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International Polar Year 2032-33 **Update**

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Summary

In September 2022, the SCAR Delegates expressed support for a future IPY and endorsed the creation of an internal planning group within SCAR to participate in the planning discussions of the wider polar community. Aside from the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and SCAR, the initial planning efforts for the 5th IPY are currently supported by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Science Council (ISC), University of the Arctic, International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and other partners worldwide representing both poles. This paper provides an update on discussions to date and on next steps.

Progress to Date

In September 2022, the SCAR Delegates expressed support for a future IPY and endorsed the creation of an IPY planning committee within SCAR to participate in the planning discussions of the wider polar community. Delegates also supported the holding of a joint SCAR-IASC Polar Conference in 2030 in the lead up to the 5th IPY. Since the Delegates meeting, a number of further meetings have taken place:

In December 2022, SCAR and IASC issued a joint statement to confirm that preparatory work had started. In February 2023, informal discussions involving SCAR, IASC, the European Polar Board (EPB), ISC and other stakeholders were held at Arctic Science Summit Week to coordinate the next steps in the planning process.

A meeting was convened by IASC and SCAR on 20th June 2023 at which the development of a timeline for the next IPY, and a concept note, were discussed. The meeting was attended by all the organisations involved in the initial planning efforts to date. Other issues discussed included the need to map out resource requirements and planning for a possible programme office or secretariat, and the need to connect and align with other major international initiatives such as the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

From the SCAR side, the meeting was attended by a group of representatives from the SCAR secretariat and Executive Committee, the three science groups, SC-ATS, SCAGI and SC-HASS, as well as SOOS and ICED.

Future Plans

It is envisaged that the timeline and concept note will be finalised by mid-October 2023. They will be used to initiate a public consultation phase with a wider group of polar stakeholders. Key events at which to promote the future IPY over the coming year include the 2023 Arctic Circle meeting and in 2024, Arctic Science Summit Week and the SCAR Open Science Conference as well as meetings of the Antarctic Treaty. SCAR, IASC and partners will also reach out to other major international initiatives such as the UN Decade of Ocean Science to ensure that the activities are connected and aligned. As the current timeline envisages establishment of a program office as early as 2025, efforts will also need to be dedicated to mapping out resource requirements and potential sources of funding.