

# Meeting of Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)

# 17th October 2017 14-15 CET / 8-9 AM EST (Teleconference) Minutes

### 1. Welcome to the call

Hannele Savela (co-Chair) welcomed the participants to the meeting. The agenda and the list of participants are found in Appendix 1 and 2.

### 2. SAON Strategic Framework development

Jan Rene Larsen (SAON Secretary) presented the Strategic Framework.

Reidar Hindrum (Norway) believed that that the timeframe for the objective (‘Assessment of national observational capacities’) was too short, especially from the perspective of organizing national offices.

Vito Vitale (Italy) saw a value in having a deadline to ensure that the deliverables were actually finalized.

Hannele Savela noted that it would not be a requirement that the countries organized a national office, but that some kind of national SAON organization should be established. She believed that there will be different national models, depending on national funding, resources, and activities. There was a project within CON to develop guidance for such an organization.

Jan Rene Larsen encouraged meeting participants to provide their comments to the Framework through the SAON Board members.

Action: Jan Rene Larsen to contact Eva Kruemmel and Sandy Starkweather regarding the project on guidance for national structures and the US national structure.

### 3. ToR and work plan for CON

Hannele Savela proposed that updating the ToR and work plan should await further development of the Strategic Framework.

### 4. Contribution to Finnish Arctic Council Chairmanship: Value tree analysis project

Mikko Strahlendorff (Finland) explained the background for the project, noting the initiative US started after the 2016 Arctic Science Ministerial on defining Arctic Societal Benefit Areas. The Finnish project was meant to answer questions that individual scientist might have like ‘How does the information from my station meet societal benefits?”. He also explained that meteorological cooperation is a goal area for the Finland Chairmanship of the Arctic Council. He explained about the ‘value tree analysis’ - method and that this project would fill the ‘lower parts of the tree’.

The project invites AMAP and SAON to contribute, and he hoped that AMAP would provide information to the project from an assessment point of view. He would build a preliminarily value tree based on this, and invited CON to support and contribute to the work. The first contribution would be the CON database on observational programs. The plan was to spend a little more than a year to produce the report and publish it for the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in spring 2019.

Rodica Nitu (WMO) welcomed the initiative and reminded the group that there is a proposal for the CON work plan on engaging in WMO’s Rolling Review of Requirements. She believed that it would be interesting to cooperate from this perspective. She mentioned that the GCW is focusing now on variables and applications and is building on existing statement of guidance from the global level. There is a body of knowledge within WMO, and WMO is interested in Arctic applications.

Mikko Strahlendorff responded that WMO’s Observing Systems Capability Analysis and Review Tool (OSCAR) will be the starting point for the project, and he invited WMO to be a partner. He finally invited CON also to play the role as the reviewer of the report.

### 5. Arctic Circle

Hannele Savela reported from the break-out session at Arctic Circle 2017: ‘Scales of Observations – Connecting Arctic Data, Information and People’, arranged by GEO, SAON, EPB, WMO, and ICC.

### 6. Any other business

### 6a. Arctic Observing Summit (AOS)

Jan Rene Larsen reported from the work of the AOS organising committee. AOS2018 will be held as a part of Polar2018 (polar2018.org), and the overall theme for AOS2018 is expected to be ‘The business case for Arctic Observing’. Hannele Savela raised the question if CON should arrange a meeting during Polar2018, and proposed that two themes: Finnish project on value tree analysis and national SAON organisations.

Action: Hannele Savela and Jan Rene Larsen to explore possibilities for a joint/overlapping meeting with ADC during Polar2018 and send meeting request by end October.

### 6b. Arctic Science Ministerial

The Ministerial will be held in October 2018. It will be arranged by Germany, Finland, and the European Commission.

### 6c. Next meeting

Action: Jan Rene Larsen to circulate a Doodle for end November.

## Appendix 1: Agenda

### Welcome to the call

### SAON Strategic Framework development [*The* *Framework was developed during a workhop in Frascati in June. It is currently under review by the SAON Board; the Board will have a teleconference 30th October. Committee members are kindly asked to study ‘Goal 1’ in the document]*

### ToR and work plan for CON *[The Framework gives guidance to the Committee on its ToR and work plan. Further updates to these should probably await the finalisation of the Framework]*

### Contribution to Finnish Arctic Council Chairmanship: Value tree analysis with a focus on *[The project is a follow up to the 2016 Arctic Science Ministerial and the ‘International Arctic Observations Assessment Framework’[[1]](#footnote-1) organised by STPI and SAON. The project has focus on meteorological and oceanographic cooperation, and is a Finland Arctic Council Chairmanship activity. Committee members are encouraged to identify project members and resources]*

### Arctic Circle *[Report from the break-out session ‘SCALES OF OBSERVATIONS – CONNECTING ARCTIC DATA, INFORMATION AND PEOPLE’, arranged by GEO, SAON, EPB, WMO, and ICC: http://www.arcticcircle.org/Media/09.29.17-arctic-circle-assembly-program.pdf]*

### Any other business

* 1. 2018 Arctic Observing Summit: http://www.arcticobservingsummit.org/http%3A//www.arcticobservingsummit.org/http%253A//www.arcticobservingsummit.org/aos-2018-davos-switzerland-0
  2. 2018 Arctic Science Ministerial

## Appendix 2: List of Participants

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| Name | Affiliation |
| Agnieszka Beszczynska-Möller | Poland |
| Hannele Savela | SAON CON co-chair, Finland, INTERACT |
| Jan Rene Larsen | SAON Secretary, AMAP Secretariat |
| Mikko Strahlendorff | Finland |
| Reidar Hindrum | Norge |
| Rodica Nitu | WMO |
| Vito Vitale | Italy |

More information about the participants and their affiliation is found at http://www.arcticobserving.org/committees/con/members

## Appendix 3: List of documents

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| Agenda item | Documents |
| 1 | [Draft agenda, version 16th October](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Committees/CON/20171017/05_SAON_CON_Telephone_Conference_17OCT2017_Draft_Agenda_version_16OCT2017.docx) |
| [GoToMeeting, dial-in information](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Committees/CON/20171017/02_GoToMeeting_dial-in.docx) |
| 2 | [SAON Strategic Framework, version 16th October (link)](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/teleconference_2017OCT10/05_SAON_Strategic_Framework_16OCT2017.docx) |
| 4 | [Contribution to Finnish AC value tree analysis](https://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Committees/CON/20171017/04_Arctic-Observation-value-tree-analysis-for-atmospheric-and-oceangraphic-variables-proposal-v4.docx) |

The documents are found here: <http://www.arcticobserving.org/committees/con/meetings>

1. https://www.arcticobserving.org/news/268-international-arctic-observations-assessment-framework-released [↑](#footnote-ref-1)