[Date]

[Name and address of recipient 1]

[Name and address of recipient 2]

[Name and address of recipient 3]

Dear [Recipient1], [Recipient2], and [Recipient3],

Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) is a joint initiative of the Arctic Council and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), established following the 2011 Arctic Council Nuuk Declaration. SAON’s vision is a connected, collaborative, and comprehensive, long-term, pan-Arctic observing system that serves societal needs. SAON facilitates, coordinates, and advocates for international Arctic observations and mobilizes the support needed to sustain them. SAON is committed to the utilisation of Indigenous knowledge and Arctic community-based observations.

SAON’s new strategy from 2018 identifies priorities and the following main goals for SAON:[[1]](#footnote-1)

* Create a roadmap to a well-integrated Arctic Observing System;
* Promote free and ethically open access to all Arctic observational data; and
* Ensure sustainability of Arctic observing.

In cooperation with the IDA Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI), SAON has developed and published the International Arctic Observations Assessment Framework, defining 12 Social Benefit Areas (SBAs) that rely on Arctic observations.[[2]](#footnote-2)

One of the themes for the coming 2nd Arctic Science Ministerial is *Strengthening, Integrating and Sustaining Arctic Observations, Facilitating Access to Arctic Data, and Sharing Arctic Research Infrastructure.* Recognized by the first Arctic Science Ministerial’s Joint Statement of Ministers for the "critical role” it plays in “the shared development of a science-driven, integrated Arctic-observing system,” SAON needs funding support to work to achieve its mission and vision, through the central work of its secretariat, its core activities, and key projects.

Since 2011 Norway has supported a SAON secretariat, including a full-time Executive Secretary and funds to support SAON activities. However, this generous support is going to be reduced before the end of 2018. Without further contribution, there is a risk that SAON will not function in the coming year(s). SAON’s budget (see attached) needs a negotiable annual amount of 5-15.000 € per member.

As SAON and [Name of institution] share common goals related to understanding Arctic climate dynamics, environmental protection, and sustainability, we would like you to consider if there could be ways in which [country] may be able to help (financially, materially, or through partnership) SAON to achieve its vision for the Arctic. We would welcome a call to discuss such a possibility.

Thank your for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Þorsteinn Gunnarsson |  |  |  |  | Larry Hinzman |
| SAON Chair |  |  |  |  | SAON Vice-Chair |

Cc: [SAON Board member from country]

Enclosure: Benefits of SAON and Budget for the SAON Secretariat

1. https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Strategy\_and\_Implementation/SAON\_Strategy\_version\_2018-2028.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.arcticobserving.org/news/268-international-arctic-observations-assessment-framework-released [↑](#footnote-ref-2)