



Meeting of the SAON G3 Task Force	
When	22nd January 2019, 16-17 CET / 10-11 AM EST
Venue	Teleconference
Participants	Allen Pope (Allen), Eva Kruemmel, Hannele Savela (Hannele), Jan Rene Larsen (Jan), Larry Hinzman, Sandy Starkweather (Sandy), Yuji Kodama
Apologies	Attilio, Lisa, Thorsteinn, Will
Meeting notes	Jan Rene Larsen

**Agenda:**

The document *Arctic Observing Summit - Observing System Implementation and Optimization Working Meeting* follows from the Arctic Observing Summit, the Working Group on Implementation and Optimization (AOS-WG2).

Members of the group met in December during AGU in order to review the recommendations from the AOS.

A key question is the definition of the roadmap that is [formulated in CON objectives](#).

The text is drafted by Sandy Starkweather; she emphasizes that it is a draft that still needs input.

The question is "What can the G3 Task Force do at this moment?".

## Minutes:

Jan summarised the background, noting that the Task Force has addressed the question about how the Board can be engaged in SAON Goal 3, and it believes that the mandate has been covered to the extent possible, at least for the moment. There is a proposal from the Task Force for the Board to revisit the mandate and decide on the future of the Task Force. In a parallel development, and coming out of the Arctic Observing Summit, there is an initiative to develop the objectives under Goal 1. This initiative has been led by Sandy Starkweather and Hajo Eicken.

Sandy explained that a group coming out of the AOS on optimisation and implementation is seeking a way to formalising under SAON and continuing the work at least through the next Arctic Observing Summit. It is specifically trying to develop a shared assessment system that is a big part of the roadmap. CON could be lead the assessment process in the light of the Societal Benefit Areas, INTAROS, EU-PolarNet, US AON, INTERACT and other initiatives. The group came together at an open meeting during AGU and tried to write a clear task team scope in order to recruit talent and to development thematic foci, recognizing that there is a need to demonstrate what a shared assessment system might look like. This could be through topical examples. Focus would also be on those groups not present, specifically from Asian countries and indigenous organisations.

One of the most relevant outcomes when it comes to Goal 3 is that there is a roadmap concept in the SAON Strategy that is repeated within CON. Yet there is a feeling that 'roadmap' can mean a lot of things and there is a need for more specific definitional terms if this group is to focus on a shared assessments system. There is a need to shift into a more requirement based approach and what the Task Force could focus on would be an approved definition of how the roadmap should be defined: What should be included, what kind of questions should it be capable of answering. This would also be a relevant thing to engage funding agencies around. As an example, Hank Loescher at the meeting said that "The SAON Strategy is currently capabilities based, not requirements based". SAON is bringing together capabilities and is trying to align these, but in order to reach jumps in implementation, aligning requirements and having a system to assess these, is going to be an important pivot.

Hannele believed that it would be good to start with a desktop study or consultation that would focus on 'How should a roadmap be defined'. There could be a basis for establishing a panel also with a wider group of organisations outside SAON, but under CON to work on this definition. The G3 Task Force could have a role in defining the roadmap.

Eva believed that it could be useful to engage also people from outside of SAON, but believed that there should be people also with inside SAON knowledge. This would ensure that the discussion should start where SAON already is and not go in circles or even backwards.

Sandy believed that even though the group would be established as a task force under CON, it would still need representatives from the G3 Task Force and ADC to serve as liaisons with these bodies. One option is that the G3 mandate is extended to cover 'How should a Roadmap be defined?' and in addition tries to recruit more funding oriented participants like Attilio Gambardella. As another example, Roberta Delgado, the new AON programme manager, has been nominated to join the SAON Board. From the stand point of a funder, a roadmap would be relevant and needed.

Larry made reference to the strong endorsement from both the first and the second Arctic Science Ministerial and the third is coming up. He believed that this opportunity was missing in the discussion. He believed that the document reflected 'what' to a high extent, but less 'how to'. 'How to' would mean getting individual support, nation by nation. He expressed disappointment that there had been no follow up from the Arctic Science Ministerial and that a role for SAON could be to 'give them something to give us back'.

The upcoming H2020 call on ArcticGEOSS was discussed, and Hannele believed that it was designed to involve SAON and that there should be a proposal with strong involvement from SAON's side. A proposal could have two components in order to cover the full SAON strategy: It could have a preparatory phase that would be building up a roadmap and the second part could be the implementation plan for building the ArcticGEOSS.

Action:

- ✓ Sandy and Hajo to finalise the document *Arctic Observing Summit - Observing System Implementation and Optimization Working Meeting* as a meeting document for the Board meeting 13<sup>th</sup> February.
- ✓ Jan to summarise the outcome of the G3 Task Force for the Board meeting 13<sup>th</sup> February.

Recommendation to Board and CON:

- ✓ Welcome the *Working Group on Implementation and Optimization (AOS-WG2)* as an initiative under CON
- ✓ Establish a Road Map Task Force (RMTF) with this mandate:
  - On the basis of the document *Arctic Observing Summit - Observing System Implementation and Optimization Working Meeting*
    - Develop a definition for the SAON Roadmap that will serve to generate strong international investments in Arctic observing
    - Define how Arctic Societal Benefit Areas or other objectives should be used to shape the Roadmap
  - Membership:
    - SAON Board members are invited, including G3 Task Force members
    - The Task Force should have members representing ADC and CON
    - Members representing funding opportunities/agencies are welcome
  - The Task Force reports to the Board and CON
- ✓ Suspend the G3 Task Force