



**SAON Board meeting 30 October 2017  
Teleconference 15-17 (CET) / 10-12 AM (EST)  
Minutes**

## **1. Introductions and adoption of agenda**

Thorsteinn Gunnarsson (Iceland) introduced himself as the new chair of SAON. The agenda was adopted (Appendix 1). The list of participants is found in Appendix 2, the list of documents is found in Appendix 3, and the list of actions is found in Appendix 4.

## **2. SAON Strategic Framework**

Larry Hinzman (USA) introduced the Strategic Framework, noting that this followed from a recommendation from the external review of SAON. He described how the draft had been produced during a workshop in Frascati in June 2017 and thanked all participants for their contribution. After the workshop, the SAON Executive had asked a series of small teams to further update the document:

1. Introduction, Mission and Vision, Guiding Principles: Allen Pope (IASC), Peter Schlosser (ISAC)
2. Strengthening Arctic observational capacity: Hannele Savela (CON chair), Mikko Strahlendorff (Finland)
3. Free and ethically open access to all Arctic observational data: Peter L. Pulsifer (ADC chair), Will Ambrose (USA)
4. Articulate justification for long-term commitment in Arctic Observing: Eva Kruemmel (ICC), Lars Kullerud (UARctic), Nicole Biebow (Germany)

In the discussion about the mission and vision for SAON, Vito Vitale (Italy) raised a question about the vision, noting that in an earlier version, the text had read “SAON’s vision is a (...) pan-Arctic observing system (...)”, while the current formulation read “SAON is a (...) pan-Arctic observing system (...)”. Peter Schlosser responded that he had introduced the change, since this in his opinion was the role that SAON should have.

In her introduction to the first goal of the Framework (‘observational capacity’), Hannele Savela explained that the AC Finland chairmanship project on the value tree analysis had been added to the text. Sandy Starkweather (USA) was interested to further understand the objective ‘technology push’.

In this introduction to the second goal of the Framework (‘access to observational data’), Peter L. Pulsifer put emphasis on the international aspects of the work. He explained how it is an important activity with ADC to establish working relationships with other similar initiatives like Arctic Portal, SCADM and SOOS.

Eva Kruemmel introduced the third goal ('long-term commitment in Arctic Observing'), noting that objective two was about identifying resources for observing in general, while objective 3 was about securing funding for the Secretariat.

Larry Hinzman outlined next steps in the process, noting that the AC SAOs had given SAON a strong endorsement and that the Framework was a response to this. The plan is to present the document to the SAO meeting in March 2018; this will require that it is finalised in December 2017 and submitted to SAON's 'parents', AMAP and IASC.

✓ Action: SAON Board members to provide comments to the 16<sup>th</sup> October version by 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### 3. SAON Committees

#### 3.a. Arctic Data Committee (ADC)

Peter L. Pulsifer explained that the Committee had met in Montreal in September 2017 and reviewed its goals and objectives: Promote and enable 1) Understanding the system, 2) Effective data policy, 3), Infrastructure, 4) Ethically open access, 5) Attribution, and 6) Standards and interoperability. Part of the meeting had been joint with SCADM and SOOS and an outcome had been the establishment of two subsidiary groups:

- Metadata Elements and Federated Search WG. The group will 1) review existing metadata schemas to establish common elements in use, and 2) map elements to a target standard (ISO 19115). Lead is Halldor Johannsson and Arctic Portal
- Vocabularies and Semantics WG. The group will promote awareness of existing vocabularies and semantics initiatives to increase effectiveness and reduce or eliminate redundancy. It will also coordinate vocabularies and semantics development activities across the polar community. Leads are Øystein Godøy (Norway) and Ruth Duerr (USA).

The Committee has planned to organise a "Polar Data Planning Summit", tentatively in May 2018. It would aim at bringing together practitioners and authorities from existing data management efforts and cyber-infrastructures. It would seek to develop a common plan for establishing a road-map for a system that will provide access to Arctic observational data.

Peter L. Pulsifer finally explained that the Committee is planning a series of data management web training courses with APECS.

#### 3. b. Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)

Hannele Savela made reference to the first goal from the Framework on strengthening observational capacity; the idea behind the committee is to bring together national representatives representing national observation capacities. The Committee is currently revising the ToR and work plan and these are at a good stage. These will be finalised, once the more overall SAON strategy has been completed. From the draft work plan, Hannele Savela highlighted cooperation with ADC and GEOCRI. The Committee plans to have a side meeting at Polar2018. This event will highlight 1) the value tree analysis 2) models for national SAON contact points and committees.

The Committee had a telephone conference 17th October 2017.

#### 4. Finland AC chairmanship project on value tree analysis

The project is a follow-up to the value tree assessment organised by STPI and SAON and has focus on atmospheric and oceanographic variables. SAON countries and organisations have been encouraged to make resources available for the project.

Peter Schlosser (ISAC) made reference to the preliminary theme for the coming Arctic Observing Summit and saw the project as a valuable contribution to this.

Sandy Starkweather expressed support to the project, explaining that she has been working with STPI to do a smaller but similar project on sea-ice.

