

ANNEX I TO FINAL CASP REPORT TO IASC COUNCIL

ANNEX 1

NEW KIND OF DELIVERABLES – SHORT PAPERS

○ THE WORKING GROUPS

- EACH national representative within EACH WG would present a 1-2 page document up to 4 months before each ASSW listing the country's science priorities in each year, including major ongoing and upcoming projects;
- Each paper would include as well issues concerning international Arctic scientific cooperation (successes, remaining obstacles, observed progress) and, if possible, major identified gaps in data;
- National representatives would be expected to engage effectively at the national level to be able to produce and deliver such a piece;
- Work on such a document would help to ensure that those who sit on the WGs represent more than their individual research interests and areas of expertise (an issue commonly identified as a problem in many WGs). At the same time, Action group is well aware that each IASC member country has its scientific community and system organised in a different manner. Therefore, it would be up to each member country to decide how best to prepare the reports from national representatives;
- Potentially, such papers, including ideas for projects, could facilitate exchange of information and international collaboration on future larger projects;
- IASC could then support them with its logo - as it has done in the case of, for example, MOSAiC;

○ THE SECRETARIATS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

- Based on submissions from all member countries within a given WG, the secretariat of this WG would be tasked with preparing a draft 2-5 page document for the upcoming ASSW (which is also the only annual meeting of the IASC WGs) summarising received papers countries' representatives, covering: major themes, emerging scientific priorities and issues regarding research collaboration as well as identified gaps in data;

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- Those papers, after discussion and approval of the WGs, would be then sent to the IASC Secretariat and IASC Council, providing a picture of the major themes within the atmospheric, marine, terrestrial, cryosphere and social and human IASC WGs;
- **THE REPRESENTATIVES AT THE IASC COUNCIL**
 - At the IASC Council level, each IASC Council member shall submit to the IASC Secretariat before the upcoming ASSW a 1-2 page document summarising the five reports presented and submitted to each WG;
 - Those papers would reflect the country's overall position regarding its scientific priorities and major issues regarding Arctic science and scientific cooperation in a given year;
 - Over the time collection of those papers (based on member countries' papers submitted to the WGs) could offer and provide a clearer picture of Arctic science, while staying perfectly in line with the IASC mission and enhancing its delivery;
- **THE IASC SECRETARIAT**
 - **A "State of Arctic Science Report"**: Based on submissions received from the WGs (prepared by their Secretariats, see above) and from IASC Council representatives, the IASC Secretariat within 2-3 months after each ASSW shall produce a short document (5-10 pages) summarising the state of Arctic science in a given year, including information on the state of Arctic scientific cooperation, as reported by IASC member countries;
 - Additionally, in years where the ASSW includes a scientific conference, the report could be complemented by a brief statement summarising major findings and emerging research issues presented at the conference;
 - In this way, within a few years, IASC would start providing annually a good overview of Arctic science - in line with the unique position it holds thanks to its broad and diverse membership;
 - This could also become the specific 'message' that IASC could deliver to and present at different fora: from the Arctic Council to the Arctic Science Ministerial meetings and beyond;

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- It could also be the IASC message that IASC together with SCAR could present as 'the state of polar science';
 - Finally, the process to generate those messages could support identifying gaps in Arctic data and knowledge that need to be addressed;
- **TO FACILITATE**
- The IASC Secretariat shall be asked to prepare a template for such reports, to make the reporting easier for the countries' representatives.

Arguably:

- Such papers could help enhance the connection between national representatives and their research councils and national science communities – i.e. reporting would be much easier based on those papers.
- The proposed papers and a proposed “State of Arctic Science Report” very much fit with what IASC is best positioned to do.
- Conduct of scientific assessments does not appear feasible at the moment seeing the lack of resources and the difficulty of obtaining additional dedicated support.
- The papers will build on the uniquely broad and diverse membership of IASC.
- Preparing such papers could help in identifying major themes that, in turn, could become the basis for grand proposals such as MOSAiC. This approach is in line with the views expressed by many Council members that IASC should focus on major projects, rather than on too many small ones. Similarly, too many small projects have also been commonly identified as an issue within IASC WGs themselves.
- Thanks to informing both national and international bodies, research councils and other research funders with the content of produced papers, IASC could gain a greater influence on future science funding opportunities.