve measurable reduction of the dioxins/furans emission at one pulp and paper industrial facility in Arkhangelsk Region
- Prepare a regional assessment of existing and planned initiatives addressing mercury source categories in the Arctic States. Identify possible measures to be followed up in the Arctic countries and implement a model mercury source control and reduction project in Russia.
- Initiate the new project on brominated flame retardants (BFRs) and coordinate with AMAP on their BFR database development
- Continue evaluation of emerging priority pollutants including contaminants identified by the LRTAP Convention
- Complete content addition for the ACAP Website
- Support implementation of one cooperative project with the Permanent Participants
- Continue cooperation and outreach with the Barents Euro Arctic Council Working Group on Environment (BEAC/WGE) to include implementation of joint projects addressing contaminant “Hot Spots” in the Arctic.
- Develop specific cooperative activities with the Nordic Council of Ministers/Environmental Working Group
- Continue to explore outreach opportunities with industry to find solutions to environmental problems addressed by ACAP
- Expand participation of the Arctic Council Observer countries in the work of ACAP
- Explore opportunities for additional funding of the ACAP projects

Annex 6

Administration

Arctic Council Working Groups

The AMAP Secretariat is located in Oslo, Norway and has a staff of four. The total budget for 2004 is 3.000.000 NOK (the exchange rate between USD/NOK has fallen 30% during 2004, so the approximately value in USD is 400.000). Norway has secured 2.500.000 NOK of the core funding for the operation of the Secretariat, in addition there has been support from Finland and Canada.

The CAFF Secretariat is located in Akureyri, Iceland. Iceland provides approximately 50% of the cost of the Secretariat. The CAFF Secretariat operating costs for 2004 are approximately 262,000 USD. Country contributions totaled 240,500 USD for 2004, creating a shortfall of 21,500 USD. Iceland's contribution in 2004 is 63% of the total revenue received (based on the *current* exchange rate of 66 ISK per USD). This is because the Iceland's contribution is paid in ISK, and the other country contributions in US Dollars and are subject to the drop in the exchange rate of the US Dollar against the ISK. The staff consists of an Executive Secretary, and a part-time administrative assistant.

The PAME Secretariat is located in Akureyri. Iceland provides approximately 50% of the Secretariat. The operational cost of the PAME Secretariat in 2004 is 195.000 USD. The PAME Secretariat consists of an Executive Secretary and a part time administrative assistant.

Canada has provided the Secretariat for the EPPR since 2002 at a cost of approximately \$60,000 USD per year. Canada and the Russian Federation are currently working out the details of the EPPR Secretariat transition as Russia assumes the EPPR Chair.

The SDWG Secretariat was set up in Canada in 2002. To date, financial support for the Secretariat's operations has been provided by Canada, Finland and Norway.

The ACAP Secretariat is located in Washington, DC. The United States provides the cost of the Secretariat.

Other bodies

The IPS Secretariat is located in Copenhagen, Denmark. Denmark and the Greenland Home Rule Government has secured the core financing of the Secretariat. The budget of the Secretariat is app. 0.5 million USD and IPS has a staff of four people.