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Person Responsible: Jefferson Simões

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SCAR Membership, current and potential members, and status of membership arrears

Report Author(s)

Jefferson Simões, Rosemary Nash and Eoghan Griffin

Summary

The membership of SCAR currently comprises 45 National Members and 9 Union Members. Following the conversations maintained in the last couple of years, 2 new countries have put applications together for this Delegates meeting to join SCAR. Increasing the membership of SCAR has obvious advantages, both by engaging more countries in Antarctic Science and SCAR as well as increasing SCAR revenue.

Recommendations

With regard to current membership, those associate members that have already consolidated Antarctic research activities should be encouraged to become full members.

Contact with potential future members of SCAR should continue, including those contacted before as well as other potential interested countries.

New Membership

SCAR welcomes the applications from Luxembourg and the United Arab Emirates to become new associate members of SCAR this year.

Associate Members

Associate Members status is not meant to be a permanent membership level. Countries enter as Associate Members and then, after a few years, should be encouraged to move up to full members. Associate members are currently: Austria, Belarus, Colombia, Denmark, Iran, Mexico, Monaco, Pakistan, Romania, Thailand and Venezuela. Letters should be sent to these members before the end of 2022 encouraging them to consider their possible application to become full members in 2024.

After the next 4 years, SCAR might want to consider also encouraging members who joined this year to become full members as well.

Expanding Membership

SCAR should encourage the Asian Forum for Polar Sciences to help facilitate AFoPS observers who are not members of SCAR to join. These countries are: Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam.

SCAR should reach out to members of the Antarctic Treaty System that are not members of SCAR: Cuba, Estonia (was a member from 1992-2001), Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Korea (DPRK), Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and the Slovak Republic.

There was a request from Saudi Arabia to attend the 2016 SCAR Delegates Meeting as an observer and contact should be maintained.

Members in Arrears

Venezuela

At present the National Contributions since 2015 from Venezuela have not been received, however there has been positive communication through 2022 including a meeting with the SCAR VP for Finance and the Secretariat in July 2022.

Recommendations/Actions:

Delegates are asked to take note and discuss what steps should be taken next for each member, for cases not resolved before the meeting, and to keep in mind the rules and procedures of SCAR, particularly dealing with voting rights.