

**Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials  
FINAL Report  
23-24 April 2008  
Svolvær, Norway**

**In Attendance:**

**Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs)**

Chair: Karsten Klepsvik

Canada: Adèle Dion

Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands: Mikaela Engell, Maliina Abelsen (Greenland)

Finland: Jyrki Kallio

Iceland: Ragnar Baldursson

Norway: Robert Kvile

Russian Federation: Anton Vasiliev

Sweden: Helena Ödmark

United States: Julia L. Gourley

**Permanent Participant (PP) Heads of Delegation (HoD)**

Arctic Athabaskan Council (ACC): Cindy Dickson

Aleut International Association (AIA): Victoria Gofman

Gwich'in Council International (GCI): Bridget Larocque (Substitute)

Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC): Violet Ford (Substitute)

Russian Arctic Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON): Larisa Abryutina (Substitute)

Saami Council (SC): Stefan Mikaelsson

**Summary of Key Decisions and Conclusions:**

- The revised SWIPA – Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic - project was approved by SAOs.
- SAO's approved AMAP's proposal to convene a workshop on the issue of non-CO2 drivers and the Arctic and report back to SAOs in November.
- There is strong support for the Arctic Council's work on Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic (VACCA).
- The Executive Summary and Recommendations of the Oil and Gas Assessment are ready to be released and published.
- The importance of the Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy (IHWMS) and its links to other ACAP projects was re-iterated.
- SAOs agreed that the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) is a major deliverable for the 2009 Ministerial and confirmed their continued support.
- Good progress is being made on the Best Practices in Ecosystems-based Oceans Management in the Arctic (BePOMAr) project.
- The continued work of both ECONOR and SLICA was strongly supported.
- CAFF is making good progress on the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) and Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA). A Greenlandic/Danish Chief scientist has been appointed for the ABA-process. Greenland/Denmark announced they will join the US and Finland as co-chairs of the ABA.
- SAOs supported the continued development of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) process.

- There was full support for maximizing the legacy of the International Polar Year (IPY). The Norwegian IPY legacy proposal was withdrawn for this meeting. Discussion on IPY legacy will continue at the next meeting.
- Russia announced it intends to financially commit to the Project Support Instrument (PSI). Proposed amendments to the PSI Guidelines and Rules and Procedures will be presented at the next SAO meeting.
- SAOS adopted the ACAP Working Group Guidelines and welcomed the incoming Russian chair and Finnish vice-chair.

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Welcoming Remarks**

The Mayor of Svolvær addressed participants and told about the area's world famous cod fishery.

SAO Chair Karsten Klepssvik welcomed delegations and noted that objectives for the meeting included progress on the SWIPA project, non-CO2 drivers and IPY legacy proposals and outstanding issues from Narvik.

### **1.2 Introduction to Svolvær and Social Events**

Conclusion: For information only.

### **1.3 Introduction of new SAOs, PP HoDs and Working Group Chairs**

Conclusion: Mr. Jyrki Kallio was introduced as the new Finnish SAO and Mr. Anton Vasiliev as the new Russian SAO.

### **1.4 Approval of the Agenda**

Decision: The agenda for the 23-24 April 2008 Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials was approved without amendment.

### **1.5 Approval of New Ad-hoc Observers**

Decision: The European Commission was approved as an Ad-hoc Observer for the 23-24 April 2008 Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials.

### **1.6 Approval of Draft Report from 28-29 November 2007, Narvik, Norway**

Decision: The Report of the SAO Meeting 28-29 November 2007, Narvik, Norway was approved.

## **2. Presentations from Working Groups**

Background: SAOs were invited to raise questions to the Working Group on progress on any projects which were not being presented under thematic headings.

Discussion: Norway pointed out the importance and successes of ACAP's Obsolete Pesticides Project. Norway is a contributor to the project and noted its concern that, contrary to the project plan and conditions set by the ACAP Obsolete Pesticides Project Steering Group, packaged obsolete pesticides in Komi Republic had been disposed of inappropriately. The ACAP Chair reported that ACAP had discussed the issue with Rostekhnadzor and has assurance that it will not

reoccur. The ACAP Chair noted that the Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy (IHWMS) will provide important support to all regions in Russia to address obsolete pesticides consistently and according to Russian regulations.

The CAFF Chair drew attention to the CAFF Progress Report and that CAFF work is on target with the 2006-2008 work plan. The work of the Seabird and Flora expert groups, the mid-term review of ECORA, and a USD\$650k award from the U.S. National Science Foundation to the BSSN (Bering Sea Sub-Network) as part of Arctic Observing Network was highlighted.

Conclusions: SAOs noted Norway's concern and that ACAP has previously raised the issue with the necessary Russian authorities and has obtained assurances that the problem will be corrected.

## Thematic Areas

### 3. Climate Change

#### 3.1 Climate Change and the Cryosphere – Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic - SWIPA

Background: The revised project document of the SWIPA project – Climate change and the cryosphere – Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic – was submitted to SAOs for review. AMAP reported that the revised plan addresses issues brought forward by SAOs in Narvik, including describing links between SWIPA and IPY projects. It is recognized that the Arctic Council SWIPA project can play a major role to deliver the Arctic component of the CryOS (the Cryosphere Observing System) IPY project that will assess the global cryosphere. SAOs were requested to approve the revised SWIPA project.

