

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO), and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)

1 The Parties

The Parties to this MoU are the Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO), and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC).

1.1 Forum of Arctic Research Operators

The Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO), founded in 1998, is an international forum for information exchange, establishment of cooperation and development of new ideas among the national logistics operators in countries with Arctic research activities. FARO aims to encourage and optimize logistics and operational support for scientific research in the Arctic. The forum encourages international collaboration, for the benefit of all those involved in Arctic research. This mission is achieved by e.g. networking of national operators, exchange of best practices, offering opportunities for planning and coordination, facilitating access to facilities, supporting coordination of logistics and sharing of operational resources. The decision-making organs of FARO are the annual plenary meetings and the Executive Committee. The day-to-day operations of FARO are supported by its Secretariat headed by the Executive Secretary. Being a rather informal forum, decision making in FARO is by consensus.

1.2 International Arctic Science Committee

The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) is an International Scientific Associate of ICSU, and was established in 1990. IASC's main aim is to initiate, develop, and coordinate leading edge scientific activity in the Arctic region and on the role of the Arctic region in the Earth system. It also provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Arctic Council and other organizations on issues of science affecting the management of the Arctic region. The decision-making organs of IASC are the Council and the Executive Committee. The day-to-day operations of IASC are supported by its Secretariat headed by the Executive Secretary. IASC's geographical remit covers the Arctic Ocean and the surrounding landmasses.

2 Rationale for the MoU

The Parties share common goals of working internationally and across disciplines to increase our understanding of Earth's polar regions and their connections to the global system. IASC is an umbrella organization for Arctic scientists in all disciplines, and FARO brings together the organisations responsible for research operations, logistics and infrastructure in the Arctic. By means of this MoU, we aim to expand the capacity for planning and supporting of major international research initiatives that go beyond the capacity of uni- or bilateral efforts.

3 Terms of Agreement

This MoU identifies a joint commitment to support international Arctic research. To facilitate the process, FARO and IASC agree:

- I. to invite each other to attend meetings of their major bodies (FARO Plenary meeting and IASC Council);

- II. to encourage interaction of their relevant working groups and committees;
- III. that FARO contributes to the implementation of IASC activities by encouraging and facilitating multilateral collaborations on research infrastructure and operations;
- IV. that FARO and IASC work together to promote observing systems, data sharing, freedom for scientific exploration and international access, environmental awareness, and ethical conduct of science in the Arctic.

4 Financial Implications of the Agreement

The parties to this Agreement will continue to be responsible for the costs of their own activities, but this does not preclude one party meeting or contributing to the occasional or on-going costs of another activity if they so wish. Actual financial contributions to the activities and other implications of this MoU will be considered and agreed to by representatives of the Parties as they arise, and may be changed in accordance with the Parties requirements without any effect on the substance of this Agreement.

5 Non-binding Implications of the Agreement

This agreement is between FARO and IASC. It does not preclude the Parties agreeing to other Mo Us with other programs and organizations, or bilaterally between the Parties.

6 Duration, Revision and Termination of this MoU

This MoU remains in force for 5 years, at which time it will be reviewed for possible extension. No action by any of the parties will result in the cancellation of this MoU. The MoU may be revised at any time by mutual agreement between the Parties. Any of the parties may propose alterations to the MoU. Parties wishing to withdraw from this agreement should do so by a formal letter signed by the President/Chair and head organizational manager (i.e. Executive Secretary, Executive Director or Secretariat) of their respective organization.

Signed in Davos on 17 of June 2018 by:



James Drummond
Chair, FARO



Susan Barr
President, IASC