Statement from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)on the engagement with SAON

WMO considers SAON a mechanism that has the ability to reaching out to and engage a wider range of communities and interests, critical to achieving the SAON goal of an integrated pan-Arctic observing system. In this sense, WMO is interested in partnering with SAON in better understanding observational user requirements, facilitating and promoting the development and implementation of observing standards, data and metadata exchange standards. Once adopted, these standards would enable interoperability of data systems and the broad access to data of sustained quality from multiple platforms, programs, and networks.

WMO is seeking SAON’s engagement and leadership in:

* advancing the review of user requirements, to complement the review already under way in WMO, in particular, for reflecting the unique challenges of the harsh arctic environment and the present and future socio-economic needs of arctic communities,
* brokering the inclusion of community based monitoring as a key component of the pan-Arctic observing systems,
* facilitating the reflection of indigenous knowledge in the design, operations and maintenance of optimal observing networks and programs relevant to the Arctic region.

WMO could play an active role in the implementation of SAON’s vision of integrated observing systems providing freely accessible data, given its long-standing experience in facilitating the development and the implementation of consensus based standards for operating observing networks, sustained data quality and data exchange, supporting applications in multiple domains of the environment, e.g. weather, water, climate and the cryosphere.