Discussion: SAOs acknowledged the Arctic Council can make important contributions to the global community through an assessment in this priority area. Norway, Denmark and Sweden were thanked for their willingness to lead sections of the project. The revised project plan was found to be much improved and SAOs were eager to approve the project at this meeting. Outstanding concerns to be addressed included to: 1) clarify the review process and the type of information to be reviewed; 2) describe the process for integrating the three sections; and 3) ensure consistency across the project documents. The importance for PPs to be involved and for TEK to be accounted for was noted.

On specific involvement in the project, Denmark underlined an identified lack of knowledge on the Greenland Ice Sheet. Denmark will lead the Greenland Ice Sheet section. A preliminary report is intended to be ready for Arctic Council Ministers in 2009 and the UNFCCC CoP15 in 2009, and a final report for Ministers in 2011. Planning for this section is well underway. The lead scientists/author and co-authors have been selected through an open nomination process held through the Danish Polar Institute. Denmark has paid for two workshops and will fund the secretariat and the printing of the report.

Sweden is committed to co-lead the terrestrial section of the report. "Canada offered to co-lead on one section, participate in others and offered to sit on the integration oversight group and asked for additional time to nominate experts and secure funding for the project.. Russia noted that it will co-lead one section and participate in two others. ICC, RAIPON, CAFF and PAME are prepared to be involved.

On request of the SAO Chair, a breakout group convened to address any outstanding concerns. The group worked to clarify issues of review and quality assurance and merged the two draft project

documents. The project description now clarifies that the study will be based on data that have been published or accepted for publication or that have well-established national and international standards and a QA/QC (Quality Assurance/Quality Control) protocol. The review process, including the selection of reviewers by an international committee and national review procedures are described. A SWIPA integration team will be established to oversee integration of the 3 project sections and development of the summary documents. As requested, Iceland's IPY glacier project was included in the project description and CAFF and PAME are included in the organization chart.

Decision: The revised SWIPA project description, including an annex concerning data use and the review process, was approved by SAOs.

### **3.2 Non CO2 drivers of Climate Change**

Background: AMAP reiterated its proposal from Narvik to organize a workshop to clarify the science behind the effects of non-CO2 drivers on climate change and melting snow and ice from an Arctic perspective and report to SAOs in November, including to recommend further work the Arctic Council might consider for 2009-2011. AMAP invited the nomination of experts.

Brooks B. Yeager, Vice President, of the Climate Policy Center, Clean Air Cool Planet on behalf of Clean Air Task Force and Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU) presented scientific indications of a large influence of short lived pollutants on Arctic warming (in particular black carbon, tropospheric ozone and methane). Reduction in these short-lived pollutants may slow arctic climate forcing relatively quickly (i.e. compared to CO2) due to their short-lived nature and will also benefit health. He pointed out efforts already underway to assess and address sources of these pollutants. Two science workshops have been convened on this issue, and another is planned for Fall 2008, potentially in cooperation with AMAP. The next "Oslo Group" science-policy meeting will be held 8-9 May in Copenhagen (organized by the Climate Policy Center and the CCU), and AMAP and Arctic Council Observers are invited to attend.

Discussion: SAOs and PPs expressed broad support for the AMAP proposal to clarify the science and recommend potential further discussions by the Arctic Council. The important role of the Arctic Council to investigate Arctic specific issues that can inform the international climate process, such as its work on non-CO2 drivers, the cryosphere, Arctic observations, and adaptation, was noted. While all available measures to reduce the drivers of climate change and melting snow and ice in the Arctic need to be considered, it was stressed that work on non-CO2 drivers should not detract attention from the international focus on reductions of CO2. There may be potential for advancing the long-term monitoring of short lived climate agents through the AON and SAON processes. Russia noted the Russia-US IPY Project: "Black carbon in Arctic sea and ice and its influence on albedo". On request of the SAO Chair, a breakout group was convened to clarify the objectives of the workshop and links with ongoing work in other fora.

Decision: SAO's approved AMAP's proposal to organize a workshop in September 2008 on the issue of non-CO2 drivers and the Arctic and to report back to SAOs in November.

### **3.3 Progress report on Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic (VACCA)**

Background: The SDWG Chair summarized the Salekhard mandate for Arctic Council work on adaptation and presented a status report of the VACCA project. The project will focus on adaptation knowledge, expertise and conditions unique to the Arctic. He presented a summary of the initial results of the survey and noted that the main inputs so far have been from Canada, Norway and the USA. Other countries and PPs were urged to contribute information to the project. The project consists of a survey, an analysis, and a workshop and will serve as a basis for a report to

SAOs on future Arctic Council cooperative activities on adaptation. The workshop will be held 22-23 October in Tromsø with the general goal to: 1) identify best practices and lessons learned, 2) create expert stakeholder networks, and 3) consider actions that need to be taken.

Discussion: A number of PPs asked to be involved in VACCA and one PP noted the importance of the perspective from which the information would be assessed. The SDWG welcomed PP input on all aspects of its work on adaptation. Member States were encouraged to consider the funding needs of PPs to compile information. Canada reported on its activity to contribute to VACCA. The UNEP noted its Many Strong Voices project and a desire to contribute to scoping process. It welcomed PP comments on the UNEP draft indigenous peoples' strategy.

PPs noted the conflict of the SAO meeting with UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples (UNPF) in New York. SAOs were also asked to take major events of importance to PPs into account when setting dates for future Arctic Council meetings. PPs reported on a speech given by the IPS Chair to the UNPF on the need for indigenous people to be involved in decision making and discussions on climate change in all UN agencies..