Birgit Njåstad (Norway), Hannele Savela, Ulf Jonsell (Sweden) and Vito Vitale also offered to support the project.

Rodica Nito (WMO) said that the project aligns well with activities that are led by the Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW) and that WMO will be happy to collaborate.

- ✓ Action: SAON Board members to identify resources for the project. Communicate this directly to Mikko Strahlendorff (Finland) with cc to Jan Rene Larsen.

#### 5. SAON Secretariat financing task force

The SAON Secretariat has been supported by the Norwegian government since 2011 through its contribution to the AMAP Secretariat. The support has now been reduced and a task force has been established in order to investigate alternative funding mechanisms.

The task force has discussed different options, including writing letters to the Board members, asking for support from the countries and organisations behind SAON. Other options have been discussed, including asking members to support for different SAON activities. Funding agencies like NSF have expressed interest in supporting travelling activities associated with projects; these will need to have a product and should be associated with the strategic plan.

Larry Hinzman described a so-called 'Dear Colleague' letter from NSF with the title "Seeking Community Input for Topic Ideas to Accelerate Research Through International Network-to-Network Collaboration". He believed that SAON should submit a white paper in response to this (deadline 30th November 2017).

#### 6. GEO and SAON

SAON has status as a so-called 'Participating Organisation' to GEO. It has been discussed, if SAON should seek recognition as "ArcticGEOSS". A document outlining requirements had been drafted for the Board meeting in Prague in April 2017.

The Committee chairs (Hannele Savela and Peter L. Pulsifer) welcomed the discussion, noting that both Committees are contributing to GEO through the GEOCRI initiative and that a clarification of the relationship between the two organisations would be welcomed.

- ✓ Action: Chairmanship and Secretariat to contact GEO and further develop the Prague document.

## 7. Any other business

- a. SAON had arranged the break-out session 'SCALES OF OBSERVATIONS – CONNECTING ARCTIC DATA, INFORMATION AND PEOPLE', with ICC, EPB, GEO, and WMO at Arctic Circle in Reykjavik, Iceland, 14th October. Hannele Savela and Peter L. Pulsifer reported from the session, highlighting the fact that the session brought different organisations together and that the discussion had been lively.
- b. SAON has been invited to attend a workshop in November 2017 arranged by the project 'IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON A LONG-TERM INVESTMENT ON ARCTIC OBSERVATIONS' (IMOBAR) by the EC Joint Research Centre. The aim of the workshop is to bring together experts in observations, observational data providers, major users and stakeholders in order to discuss the societal benefit areas of Arctic observational systems. The project will quantify some of the benefits of Arctic observing, and the outcome will be presented at the Arctic Science Ministerial in 2018.
- c. Peter Schlosser reported from the planning of the 2018 Arctic Observing Summit (AOS). The preliminary theme is 'The business case for Arctic Observing', and this theme is a follow up from the 2016 AOS. Subthemes will be the needs, design, implementing, optimising and operation of observing systems and networks. The AOS will collect short statements in support of these themes. It will be held in June 2018 in Davos.
- d. The 2018 Arctic Science Ministerial will be held 25-26 November 2018.

## 8. Next telephone conferences

Will be held within a month. The main purpose would be to review the Strategic Framework.

## Appendix 1: Agenda

1. Introductions and adoption of agenda  
*[Larry D. Hinzman, Thorsteinn Gunnarsson]*
2. SAON Strategic Framework  
*[The document is the SAON Strategic Framework as developed during the workshop in Frascati in June. Compared to the version from 9th September, it has been updated by members of the Frascati team. SAON Board members are invited to provide their comments as track-changes to the Word file prior to the 30th October meeting. The document will not be updated until after the meeting. There is a proposal to extract high-level statements from the Framework into a strategy document, while details should stay in a work plan type document. The plan is to finalise the document before the end of 2017 and to present the final version to the AMAP WG, to IASC, and finally to the SAO meeting 21-23 March 2018.]*  
*[Peter Schlosser, Hannele Savela, Peter Pulsifer, Eva Kruemmel; 60 min]*
3. SAON Committees
  - a. Arctic Data Committee (ADC)  
*[The Committee met 16-18 September 2017]*
  - b. Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)  
*[The Committee had a telephone conference 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017]*
4. Finland AC chairmanship project on value tree analysis  
*[The project is a follow up to the 2016 Arctic Science Ministerial and the 'International Arctic Observations Assessment Framework'<sup>1</sup> organised by STPI and SAON. The project has focus on meteorological and oceanographic cooperation, and is a Finland Arctic Council Chairmanship activity. Board members are encouraged to identify project members and resources]*  
*[Mikko Strahlendorff; 15 min]*
5. SAON Secretariat financing task force  
*[Excerpt from the minutes of the Frascati workshop: "Lars-Otto Reiersen outlined the current funding arrangement for the Secretariat: In the first years of its existence, the Norwegian government had funded a full-time position through the annual contribution to the AMAP Secretariat. In 2017, the support had been reduced to 50%, and he saw a risk that it would disappear. Action: It was decided to establish a task force that should identify possibilities for the funding of the Secretariat. These should be short term as well as long term. Members: Larry D. Hinzman, Nicole Biebow, Sandy Starkweather, Will Ambrose, Yuji Kodama.]*  
*[Larry D. Hinzmann; 5 min]*
6. GEO and SAON  
*[The Board is invited to review the document from the Board meeting in Prague in April 2017. The document contains a recommendation that SAON seeks recognition as 'ArcticGEOSS'.]*  
*[Jan Rene Larsen; 5 min]*
7. Any other business, including
  - a. Arctic Circle [Hannele]  
*[Report from the break-out session 'SCALES OF OBSERVATIONS – CONNECTING ARCTIC DATA, INFORMATION AND PEOPLE', arranged by GEO, SAON, EPB, WMO, and ICC:  
<http://www.arcticcircle.org/Media/09.29.17-arctic-circle-assembly-program.pdf>.]*  
*[Hannele Savela; 5 min]*
  - b. IMOBAR  
*[SAON has been invited to attend a workshop arranged by the project 'IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON A LONG-TERM INVESTMENT ON ARCTIC OBSERVATIONS' (IMOBAR) by the EC Joint Research*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.arcticobserving.org/news/268-international-arctic-observations-assessment-framework-released>

