# G3 Task Force: Mandate and Outcomes

Goal 3 of SAON is *Ensuring sustainability of Arctic Observing*. The SAON Implementation Plan notes that *goals 1 and 2 can only be successful if the need for improved coordinated Arctic observation and sharing of data and resources are supported by all relevant stakeholders over the long term.*

Goal 3 has three objectives:

1. Develop a strategy for long-term financial commitment in Arctic observations (Appendix 1);
2. Apply the strategy developed in 3.1 to advocate to funding agencies and states to ensure sustainability of Arctic observing; and
3. Secure funding for international SAON secretariat and operational costs

The G3 Task Force was established to develop a plan for the implementation of SAON’s Goal 3. While Goal 1 and 2 are directed towards the Committees, Goal 3 is directed towards the Board.

***Objective 3.1: Develop a strategy for long-term financial commitment in Arctic observations***

During the review of Objective 3.1, the Task Force realized that the tasks within Objective 3.1 have a close relationship to Goal 1 (which is directed towards CON).

The conclusion from the Task Force and the message to the Committees is that these should formulate fundable projects under ADC and CON. As a follow up, the CON chairmanship have produced a mapping of the tasks under Objective 3 to the CON work plan (Appendix 2). This mapping also contains an overview of assignment potential to be covered by an AOS WG.

***Objective 3.3 Secure funding for international SAON secretariat and operational costs***

Norway has funded a position at the AMAP Secretariat as the Secretary of SAON since 2011. In 2018, the Task Force initiated a process to send requests to national SAON Board members, asking these to provide support for the SAON Secretariat. Firm positive responses have been received from Finland, Japan and USA, while other countries have signalled an interest in engaging in this. The actual funding process will be initiated in the beginning of 2019.

***Membership***

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| Task Force members have been Allen Pope, Attilio Gambardella, Eva Kruemmel, Hannele Savela, Jan Rene Larsen, Larry Hinzman, Lars Kullerud, Lisa Loseto, Nicole Biebow, Sandy Starkweather, Thorsteinn Gunnarsson, Will Ambrose, and Yuji Kodama. |

## Appendix 1: Develop a strategy for long-term financial commitment in Arctic observations (SAON Objective 3.1)

Description:

SAON has the mandate to mobilize new/additional resources to meet observing needs as well as promote cooperation and coordination among existing initiatives.

SAON shall develop a short and concise engagement strategy to ensure long term support and engagement for Arctic Observations. The strategy will address:

* A short list of key rationales for why long term – sustained – observation is needed (including examples of successful sectors, e.g. – remote sensing, meteorology – and where the advantages are obvious, such as community-based monitoring.)
* A set of arguments why existing observation system benefits from cooperation, infrastructure and data sharing (eg quality of data, necessity of circumpolar coverage, cost saving etc.)
* Create an overview of observation strategies of existing actors and identify places where cooperation would help
* Create an overview of observation strategies to identify gaps
* A discussion on the challenge of national priorities vs circumpolar coordination priorities, and assessment of the benefits of Arctic coordination for the respective national observation priorities
* A summary with main societal benefits of long-term monitoring in the Arctic
* A list of key actors that would benefit from improved observation cooperation – with concrete ideas on advantages
* A list of agencies/organizations that can be approached for support
* A break-down of costs needed for which activities.

## Appendix 2: Mapping of Goal 3 to CON Work Plan and Goal 1