

IASC STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS INVOLVEMENT

TERMS OF REFERENCE

FINAL VERSION APPROVED BY IASC COUNCIL ON 20 FEBRUARY 2023

Introduction and Rationale

In light of the commitments made through the ICARP III process and strategic planning, IASC commissioned a Scoping Group and then an Action Group on Indigenous Involvement (AGII) to provide recommendations on better meaningful involvement of Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge into IASC and its activities. The final report of the AGII with a wide range of recommendations was approved by the IASC Council in March 2020.

At its meeting in 2021, Council decided to develop an IASC Standing Committee on Indigenous Involvement. The *IASC Handbook* defines Standing Committees as „long-term bodies created by Council for long-term IASC initiatives working on defined long-term strategic issues that are of relevance and importance for all IASC activities and the organisation as a whole“.

1. Scope and Responsibilities

- Provide advice and guidance for the IASC Executive Committee and Council regarding Indigenous Peoples meaningful involvement in IASC activities during the planning and implementation of IASC strategic planning (e.g. ICARP processes).
- Ensure interaction and explore opportunities with the IASC Working Groups on a positive mutual basis to develop joint projects and to promote meaningful Indigenous involvement and leadership in IASC WG projects and activities.
- Build on the recommendations of the past AGII by developing concepts and proposals for the implementation of the recommendations from or in the spirit of the AGII report.
- Evaluate the progress of the implementation of the IASC actions regarding meaningful Indigenous involvement.
- Create opportunities for interaction with relevant international, regional and national Arctic Indigenous organizations;
- Initiate listening sessions, talking circles, workshops, conferences and educational events.

The Standing Committee may be dissolved only by a consensus vote of the Council.

2. Membership

- Each National Adhering Body may, but is not required to appoint up to two members to the Standing Committee. Each National Adhering Body has only one vote. Appointees shall either be members of Arctic communities with respected knowledge of Indigenous culture or be individuals with experience working with Indigenous communities and with knowledge of different knowledge systems and scientific disciplines. When appointments are made, National Adhering Bodies should give consideration to a mix of diversity, gender, and

seniority. National Adhering Bodies are encouraged to consider nominating Indigenous Peoples and representatives from Indigenous organisations to the Standing Committee.

- The IASC Indigenous Fellows are members of the Standing Committee in addition to their appointment with the IASC Working Groups.
- The Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council may appoint up to two representatives each to the Standing Committee.

Each member shall be appointed for one 4-year-term with the possibility of one additional 4-year term. IASC Fellows are involved during the duration of their fellowship (up to 3 years).

3. Functioning

- The Standing Committee shall elect one Chair and two Vice Chairs from three different appointing bodies. These three individuals, along with the outgoing chair, form the Steering Group of the Standing Committee.
- The Chair and Vice Chairs shall be elected for a term of two years, and may be re-elected for one additional term.
- The Standing Committee will conduct its work by correspondence as well as at meetings.
- The Standing Committee may develop collaborative initiatives with other IASC Working Groups and with other scientific and Indigenous organizations outside of the International Arctic Science Committee.
- The Standing Committee shall develop and maintain a web page within the IASC website.
- The Standing Committee shall maintain a list of supported activities and maintain a record of publications and workshops.
- The Standing Committee may form fixed-term expert groups to examine specific questions. Reports of expert groups shall be sent to the Standing Committee for further consideration.
- The Steering Group of the Standing Committee may meet intersessionally as required.

4. Meetings

- The Standing Committee shall hold at least one meeting per year.
- The Chair and Vice chairs, working with the IASC secretariat, will circulate to Standing Committee members a meeting agenda at least three weeks prior to the meeting. Standing Committee members wishing to place items on the agenda will notify the chair of the items.

5. Reporting

- Reports of the Standing Committee to the Council shall summarize activities of the Standing Committee and expert groups since the previous Council meeting. They shall provide statements of future plans, list of recommendations put forward by the Standing Committee for Council consideration and financial reports of expenditures and future budgets.
- Responses from the Council to reports from the Standing Committee will be included in the final report.
- Executive summaries of the reports of the Standing Committee shall be posted on the website of the Standing Committee within eight weeks of their annual meeting.

6. Budget

- The Standing Committee shall have an annual budget available at an amount set by the Council. Expenditures within the approved budget shall not require Council approval.
- In cases where additional funding to fulfill the IASC mission is required, a request may be made to the Council three months prior to the Council meeting.

7. Secretarial Support

- Secretarial Support for the Standing Committee will be made available through the IASC Secretariat.
- Responsibilities of the Secretary to Standing Committee will include, but not be limited to:
 - Preparing for, attending and reporting on all Standing Committee meetings;
 - Maintaining the web site for the Standing Committee;
 - Organizing, facilitating and attending steering group meetings of the Standing Committee;
 - Developing and maintaining lists of publications, workshops and other outputs for the Standing Committee;
 - Responding to outside requests for information;
 - Facilitating communication between the Standing Committee.

These Terms of Reference should be reviewed and updated by the Standing Committee after the initial first year to ensure they still reflect the needs of the committee, with the intention that the committee can shape its Terms of Reference to its needs through an internal consultation process. Changes to the Terms of Reference have to be submitted to the IASC Council for approval.