

## Jan Rene Larsen

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**From:** Jan Rene Larsen  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 February 2024 10.13  
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**Cc:** morten.hoglund; Arctic Council Secretariat; joseph.nolan@eurogoos.eu  
**Subject:** SAON Board: Two decisions to be made using written procedure  
**Attachments:** Terms of Reference Arctic ocean obs alliance TT (February 2024).pdf

Dear SAON Board,  
cc the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Official Chair, the AC Secretariat, EuroGOOS,

The Arctic Council *Guidelines for the resumption of Working Group / Expert Group work through the use of written procedures*, states that (excerpt):

- Decisions of Working Groups or other subsidiary bodies may be adopted by written procedures with the consensus of all eight Arctic States, and in consultation with the Permanent Participants.
- The written procedure is initiated by the Chair, supported by the relevant WG secretariat who ensures that relevant documents are distributed to all Arctic state and Permanent Participant HoDs. Under the written procedure a decision (or report) is adopted if there are no objections in writing within 30 (or shorter) days after receiving a document or report containing the decision, unless otherwise stated by the Chair.

There are two decisions to be made by the SAON Board, and the proposal from the SAON Secretariat is that written procedure is applied for these:

### Establishing a Task Team on improved international coordination of Arctic oceanography under the SAON Board

The proposed Terms of Reference (ToR, attached) states that “The expected outcome of the Task Team will be a proposed design for a pan-Arctic ocean observing alliance (such as a GRA) that unites the diversity of sustained ocean observing initiatives in the Arctic through a single entity or structure”.

The term *GRA* is used under the *Global Ocean Observing System* (GOOS) as an acronym for a *Regional Alliance*. The relationship with GOOS is reflected in this statement in the proposed ToR: “It is proposed that this Task Team and the process it co-develops be formally recognised by both Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) and Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)”.

A couple of comments to the proposal:

- The Board has earlier established Task Forces, like the *Roadmap Task Force*, and the *Secretariat Financing Task Force*.
- If established, interested members of the SAON Board are welcome to join the Task Team.

### Appointing a chair for 2024 the Arctic Observing Summit

The Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) is held 27 – 29 March, 2024, and SAON appoints one of the chairs ([AOS Procedures and Processes](#)).

Alice Bradley, Williams College, USA has led the planning effort of the AOS, and the Secretariat recommends that she is appointed as the SAON chair for the 2024 AOS.

Alice is one of the co-chairs of the SAON Committee on Observations and Networks (CON).

If no objections are raised within a 30-day consultation period (i.e. by 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024), then these two decisions are adopted.

Best regards,

Jan René Larsen

Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) Secretariat

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