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THE ARCTIC OBSERVING SUMMIT: AN ACTIVITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDY OF ARCTIC CHANGE AND A SAON TASK

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The International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC) is an internationally supported, long-term, cross-disciplinary Arctic environmental change program. ISAC promotes dialogue and collaboration among the research community and all sectors of stake- and right-holders. ISAC provides a framework for guiding pan-Arctic research planning, including the identification of emerging issues and research priorities, synthesis and timely access to scientific information. Core components of the ISAC programme include observing, understanding and responding to Arctic environmental change and the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) is part of the implementation of the ISAC 'observing change' component. The AOS is a SAON task led by ISAC. It is a biennial scientific meeting, Arctic community forum, and a workspace to broaden dialogue and foster the coordinated implementation of an adaptive, sustained, needs-based and solutions-oriented cross-component international, integrated Arctic observing system. Two AOS summits have been organized: the first in 2013 (Vancouver, Canada), and the 2nd in 2014 (Helsinki, Finland). A third is planned for 2016 in Fairbanks, USA. Here we discuss the needs and recommendations identified through discussions and working sessions that included the research community, decision-makers, indigenous organizations, and members of the private and public sectors during AOS 2013 and 2014. We include an overview of the status and capabilities of the Arctic observing system and of relevant networks as of 2014, report on the progress towards fulfilling recommendations from AOS2013/14, and highlight upcoming themes and goals for AOS 2016.