Conclusion: For information only.

## **4. Energy**

### **4.1 AMAP Oil and Gas Assessment Overview Report and Recommendations**

Background: The AMAP Chair informed that agreement had been reached on suggested revisions to the Executive Summary and Recommendations of the Oil and Gas Assessment (OGA). No substantive changes has been required, only clarifications. SAOs had received the revised Executive Summary and Recommendations and AMAP now considers them finalized and ready to be published and distributed.

The SAO Chair thanked AMAP for its work and summarized the status from the last meeting. The OGA Science and Overview Reports have been publicly released but additional time was requested for review of the Executive Summary and Recommendations. He reiterated the mandate from Salekhard and noted that the SAO Report is the appropriate vehicle to deliver the assessment and any recommendations from SAOs to Ministers. The Chair proposed that SAOs consider specific proposals for the SAO Report to Ministers on the OGA at their Fall 2008 meeting.

Discussion: There was support for the Chair's proposal that the AMAP OGA is the basis for SAOs and PPs further discussion and subsequent SAO recommendations to Ministers.

Decision: There was consensus to release of the revised Executive Summary and Recommendations of the Oil and Gas Assessment. The SAO Chair will prepare a proposal for the OGA section of the SAOs Report to Ministers for discussion at the Fall 2008 meeting.

### **4.2 PAME Update of the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines**

Background: The Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines were first published in 1997 and updated in 2002. These Guidelines recommend voluntary standards; technical and environmental best practices; management policy; and regulatory controls for Arctic offshore oil and gas operations. The PAME Chair presented a status report on the project, including the results of the PAME Guidelines workshop held 7-8 December 2007 in Miami, Florida, and highlighted that a move towards goal-based best practices will be new part of operational guidelines. A Draft revision of the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines is available on the PAME website.

Discussion: As per discussion under agenda 4.1 on the Oil and Gas Assessment, PAME was requested to make full use of the results of the OGA in the update of the Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines.

Conclusion: For information purposes.

#### **4.3 Accident prevention and safety systems development in economic and infrastructure projects in the Arctic**

Background: Russia presented the progress with its 2007 proposal for an Arctic Council project “An accident prevention and safety systems development in economic and infrastructural projects in Arctic” and also reminded that on 1-2 October 2008 Russia will organize – within the framework of this initiative – a full scale emergency exercise at its newly-opened Varendey Oil Terminal of LUKOIL in the Barents Sea . An invitation was reconfirmed to all Member States and PPs. Russia will formally submit the proposal for an Arctic Council project in May to EPPR for official approval at the group’s session in August in Sweden. Direct costs are estimated at USD 2 million. Russian government and participating companies will provide financing, but an additional USD 800k is sought. The World Bank has expressed interest in managing Joint Trust Fund for this Arctic Council project after it is approved as such.

Conclusions: For information only. The Chair noted that the project proposal would be submitted to EPPR with a view to its adoption as an Arctic Council project by SAOs at their Fall meeting.

### **5. Contaminants**

#### **5.1 Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy (IHWMS) and Vision under the new Russian Chairmanship**

Background: The ACAP Chair stressed that parallel implementation of the IHWMS is seen as critical to the completion of a number of ACAP projects. Russia (Rostekhnadzor) will Chair a new IHWMS Project Steering Group (PSG) and Norway and the U.S. will serve as Co-chairs. A draft Project Management Plan and draft Terms of Reference have been developed and the next step is to finalize them. Two demonstration areas in the Arctic will be identified by summer 2008 to test the strategy. ACAP noted that consistency between federal and regional approaches to handling PCBs and federally approved destruction technologies in Russia are needed. Other ACAP priorities include safe temporary storage facilities for Obsolete and Prohibited Pesticides, measurement of Dioxins/furans to monitor compliance and permanent storage and strengthened regulations to reduce emissions of Mercury.

The US has chaired ACAP for the last four years. The outgoing ACAP Chair, Bob Dyer, spoke of his experience with ACAP over the last 4 years. During this period, ACAP evolved from an AC “Special Initiative” to a Working Group. ACAP also developed and implemented the Indigenous Peoples Community Action Initiative (IPCAI) to more actively involve the PPs, and initiated the program to develop the Russian Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy (IHWMS). ACAP continued to undertake a range of practical projects to address and resolve contaminant problems. The Russian Federation has offered to become the new Chair of ACAP and Finland to become a Vice Chair. The Russian Federation introduced Mr. Andrei Peshkov as the new ACAP Chair. The new Chair delivered a statement on Russia’s vision for its ACAP Chairmanship. He stressed commitment to advancing ACAP’s work, building relationships with other organizations such as the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, and continued development of the IHWMS. He provided an update on draft federal targets for improved management of waste in Russia and introduction of

the responsibility of producers for safe utilization of waste on completion of product life cycle, noting consistency with international and EU laws and regulations for waste management.

Discussion: The US was thanked for the successes of ACAP during its four years of chairmanship. Russia was welcomed as Chair and Finland as vice-chair. It was noted that most of the ACAP projects are taking place in Russia and Russia's active role in work of ACAP is appreciated. The importance of the IHWMS and its links to other projects dealing with management of obsolete pesticides and PCBs (and their associated problems) was underlined. It is important to enhance engagement of PPs now that ACAP is a full-fledged WG. The new ACAP Chair noted ACAP's intention to strengthen involvement of PPs to include education and training of local people for the purpose of involving them in new and existing ACAP projects. Several Member States expressed support for building links to the Barents Euro Arctic Council. Norway noted that ACAP will be invited to the next meeting of the Working Group on Environment of the BEAC in June 2008.

