

# **LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH (SCAR), THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SCIENCE COMMITTEE (IASC), AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CRYOSPHERIC SCIENCES (IACS)**

## **1. Preamble**

In July 2008, following a period of enhanced collaboration during the International Polar Year 2007-2008, and with agreement by SCAR Delegates, the IASC Council, and the IACS Bureau, the Presidents of SCAR, IASC and IACS signed a Letter of Agreement. This letter recognised that the three organisations, each affiliated with the International Council for Science (ICSU), now the International Science Council (ISC), share a number of common interests and practices. The three organisations agreed to combine their efforts in selected fields and activities so as to raise the level of impact of all three organisations in terms of making scientific advances and of advising policy makers, as well as to avoid duplication. This agreement was re-signed in 2013 and continued for another five years, through 2018.

With the present letter SCAR, IASC and IACS agree to continue this partnership, taking into account the development of the three organisations as well as their collaboration in the past.

## **2. Common Interests and Practices**

The three organisations share a number of common interests and practices, which makes it relatively easy for them to work together, for example in arranging workshops, conferences, and reports on topics of mutual scientific interest, in developing integrated plans for cryospheric research, in communicating to the public on cryospheric issues, and in providing advice to policy makers.

## **3. Declaration of Intent**

SCAR, IASC and IACS intend to combine their efforts in cryospheric activities (to be decided by mutual agreement) so as to raise the level of impact of all three organisations in terms of making scientific advances and of advising policy makers, as well as to avoid duplication.

Combining efforts in selected fields and activities requires no change to the terms of reference of any of the three organisations.

To facilitate the process, SCAR, IASC and IACS agree to:

- (i) identify and encourage appropriate linkages between relevant SCAR, IASC, and IACS cryospheric science projects and working groups;
- (ii) encourage and support the cryospheric science communities to develop collaborative projects addressing both polar regions;
- (iii) contribute jointly to the pre-operational phase of the WMO Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW) by
  - a. jointly working towards the goal of establishing Best Practices for measurements of cryosphere variables as defined by GCW.
- (iv) explore synergies in communicating the relevance of cryospheric research to societal issues with the wider community. This will include:
  - a. providing advice to political entities such as the Arctic Council, the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and others; and
  - b. considering joint endorsement of the International Year of Snow and Ice that is proposed by UNESCO-IHP and WMO.
- (v) invite each other to attend the meetings of their major bodies (SCAR Delegates' Meeting, IASC Council and IACS Plenary Administrative Sessions);
- (vi) work together in arranging workshops, conferences, and reports on topics of cryospheric science interest;
- (vii) advertise each other's newsletters on their organisation's website.

The agreement will remain in force for 5 years, and thereafter be reviewed and continued as appropriate.

Signed



**Regine Hock**  
Digitally signed by Regine Hock  
DN: cn=Regine Hock, o, ou,  
email=rehock@alaska.edu,  
c=US  
Date: 2019.12.04 15:29:40  
+01'00'

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Larry Hinzman  
President, IASC  
[iasc.info](http://iasc.info)

Steven Chown  
President, SCAR  
[scar.org](http://scar.org)

Regine Hock  
President IACS  
[cryosphericsscience.org](http://cryosphericsscience.org)

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