

## SAON Retreat 27-28 June, Frascati, Italy: Introduction

Dear

Members of the SAON Board,

Participants to the SAON Retreat in Frascati,

The purpose of the Retreat is to develop a SAON strategy/strategic framework and in preparation of this, the organising committee has developed a series of draft text proposal. The Board is invited to review the document and provide feedback to the organising committee.

The basis for the work with the document has been

* The statement from the [2016 Arctic Science Ministerial](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/28/joint-statement-ministers)
* The statement from the [Arctic Observing Summit 2016](http://www.arcticobservingsummit.org/aos-2016-conference-statement-0)
* The report from the external review of SAON ([summary](http://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Review/SAON-executive-summary.pdf), [full](http://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Review/SAON-External-Review-Final-Report_August-29-2016.pdf))
* The statements about ‘expectations of SAON’ that were [submitted to the Board meeting in Prague](http://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/board/board-meetings/12-board-meetings/258-saon-board-meeting-prague-7th-april-2017).
* The original [plan for the implementation phase](http://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Background/saon_report_february_2011.pdf) of SAON (from February 2011)

These sources contain many statements about what SAON should be and do, and some of these statements have been lifted without modification into the documents. This means that the document also has statements that are internally contradicting or statements that are out of SAON’s scope.

The focus workshop will be on developing SAON goals. The goals will be qualified according to these topics:

* Objectives
* Urgency
* Timelines
* Role of SAON Committees
* Role of SAON Networks
* Role of National SAON organisations
* Relationship with international/other initiatives
* Indigenous/Local/Traditional knowledge
* Outreach
* Resources and Funding

It should be noted that in addition to a longer document, it is also the plan to produce a shorter version (2-pager,‘Summary for policy-makers’).

The timelines for the work are:

* 22 June: Updated version of the meeting material available for participants
* 27-28 June: Retreat
* 1st July: Updated draft strategy/strategic framework is circulated to the Board
* Mid-August: Draft circulated for meeting of AMAP WG 12-14 September in Reykjavik
* October: IASC ExCom meets during Arctic Circle in Reykjavik 13-15 October
* Autumn: Approval at a physical SAON Board Meeting. Could this be Arctic Change, Quebec, 11-15 December 2017?

Best regards,

Retreat Organising Committee:

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