Reference was made to the draft ACAP WG Operating Guidelines and the importance of approving them. The ACAP Working Group Operating Guidelines were subsequently discussed and approved by the SAOs.

RAIPON expressed gratitude for ACAP's work on community-base initiatives in Russia and presented the outgoing ACAP Chair with a Letter of Appreciation and a child's drawing reflecting the child's vision of the Arctic environment. RAIPON and ACAP developed a brochure on contaminants in the Arctic, which has been recommended for extracurricular reading in Russian middle and elementary schools. A copy was presented to the SAOs. An ACAP and RAIPON display of the children's drawings showing sources of contamination in the indigenous villages was exhibited in the adjacent exhibition hall.

Conclusion: The SAO Chair reiterated appreciation for the efforts and successes of the outgoing ACAP Chair and welcomed the incoming Russian Chair and Finnish Vice-Chair. Russia's statement will be made available on the Arctic Council website.

## **6. Oceans**

### **6.1 Progress report on Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment**

Background: The US lead of AMSA, also Vice-Chair of PAME, provided an update on the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA), noting particular progress on chapter 2, 4, and 7 since Narvik. He emphasized the good cooperation with EPPR, SDWG and with PPs. The future scenarios have been posted on the PAME website. Three regional case studies will be completed 15 June. An "AMSA Day" will be held 31 May 2008 at the PAME general meeting in Newfoundland. Further PP Town Hall Meetings are taking place. The 27-31 October 2008 PAME meeting will consider the AMSA findings and begin the process to negotiate recommendations. Outstanding needs include contributing authors for the environmental impacts chapter, Member State inputs to chapter 7, and funding for publication and mapping estimated to be USD 160-200k.

The Chair reported that the Arctic Marine Incidents Workshop held 25-27 March pointed to incidents related to increased cruise ship activity in the Arctic is an area of growing concern.

Discussion: There is strong support for the AMSA from Member States and PPs and the AMSA is considered to be a major deliverable for the 2009 Ministerial. Additional Member State contributions to the AMSA were encouraged. Russia's stated that it will try to increase Russian participation in AMSA. The Saami Council underlined the importance of marine living resources as basis of Saami culture and urged efforts to be taken to protect the marine environment from

pollutants and accidents. ICC and AAC noted that the human dimension is missing from the scenarios, both the impact on indigenous peoples and also emerging changes in indigenous peoples' role in governance.

Norway and Russia asked for clarification on the scenarios and noted their concern with scenarios depicting a tension filled Arctic. Others welcomed the scenarios report as important to provoke thinking on a wide range of potential driving forces and plausible futures in Arctic. It was made clear that the scenarios do not carry the Arctic Council logo and state clearly that they do not express the views of any country. The meeting report will take note of the concerns of Norway and Russia. SAOs will consider in the context of their discussion on the relationship of WG products to the AC and its Member States and provide further guidance to working groups as appropriate.

Conclusions: SAOs agreed that the AMSA is an important deliverable for the 2009 Ministerial and confirmed their support.

## **6.2 Progress report on Best Practices in Ecosystems-based Oceans Management in the Arctic (BePOMAr)**

Background: Norway updated on implementation of the Best Practices in Ecosystem-Based Ocean Management in the Arctic project (BePOMAr). BePOMAr is a joint PAME/SDWG project. The project will report on countries' approaches to ecosystem-based oceans management and look at progress towards the WSSD 2010 goals to implement sustainable integrated ecosystem management.

Draft country (7) and indigenous (1) perspective chapters were prepared in Fall 2007. A project workshop was held in February 2008. Revised chapters will be completed in May 2008 and a Draft Report and Summary of Observed Best Practices (OBPs) will be ready for PAME and SDWG review in May-June 2008. The report will be finalized at a meeting in October 2008. In addition to the report and best practices summary, a UArctic course will be developed and an international workshop, possibly in conjunction with the 2009 Ministerial, is planned. PAME confirmed that BePoMAR will be discussed at its June 2008 meeting.

Conclusion: The SAO Chair noted the good progress being made and that SAOs are looking forward to the outcomes of the report.

## **7. Human Development**

### **7.1 Presentation on Northern Dimension**

Background: Finland informed the SAOs about the "Nordic Policy Group for Northern Dimension's Cultural Partnership" established by the decision of the Nordic Council of Ministers. The objective is to develop recommendations for cultural cooperation and partnerships within renewed Northern Dimension. Finland suggested a potential for some to be developed as SDWG projects. The group's work began in early 2008, will report to the Nordic Council of Ministers of Culture in May 2008, and will be presented to the Northern Dimension steering group possibly as soon as Autumn 2008.

Conclusions: The Northern Dimension includes the EU, Iceland, Norway and Russia, and Canada and the US are observers and is therefore relevant to all Member States. The SAO Chair encouraged consideration of common interests.

### **7.2 The ECONOR project**



Background: The objective of ECONOR is to provide a comprehensive overview of the circumpolar economy and its natural resource base, from a statistical basis. Statistics Norway presented main results of the first phase of the ECONOR project completed at the end of 2006 (ECONOR I). A second phase for 2007/2008 is currently running (ECONOR II). StatsNorway thanked all partners for their contributions.

