**Statement from the European Commission on expectations to SAON**

In line with the original mission statement of SAON[[1]](#footnote-1) and the Joint Statement of Ministers of the White House Arctic Science Ministerial[[2]](#footnote-2) – signed by the ministerial delegations representing 24 governments and the European Union – the expectations of the European Commission to SAON are:

* to become the reference coordinating and facilitating body for the development of a sustained and integrated Arctic-observing system;
* to provide the governments with the elements justifying a long-term financial commitment in Arctic observations;
* to collect the instances of the stakeholder communities (scientists, indigenous people, local populations, productive sectors) and to coordinate the identification of joint priorities for an integrated Arctic-observing system;
* to look at both scientific and operational applications (e.g. Copernicus) of an integrated Arctic-observing system;
* to improve its engagement with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO);
* to evolve in its constituency and governance in order to better respond to the challenges of establishing a sustained Arctic observing system.
1. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. We commit to the shared development of a science-driven, integrated Arctic-observing system [...]. In this context, we see a critical role for the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) initiative—a joint responsibility of the Arctic Council and the International Arctic Science Committee—and encourage continued cooperation in other international science organizations that contribute to Arctic observing and data-sharing, and building a network of community-based observation. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)