Centre. From the invitation: "The aim of the workshop is to bring together experts in observations, observational data providers, major users and stakeholders in order to discuss the societal benefit areas of Arctic observational systems". The document has been presented to the AMAP WG.

Srdan Dobricic (JRC-ISPRA); 5 min]

- c. 2018 Arctic Observing Summit

[<http://www.arcticobservingsummit.org/http%3A//www.arcticobservingsummit.org/http%253A//www.arcticobservingsummit.org/aos-2018-davos-switzerland-0> .

Peter Schlosser; 5 min]

- d. 2018 Arctic Science Ministerial:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index.cfm?pg=events&eventcode=187D5765-E38F-9AFC-958DA987ECDD0613>

[Will be held 25-26 November 2018.

Jan Rene Larsen; 5 min]

8. Next telephone conferences

[The proposal is to have telephone conferences in November and December. The main agenda item will be finalising the Strategic Framework.]

## Appendix 2: List of Participants

Affiliation	First name	Last name	Institute name	Mailing address	Phone	e-mail
<b>Countries</b>						
Chair	Þorsteinn	Gunnarsson	The Icelandic Centre for Research – RANNÍS	Borgum v/Norðurlóð IS-600 Akureyri	+354 515 5800 +354 899 3290 +354 460 8519	Thorsteinn.Gunnarsson@Rannis.is
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Chair for CON (Finland)	Hannele	Savela	INTERACT Transnational Access	Thule Institute, University of Oulu P.O.Box 7300, FI-90014 Oulu, Finland	+358 294 487 554	hannele.savela@oulu.fi
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<b>Organisations</b>						
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Affiliation	First name	Last name	Institute name	Mailing address	Phone	e-mail
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ISAC	Peter	Schlosser	The Earth Institute Columbia University	Hogan Hall, 2910 Broadway, Level A Mail Code: 3277 New York NY 10025	+1 845 365 8707 8737	schlosser@ldeo.columbia.edu
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### Appendix 3: List of meeting documents and presentations

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Document no</b>	<b>Document Title</b>	<b>Document author</b>
0	01	<a href="#">GoToMeeting dial-in information</a>	Secretariat
1	11	<a href="#">Draft agenda (version 27th October)</a>	Executive
2	05	<a href="#">SAON Strategic Framework (version 16th October 2017)</a>	Frascati workshop
2	10	<a href="#">SAON Strategic Framework (version 16th October 2017). Comments from Sweden</a>	Ulf Jonsell, Sweden
2	06	<a href="#">References cited for SAON strategic goal 2</a>	Peter L. Pulsifer
4	03	<a href="#">Arctic Observation value tree analysis for atmospheric and oceanographic variables proposal</a>	Mikko Strahlendorf, Finland
4	(link)	<a href="#">The International Arctic Observations Assessment Framework</a>	STPI and SAON
6	(link)	<a href="#">Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and SAON</a> (Meeting document from Board meeting, Prague, 7th April 2017)	SAON and GEO Secretariats
7b	08	<a href="#">IMOBAR</a>	EC

#### **Presentations:**

[SAON Strategic Framework Version 16th October 2017](#)

Peter L. Pulsifer: [Update on Arctic Data Committee for SAON Board](#)

The documents and presentations can be found at

<https://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/board/board-meetings/12-board-meetings/287-meeting-documents-for-board-meeting-teleconference-30-october-2017>

## Appendix 4: Actions

No	Text	Who	When
1	Provide comments to the 16 <sup>th</sup> October version of the Strategic Framework by 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Board	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
2	Identify resources for the value tree project. Communicate this directly to Mikko Strahlendorff (Finland) with cc to Jan Rene Larsen	Board	1 <sup>st</sup> December
3	Contact GEO and further develop the Praque document	Chairmanship and Secretariat	15 <sup>th</sup> November