Conclusions include that resource and mineral extraction are the greatest source of revenues (GDP) in the Arctic. The Arctic accounts for 16.2% of global petroleum production and 8.2% global wood volume of forests. In addition to the resource economy, the service economy is also important. It is recognized that GDP and GDP/capita do not necessarily reflect well-being of residents because much of the wealth leaves the region. Furthermore, subsistence economic activities are not included in GDP, nor are environmental and human impacts of development activities. ECONOR I investigated the value of subsistence activities but this needs to be better measured. ECONORII will update and expand the range of indicators and provide a more quantitative assessment of subsistence activities and GDP and its relation to livelihoods (income by family, etc.). It will include a chapter on O&G activity and indigenous people.

Discussion: ECONOR was thanked for its landmark report and work to further develop understanding of the economy of the north. The continued work of both ECONOR and SLICA was strongly supported. The Saami Council noted a lack of statistics on Saami and other indigenous people. ECONOR noted the intention for ECONORII to continue to improve the knowledge base in this area.

Conclusions: The continued work of both ECONOR and SLICA was strongly supported.

## **8. Monitoring**

### **8.1 CAFF Monitoring and Assessment**

Background: The CAFF Chair highlighted the relevance of CAFF's Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring program (CBMP), an IPY project, to contribute to the IPY Legacy and to the goals of SAON, as well as the benefits to CAFF from outcomes of IPY project activities. The CBMP is considered the biodiversity component of SAON and will contribute to the Legacy of IPY activities through serving as a facilitator and focal point for long term Arctic biodiversity monitoring. Today 33 Arctic biodiversity monitoring networks are linked to CBMP. The CAFF Chair reported on a stakeholders work shop in Washington 6-7 March 2008. The CBMP Full Implementation Plan is available on the CAFF website.

The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) workplan and financial strategy are finalized. The USA and Finland have agreed to co-chair the ABA. A steering committee (SC) is established and has begun its work. The first step is to identify the CBMP indicators to include in the first ABA summary report, and to identify chief scientists and lead authors. PPs and Observers are represented on the SC and AAC may provide a lead author. The SC will meet in June in Finland.

Further funding is needed to fully implement the CBMP and additional leads and financing is sought for the ABA

Discussion: CAFF was commended for delivery of the Full 5-year CBMP Implementation Plan, further progress to implement the CBMP, and for a streamlined ABA workplan that will ensure concrete results. Canada was thanked for its ongoing support for the CBMP. Norway announced that it will lead the marine expert group to develop the marine monitoring plan under the CBMP. The first workshop is tentatively planned for January 2009 in Tromsø. Finland will seek to provide

some continued project funding. An announcement by Greenland/Denmark to join the US and Finland as co-chairs of the ABA and to fund Dr. Hans Meltofte, National Environmental Research Institute, Denmark, as the chief scientist for the assessment was warmly welcomed. Canada intends to provide expertise to the ABA. Russia announced that it has translated the ABA work plan and financial plan into Russian and is seeking Russian expert contribution for the ABA, and for the CBMP including through the ECORA project.

Conclusion: The SAO Chair noted the positive feedback on CAFF's progress with these important projects. Greenland/Denmark was welcomed as co-chair of the ABA and contributions from other AC members were encouraged.

## **8.2 SAON – Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) – Report from SAON Workshop 9-11 April in Edmonton, CA**

Background: Progress on SAON was presented by Odd Rogne from the AMAP secretariat. AMAP reiterated the mandate from Salekhard and reported on the outcome of the second of three planned workshops to develop recommendations for sustaining observations in the Arctic that was held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada 9-11 April, 2008. This second workshop successfully attracted funding and operational agencies. The workshops brought together governmental agencies, the science community, indigenous communities and a range of other stakeholders and users to examine what Arctic monitoring and data & information management activities are required to meet users' needs, and how they might be coordinated and sustained. It is clear that multinational coordination is needed to secure long-term funding for sustaining necessary Arctic monitoring.

The Initiation Group (IG) will seek to further engage Russia and Asia and will hold a one day workshop in advance of SCAR/IASC meeting in Seoul in September. A drafting team that includes the SAON IG and workshop session chairs has begun drafting of recommendations. The Third SAON workshop will be held in Helsinki in 13-15 October 2008. The recommendations will be delivered to the Arctic Council in December 2008.

Discussion: Progress was welcome and the SAON process was supported as an important Arctic Council contribution to the legacy of IPY. Member States were encouraged to make it a national priority. Canada announced its integrated northern strategy and reiterated that it intends to build a world class northern research station that will contribute to the goals of SAON. The USA announced that it is already working to enhance coordination of Arctic monitoring with a number of partners. Some member States noted that the SAON process is long term and on-going and will not end with the 2009 Ministerial. The importance of socio-economic observations and data was stressed and the success of ECONOR was raised as an example. The BSSN was raised as important to SAON. The need to include regional and national statistical bureaus was noted. The Saami Council noted that some areas referred to as "undeveloped" or "wilderness" are actually the homeland of Saami people, managed through a human ecosystem approach.

Conclusions: SAOs supported the continued development of the SAON process.

## **9. IPY Legacy**

### **9.1 Discussion on project proposal by Norway: Maximizing the Legacy of IPY**

Background: Norway introduced its proposal for a scoping study and workshop to develop recommendations for Arctic Council contribution to IPY legacy issues. They stressed that the scoping work would identify IPY legacy issues relevant to AC and not duplicate the work of others.

A number of presentations were given in support of the Norwegian proposal and the need to consider legacy issues and their management.

