

Instructions for Observers subject to review

Introduction

This document provides the reporting template and accompanying instructions for Observers to be reviewed during the Finnish Chairmanship (2017-2019).

The deadline for the submission is **1 June 2018**.

According to the "Arctic Council Rules of Procedure" (annex 2), every four years Observers are to state their continued interest in Observer status, and will be reviewed in a Ministerial meeting. During the Finnish Chairmanship, the following 18 Observers admitted 2000-2015 will be subject to review:

- France
- Italy
- Japan
- People's Republic of China
- India
- Republic of Korea
- Singapore
- Spain
- International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO)
- North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Arctic Institute of North America (AINA)
- Association of World Reindeer Herders (AWRH)
- Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU)
- International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)
- International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)
- University of the Arctic (UArctic)

Role of Observers

The role and responsibilities of Observers, as well as criteria for admission to the Arctic Council, can be found in the "Arctic Council Rules of Procedure" (annex 2) and the "Observer Manual for Subsidiary Bodies".

The primary role of Observers is to observe the work of the Arctic Council. Observers contribute to the Arctic Council primarily through engagement at the level of Working Groups, Task Forces, and/or Expert Groups. Observers are invited to the meetings and other activities of the Arctic Council unless the Senior Arctic Officials decide otherwise. Observers may also propose projects through an Arctic State or a Permanent Participant.

Report submission

Observer reports should include the relevant information described below and in the template.

(a) A description of the Observer's contributions to the work of the Arctic Council since the time of the Observer's most recent submission, or in the previous two years, with special focus on contributions to the subsidiary bodies through project participation and support, as well as collaboration with Permanent Participants.

(b) If applicable, a description of the Observer's future plans to contribute to the work of the Arctic Council, with special focus on contributions to the subsidiary bodies through project participation and support, as well as collaboration with Permanent Participants.

(c) If applicable, a description of the Observer's contributions to other aspects of the Arctic Council and its goals not covered in the previous sections since the time of the Observer's most recent submission, or in the previous two years.

Observer reports should be submitted electronically to the Arctic Council Secretariat via email: acs@arctic-council.org.

The reports should be submitted to the Arctic Council Secretariat not later than **1 June 2018**. Please keep in mind while preparing your report that all Observer reports will be published on the official Arctic Council website (www.arctic-council.org).

If an Observer does not submit a report, the Arctic Council will consider this an indication that the Observer is no longer interested in maintaining status as an accredited Observer to the Arctic Council.

Cover sheet

Full name of state or organization:

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)

Date of submission:

1 June 2018

Observer's website, if appropriate:

www.iwgia.org

Information for appropriate contact person

Full name: Kathrin Wessendorf

Email: kw@iwgia.org

Telephone: +4553732835

Organization or department: Climate change program

Job Title: Senior advisor

Full mailing address:

Prinsessegade 29B, 1422 Copenhagen, Denmark

Is your state or organization still interested in continuing as an Observer of the Arctic Council?

Yes No

Observer Report

Please describe in no more than 2 pages your state's or organization's contributions to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces, and/or Expert Groups since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years. Please highlight contributions to specific projects, such as through proposals, concept development, in-kind and financial support, and hosting of meetings. Please detail any collaboration with Permanent Participants, such as project proposal endorsement and support.

The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) is an international NGO that works in support of indigenous peoples worldwide, through publication and documentation, project support and participation and advocacy in international processes. We are based in Copenhagen, Denmark.

IWGIA has received observer status to the Arctic Council in 2002. The main focus of interest for us has been the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) and the meetings of the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs). As an organization working in support of indigenous peoples worldwide, the close collaboration with the Permanent Participants (PPs) is of particular importance for us. IWGIA has published articles that directly relate to the work of the AC, including an article on the work of the Arctic Council in our most recent yearbook *The Indigenous World 2018*. A number of our board members have also worked with the Arctic Council for many years and have contribute to our strategic development in the area. Currently, IWGIA has two members of Arctic indigenous origin (from Sápmi and from Greenland) and one member with extensive experience working on Arctic issues.

Unfortunately, in recent years, due to lack of funding, IWGIA had challenges following Arctic Council work closely and particularly participating in meetings of the Arctic Council. We were therefore not able to contribute to the work of the Arctic Council in the way we would have liked to. However, as we describe further in section three of this report, we carry out a number of activities and programs relevant to the Arctic Council and are having an internal strategic discussion on our work on Arctic issues, including our contribution to the Arctic Council's work.

IWGIA has submitted an observer report to the Arctic Council on 1 December 2016. This report only includes elements of our work since the last progress report.



If applicable, please describe in no more than 1 page your state's or organization's future plans for contributing to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces, and/or Expert Groups. Please highlight intentions to contribute to specific projects and to collaborate with Permanent Participants.

