# SAON [Strategic Framework] | [Strategy]

## Mission & Vision

*[Original formulation: “Its purpose is to support and strengthen the development of multinational engagement for sustained and coordinated pan-Arctic observing and data sharing systems that serve societal needs, particularly related to environmental, social, economic and cultural issues. SAON promotes the vision of well-defined observing networks that enable users to have access to free, open and high quality data that will realize pan-Arctic and global value-added services and provide societal benefits”. From ‘Plan for the Implementation Phase of SAON’ (2011)]*

Many areas of the Arctic are data-sparse, and SAON’s mission is to change that. SAON recognizes that pan-Arctic observing and data sharing capacity that serves societal needs – such as better understanding and prediction of the impacts of climate change and associated socio-economic changes on this highly vulnerable region – is crucial. SAON’s charge is to support and strengthen the development of such capacity across disciplinary, national, and cultural boundaries.

In the future, SAON sees itself as the go-to source for Arctic observing information and reference. SAON’s vision is of connected, collaborative, comprehensive, and cutting-edge Arctic observations. SAON will work towards enabling well-defined Arctic observing networks that provide enhanced and open access to high quality data, products, and services that provide societal benefits.