The Director of the International Program Office for IPY gave a presentation on IPY legacies from the perspective of the IPO. Changes, i.e. to Arctic sea ice, are happening faster than anticipated and the Arctic science and policy communities should take the opportunity of IPY to come together. The IPY project funding situation is remarkably good. Over USD1.2 billion will have been spent on IPY research in first two years. The IPY legacy must not only address geo-physical but also ecological and social science. Needed legacies include for continued science and science funding, observing networks, data, the environmental legacy, future researchers, political cooperation, and public information. He discussed the work of the IPO international education, outreach and communication subcommittee but noted that IPY has not done a good job in funding for data services or an environmental legacy after IPY.

The Director of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) discussed the importance of grooming future researchers to the legacy of IPY and how APECS is fostering an international network of researchers who are active in outreach and who gain science-policy experience and understanding of polar regions in global affairs at an early stage.

The UArctic informed that it is a member of IPY international education, outreach and communication subcommittee. The goal of the group is to create interest, appreciation, and understanding of polar issues, globally that lasts beyond IPY, and to identify, motivate and train the next generation of polar researchers. The challenge is that there is little funding for post IPY activities such as these. UArctic noted the need to maintain IPO at least until the IPY Oslo Science Conference 8-12 June 2010 (<http://www.ipy-osc.no/>). Following this, IASC and SCAR could take the science lead of the IPY legacy. The UArctic, together with the International Antarctic Institute and APECS are willing to take responsibility for the education and outreach aspect of the IPY legacy

On behalf of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the IASC Executive Secretary emphasized that the two major polar science organizations, IASC and SCAR, are prepared to significantly contribute to the legacy of the IPY. Both IASC and SCAR are ex-officio members of the IPY Joint Committee and are jointly working in four IPY legacy focus areas: scientific cooperation, observing systems, data access and next generation of polar researchers. They are organizing the 1<sup>st</sup> IPY Conference in St. Petersburg (July 2008) and will contribute to the 2<sup>nd</sup> IPY Conference in Oslo (June 2010). Both organizations have a strong interest in coordinated and sustained observing systems (SAON in the North and PAntOS in the South) and are committed to training the next generation of polar researchers. A joint Bipolar Action Group, advising IASC and SCAR on the development of mechanisms to nurture the IPY legacy, has recently been established.

Discussion: The SAO Chair underlined the importance for the Arctic Council to take responsibility for its part of the IPY legacy and that the Norwegian proposal could assist the AC to advise Ministers how to handle IPY legacy within the AC.

There was full support for maximizing the legacy of IPY. Many supported that the proposed scoping work could pave the way for fuller discussion on IPY legacy within the AC. PPs encouraged consideration of what the potential IPY legacy for people who live in Arctic might be. The IPY endorsed 6<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Arctic Social Science August 22-26 will be an important opportunity for IPY Arctic social sciences researchers to present their results and discuss legacy issues. A number of questions were raised on the timelines relative to ongoing IPY activities and the feasibility of completing the scoping work by the dates proposed. Concern was also expressed about overlap with SAON and IPY projects given limited resources. Some Member

States and PPs suggested a fuller discussion at the Fall SAO meeting and that the discussion could also be linked to review of SAON report. Norway noted that its proposal was not intended to compete with the SAON process and that the link had been taken into account. On timelines, the proposal was also intended to assist the AC to follow the relevant undertakings of IPY. However, given the number of questions raised Norway volunteered to withdraw the proposal

Decision: There was full support for maximizing the legacy of IPY. However, SAOs were not prepared to support the Norwegian IPY legacy proposal at this meeting. The proposal was withdrawn for the time being and discussion on IPY legacy will continue at the next meeting.

## **10. Preparations for Ministerial 2009**

### **10.1 Discussion on time lines and procedures for preparations of SAO report to Ministers and text for Ministerial Declaration**

Background: The SAO Chair announced the key dates and deadlines for meetings and deliverables in the lead up to the 2009 Ministerial.

2008

- Working Group Chairs Meeting, 7-9 October, Svalbard
- Deadline for documents for the Fall SAO meeting, including WG reports, 15 October
- Fall SAO Meeting, 18-20 November, Kautokeino (location to be confirmed)

2009

- Deadline for Working Group Progress Reports and 2009-2011 Work Plans, 8 January
- Distribution of first draft of SAO Report to Ministers and Declaration, 20 January
- SAO Editing Meeting, 10-11 February, Copenhagen (location to be confirmed)
- SAO Editing Meeting, 26- 27 April, Tromsø (location to be confirmed)
- Ministerial Meeting, 28-29 April, Tromsø (location to be confirmed)

Discussion: WG Chairs normally do not attend the SAO Editing Meeting but further guidance will be provided at a later date. PAME noted its meeting at the end of October and the need for some flexibility to prepare its documents for the SAO meeting in November.

Conclusion: For information purposes.

## **11. Presentations from Observer States and Organizations**

### **11.1 Presentation by Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region**

Background: The Chair of SCPAR, Ms. Hill-Marta Solberg, reported on the work of SCPAR, including a recent joint-meeting with the UArctic Rectors Forum on 28 February in Rovianemi. She referred to this year's UN Treaty event, which will include a Panel Discussion on A Changing Arctic that will take place in June. She also informed about planning for the 8th Conference of Arctic Parliamentarians in Fairbanks 12-14 August 2008. The Chair stressed that the Arctic Council and SCPAR cover many of same challenges and interests such as IPY, climate change and indigenous participation in international cooperation. The agenda for the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> SCPAR conference will include issues such as maritime policy, human health, development of renewable energy resources in rural areas and adaptation to climate change. Norwegian Foreign Minister Støre has been invited to discuss the work of the Arctic Council and an invitation was extended to all SAOs to attend.

