

# Working Procedures for the Arctic Science Funders Forum:

## Purpose

The Arctic Science Funders Forum (hereafter the Forum) is a multilateral, discussion platform, originating from the Arctic Science Ministerial (hereafter the ASM), for funders to initiate and investigate new and enhanced collaborative scientific activities in the Arctic.

The Forum will:

- Work as a soft coordination body by facilitating information sharing for information about national and international calls for Arctic research projects without creating additional administrative burden for the funding organisations.
- Develop bilateral and multilateral research funding programmes and calls, in accordance with the values and objectives outlined in the Joint Statement of Ministers from the Arctic Science Ministerial.
- Provide a venue for Forum participants to come together to consider “big ideas” (e.g., MOSAiC), be forward-leaning, and overcome obstacles to achieving the goals of the ASM.
- Serve as a means to communicate priorities, activities, and opportunities, thereby catalysing synergies and extra leverage on national funding. It also may help adapt and optimize funding calls (timing, priorities, requisites, etc.) from the parties prioritising international perspective.

The Forum itself is not a funding organisation and will not organise research calls or fund research projects, but its members are pivotal in funding or supporting Arctic science. Synergies with other international initiatives of funding or supporting agencies may also be explored. For further clarification, see Appendix 1.

## Participation

The Forum is voluntary and open to:

- Representatives of the Arctic science funding programmes of the governments and the six Arctic Indigenous Peoples Organisations that participated in ASM meetings.
- Up to two representatives of the leadership/secretariat of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), in an advisory and/or consultative role, while providing logistical support to the Forum.

## Function

Initially, the Forum will have a Chair appointed by the host country (or countries) of the upcoming ASM and a Vice Chair appointed by the host country (or countries) of the previous ASM. The rotation of the Chair may be revisited in future, see Appendix 2. The Chair will organize regular meetings of the Forum. Preferably one plenary per year will be conducted at an Arctic-related event, for example as a business meeting during Arctic Science Summit Week.

The secretariat duties of the Forum will be carried out by the host country of the upcoming ASM. In its initial phase, and as long as deemed necessary by the members of the Forum, the IASC secretariat will provide logistical support to the Forum. Governments that are engaged in the ASM process and interested in joining the Forum should consider appointing a representative from a national funding agency relevant to the Forum.

The Forum aims to implement its tasks efficiently, without creating additional burdens for the associated funding organisations.

### **Sharing Information about Funding Opportunities**

The Forum aims to play a relevant role in communicating Arctic research funding opportunities released by both Arctic and non-Arctic countries via a public webpage currently hosted by IASC.

### **Engaging Arctic Indigenous Peoples**

The participation of representatives of Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Organisations is strongly encouraged. The Forum should include Indigenous Peoples' research priorities.

### **Involvement of Additional Funders**

The Forum may consider developing strategies to engage with other Arctic science funding entities as appropriate, such as non-governmental foundations, non-profit organizations and private companies.

### **Data governance and Data access**

The Forum will encourage and advocate for ethically open access to fully inter-operable data.

### **Establishing Working Procedures**

The Working Procedures are established on a consensus basis, and are subject to revision, if to facilitate the purpose and function of the Forum.

## **Appendix**

The appendix was added to document points for future discussion after the establishment of the Working Procedures of the Forum.

1. As currently designed (with a membership that includes non-funders), the Forum is primarily a catalyst for conversation about research priorities, rather than a platform for concrete discussion about funding mechanisms. Such pre-decisional discussions would need to take place funder-to-funder, thus outside this Forum.
2. The Forum may function better, and be more sustainable as a ‘coalition of the willing’, rather than being dependent upon the host of the upcoming ASM. Forum leadership in the future might best be elected by its members, as is the leadership of FARO, and followed by a rotating elected chair.