IWGIA has increased its work on best practices for co-management of protected areas and national parks with indigenous peoples and we are doing intensive fund raising efforts. One of the most important projects for us focuses on the co-management of national parks in the Russian Federation, where we are hoping to get a bigger grant. We would like to showcase these best practices, including through the Arctic Council.

As described in our 2016 progress report, IWGIA wants to link its work on the UNFCCC, including on the Local communities and indigenous peoples' platform, to Arctic issues and bring examples from the Arctic to this platform. This would of course be in cooperation with the Permanent Participants and with their free, prior and informed consent to this work.

IWGIA is actively engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda and intends to link its work on the SDGs (see next section) with its involvement in the SDWG, depending on resources.

Furthermore, IWGIA is exploring its involvement in the initiative "Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples", which is being developed by the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group on the SDGs, which has two major goals: 1. Ensure that renewable energy projects are fully aligned with the respect and protection of human rights; and 2. Provide at least 50 million indigenous peoples access to renewable energy by 2030 that is developed and managed in ways that are consistent with their self-determined needs and development aspirations. The initiative focuses mainly on developing countries but the Arctic region has many best practices that could be brought to the initiative and experiences from Arctic Council projects and initiatives would be helpful for the initiative to look into.

IWGIA currently prepares an evidence based study on food security and indigenous peoples, in cooperation with the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), which includes the Arctic region. It will be published by FAO in 2019. Findings of this study could be interesting for the SDWG.

IWGIA manages the Indigenous Navigator, a framework and set of tools for and by indigenous peoples to systematically monitor the level of recognition and implementation of their rights. We believe the data collected with this tools will contribute to the global efforts to better document the situation of indigenous peoples. One of these tools is a set of indicators, which serves to pinpoint what to look for when measuring whether the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) are implemented in a given country or indigenous community. The project is funded by the European Commission and is currently piloted in a number of developing countries. However, we believe that has great potential to be expanded also in the Arctic region. We are sharing this work with the Ecologic Institute.

IWGIA will continue to include articles about the work of the AC on our website and in our yearbook, as well as continue close cooperation with the Permanent Participants.

If applicable, please describe in no more than 1 page your state's or organization's contributions to other aspects of the Arctic Council and its goals not covered by the previous sections since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years.

IWGIA has published on the Arctic Council's work in its yearbook *The Indigenous World 2018*. Furthermore, IWGIA has published articles on the situation of the indigenous peoples in all Arctic regions (with the exception of Iceland).

IWGIA is extensively involved in the UNFCCC and has during the past 2 years particularly focused on the operationalisation of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform on knowledge sharing.

During 2017 IWGIA has provided assistance and technical support to two informal dialogues between States and indigenous peoples on the operationalisation of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform. The dialogues were organised by Canada and by Belgium. IWGIA facilitated indigenous peoples' participation in these dialogues, including for representatives of the Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council. The dialogues also used the Arctic Council as a best practice example of indigenous peoples' participation in international processes. Findings from Arctic Council studies, reports, projects and assessments have much to offer and to contribute to the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform.

For indigenous peoples, the 2030 Global Development Agenda adopted by Head of States in 2015 is regarded as an improvement compared to the Millennium Development Goals, where indigenous peoples were largely invisible and which only focused on developing countries. With the support of IWGIA, Indigenous peoples were able to actively engage from the start in the global consultations/negotiations processes towards the 2030 Agenda. These advocacy efforts resulted in a global development framework which makes explicit references to indigenous peoples' development concerns and is founded on principles of universality, human rights, equality and environmental sustainability - core priorities for indigenous peoples all over the world, including the Arctic region, and for the Arctic Council.

Moving forward towards implementation, IWGIA is actively engaged and consistently monitors the discussions at national and international level regarding the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this work IWGIA closely cooperates and supports the work the Indigenous Peoples Major Group during the annual sessions of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). The Indigenous Peoples Major Group is one of the nine major groups established by the UN to ensure representation of key sectors of society and to help channel the engagement of citizens, economic and social actors in UN intergovernmental processes related to sustainable development. Representatives of the Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council are also affiliated to the Indigenous Peoples Major Group.

The mandate of the IPMG is to advocate for the inclusion of indigenous peoples' priorities related to the implementation of the SDGs.

In addition to the technical and financial support that is provided to the IPMG, IWGIA supports initiatives aimed at raising awareness on the SDG framework among indigenous peoples' organizations and supports their participation in national processes (development of national action plans) and at global level at HLPF sessions.

During the annual meeting of the HLPF, with the support of IWGIA, indigenous peoples present statements including specific recommendations at the general thematic discussions as well as during the national voluntary reviews.