Conclusion: For information purposes.

## **11.2 Presentation by Observer States**

Background: The Netherlands delivered a statement on behalf of the Arctic Council Observer and adhoc Observer States. Observer States reiterated their support for the work of the AC and stressed that tackling some Arctic problems must involve more than Arctic states. Observer States look forward to the results of the AC discussion on engaging Observers. An overview of Observer State's engagement in the Arctic was presented. The UK is involved in science, commercial, policy, and strategic Arctic issues. The Netherlands is involved in almost all AC WGs and their programs. Poland has a research station in Spitsbergen with long-term research underway. Poland will highlight the Arctic when it hosts the UNFCCC CoP14 in 2008. France and Spain have various scientific research programs related to the Arctic. Italy highlighted their research station in Ny Alesund. China has a research station in Spitsbergen, is a member of IASC and started its Arctic science program in the 1990s.

Discussion: AAC thanked the Observer States for their statement and noted that AAC's paper on *Effectiveness and Efficiency* tabled at the SAO meeting in April 2007 stressed the importance of the activities of non-Arctic entities. They welcomed Poland's decision to highlight the Arctic at the 2008 UNFCCC climate change conference and asked to cooperate with Poland on this.

Conclusions: Observer States were thanked for sharing information with the Arctic Council on their relevant activities. The full statement by the Observer States will be posted on the Arctic Council website.

## **Presentation by European Commission**

Background: The European Commission commented on the elements of the new Northern Dimension Policy relevant to the Arctic and the Arctic Council, including protection of environment, climate change adaptation, and the health and well-being of indigenous people. The Maritime Blue Book (October 2007) seeks to encourage synergies between sector policies and data sources. The EC will issue a report before the end of 2008 which will review the work of the EU in Arctic and outline future actions. The European Commission reiterated its interest to continue cooperation with the Arctic Council.

Conclusion: For information purposes.

## **11.3 Presentation by WWF**

Background: The WWF presented its recent report titled "Arctic Climate Impacts Science: an Update" which summarizes key Arctic science published since the ACIA. The report highlights the major developments that have occurred over the past few years and will be useful reference for the Arctic Council discussions over the coming year. The WWF noted that summer sea ice loss is 50 years ahead of ACIA model projections and that the contribution of increasing melting from the Greenland Ice Sheet to sea level rise had to be increased more than 4-fold since the ACIA. He stated that internal feedbacks induced by climate change may be driving this acceleration. These accelerated impacts combined with the global communities lack of efforts to reduce CO2 will likely result in consequences beyond current prediction, and that strong leadership is needed for mitigation. The Arctic Council was urged to use the opportunity of the UNFCCC CoP15 in Denmark to strengthen the AC responsibility on adaptation and mitigation. Research and synthesis is crucial, but only if accompanied with action.

Conclusion: The SAO Chair thanked the WWF for its stark reminder of the impacts of climate change in the Arctic and for demonstrating the importance of work the AC is undertaking.

## 12. Administrative Issues

### 12.1 Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Arctic Council

Background: The SAO Chair noted that at Salekhard, Ministers requested the SAOs to “examine the organization of the Arctic Council with a view to improve its effectiveness and efficiency, and report back to the next Ministerial 2008” and the SAO decision in April 2007 that “Effectiveness and Efficiency” is now a standing item on the SAO agenda.

The Chair reported that the Pre-Session Meeting for SAOs and Permanent Participant Heads of Delegation (HoD) on April 22, one day before the SAO meeting, to exchange views related to improving effectiveness and efficiency of the Arctic Council was very constructive. SAOs and PP HoD discussed, *inter alia*, engagement of Observers and reiterated full support for the important contribution Observers can and do make to the work of the AC. The Arctic Council recognizes the need to be clear about what is expected from Observers, and also what Observers can expect from the Arctic Council. Recommendations from that meeting will be developed further and shared as soon as the process is concluded.

Discussion: ICC raised that the effective engagement and funding of PPs within the AC process is also a major issue. The SAO Chair noted that deliberations on engagement of PPs had been postponed on request of IPS and will continue as the next session. The Saami Council raised attention to the UN declaration on rights of indigenous peoples and the importance to improve the role of indigenous peoples in decision-making processes.

Conclusion: Discussion on Effectiveness and efficiency will continue at the next meeting.

### 12.2 Update on PSI – Project Support Instrument

Background: The representative of the Russian Federation Ministry of Economic Development and Trade gave a presentation on recent developments to establish the Project Support Instrument on behalf of the Arctic Council. He announced the intention of the Russian federation to allocate 2 million euros annually for five years to the PSI to finance Arctic Council projects in Russia, i.e. 10 million euro over 2009-2013, provided there is commensurate input from other AC Members and Observers, and that Russia has control over the choice of projects and on the use of its funds. Priority is on 8 projects already identified by the ACAP program, Barents related projects, and projects under UNEP-GEF. Russia recognizes the scope of problems in the Arctic and will consider further increasing its contribution if others also do so. As of April 18 NEFCO has received the following pledges: Finland: 200K euros; Norway: 237K euros; Sweden: 200K euros; Saami Council: 100K NKR. Additional contributions from other donors are sought.

An important issue for Russia remains the institutional basis for implementing the PSI. Most projects are implemented in Russia and therefore Russia proposed a Russian executing agency (REA), together with NEFCO, for the PSI. Russia suggested that the mandate and scope of the REA be through an MOU agreement between Russia and NEFCO. Russia also proposed that the PSI committee be considered a management body with full responsibility for project implementation, and managing finances. Russia will offer some amendments to the PSI committee Rules and Procedures and will prepare this information for SAO review before their next meeting.

Discussion: The SAO Chair welcomed Russia's intention for financial commitment to the PSI and noted that Russia proposes a Russian executing agency. The floor was open for comment on national support for the PSI, under the assumption that SAOs will be able to agree on proposed amendments to the PSI Guidelines and Rules and Procedures at the next meeting.

Member States and PPs welcomed the news of a substantial financial contribution by Russia to the PSI. Under these conditions, Norway announced that it would be prepared to increase its commitment beyond 237K euros. Sweden confirmed a 200K Euro contribution to the PSI for 2008 on the understanding that all outstanding PSI issues will be agreed by the next AC Ministerial Meeting. Iceland confirmed that it will contribute. The Saami Council noted its limited financial ability but that given the importance of the PSI it will commit NKR 100K. The importance of this work to reduce toxic substances and improve the quality of life of indigenous people was stressed, and there is desire to see expansion of projects into NW Russia. The Russian Federation and NEFCO were encouraged to involve contributing countries and PPs in preparation of the amended PSI Guidelines and R&P. Russia welcomed the positive reaction from governments and PPs and invited all donors to participate in the process and will work with NEFCO and others to make the draft text available as soon as possible before the Fall SAO Meeting.

Decision: Russia's intention for financial commitment to the PSI was warmly welcomed. The SAO Chair encouraged participation in the process to amend the PSI Guidelines and R&P with a view to reaching a consensus on this at next SAO meeting.

### **12.3 Dates for upcoming SAO meetings**

- Fall 2008 SAO meeting 18-20 November – Kautokeino
- SAO Editing Session 10-11 February 2009 –*Copenhagen*
- Ministerial Meeting 28-29 April 2009 - Tromsø

Discussion: The Saami Council referred to its formal invitation to the Arctic Council to hold the 2009 Ministerial in Kautokeino.

Conclusion: The SAO Chair noted that a response to the Saami Council was forthcoming. Denmark agreed to investigate the opportunity to hold the February SAOs Editing Session in Copenhagen.

### **13. Any other business**

- Draft ACAP Working Group Guidelines

Background: The Draft ACAP Working Group Operating Guidelines were circulated among SAOs and upon request from the floor, SAOs were asked to adopt the Draft Guidelines.

Decision: SAOs adopted the ACAP Working Operating Group Guidelines.

- Denmark updated on preparations for its meeting of the 5 Arctic coastal states. The meeting will focus on issues of concern for the 5 states and is intended to strengthen, and not compete with, other relevant fora. PPs inquired as to their role in the meeting and Denmark confirmed that the conference is intended for governments.
- Norway announced that it will soon distribute a project proposal on the cultural heritage of the Arctic.

- Russia invited meeting participants to an international festival of ice and snow sculpture in Salekhard, Yamal-Nenets Okrug in November 2008.
- Documents for information purposes

The following Documents were presented to the SAOs for their information.

- CAFF - Developing an Integrated and Sustained Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring Network: The CBMP Five-Year Implementation Plan
- Progress report on CAFF/AMAP Coordinated Monitoring
- Progress report on Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA)
- EPPR/AMAP/CAFF Discussion Paper on Circumpolar Mapping and Spatial Data
- UArctic Progress Report
- All Working Group Reports

Conclusions: The SAO Chair closed the meeting.



**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AAC	Arctic Athabaskan Council
ABA	Arctic Biodiversity Assessment
AC	Arctic Council
ACAP	Arctic Contaminants Action Program Working Group
AIA	Aleut International Association
AMAP	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program Working Group
AON	Arctic Observatories Network
BEAC	Barents Euro-Arctic Council
BePoMar	Best Practices in Oceans-Based Management
BSSN	Bering Sea Sub-network
CAFF	Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group
CBMP	Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program
EALAT	Reindeer Herders Vulnerability Network Study
EEA	European Environment Agency
EC	European Commission
ECORA	Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimize Habitat Fragmentation in the Russian Arctic
EPPR	Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response Working Group
GCI	Gwich'in Council International
IASC	International Arctic Science Committee
ICC	Inuit Circumpolar Council
IPS	Indigenous Peoples Secretariat
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IHWMS	Integrated Hazardous Waste Management Strategy
IPY	International Polar Year
LME	Large Marine Ecosystems
NCM	Nordic Council of Ministers
PAntOS	Pan-Antarctic Observing System
PAME	Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group
PP	Permanent Participant
PSI	Project Support Instrument
RAIPON	Russian Arctic Indigenous Peoples of the North
RPA	Regional Programme of Action
SCAR	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research
SCARP	Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
SDWG	Sustainable Development Working Group
SWIPA	Climate Change and the Cryosphere - Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic
SAO	Senior Arctic Official
SAON	Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks
SAON IG	Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks Initiating Group
SC	Saami Council
SDAP	Sustainable Development Action Plan
TEK	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft Systems
UNCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VACCA	Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic
WG	Working Group of the Arctic Council