

EXECUTIVE PANEL OF THE GLOBAL SPACE-BASED INTER-CALIBRATION SYSTEM (GSICS)

SECOND MEETING, Geneva, 24 April 2007

FINAL REPORT

Participants: Mitch Goldberg (Chairman), Kazutoshi Onogi (representing Toshiyuki Kurino), Johannes Schmetz, Jérôme Lafeuille.

1. GSICS status overview

M. Goldberg reported on the development of the GSICS website, the first issue of GSICS quarterly Newsletter and recalled the status of LEO-LEO activities within NESDIS.

J. Schmetz briefly indicated the status and short-term plans of EUMETSAT intercalibration activities and raised some issues linked with the implementation of actions agreed by the GRWG. He recalled the CGMS recommendation for adequate resources and mentioned a recruitment action undertaken by EUMETSAT in this respect.

2. Report form GRWG and GDWG

M. Goldberg summarized the outcome of the first meeting of the GSICS Research Working Group (GRWG-1) held in Camp Springs on 22-23 January 2007. The meeting involved a large number of experts beyond the nominated GRWG Members, and the discussion was rich and productive.

J. Schmetz recalled that EUMETSAT would host the joint meeting of GRWG and GDWG in Darmstadt on 12-14 June 2007. Invitations had been sent out by EUMETSAT in coordination with WMO. The Panel stressed that the agenda of the joint GRWG-GDWG meeting should be rapidly finalized by the 2 Chairpersons, taking due account of any recommendations from this Second Executive Panel meeting.

Action EXP2.1: GRWG and GDWG chairpersons, in consultation with WMO, to finalize the agenda of the joint GRWG-GDWG meeting by 15 May.

The Panel welcomed the large participation of experts in the GRWG and GDWG, as deemed appropriate by the relevant Chairpersons. The Panel noted that some organizations had nominated several permanent members in these groups and agreed that points of contacts should be clearly identified in order to guarantee proper information flow and action tracking within GSICS contributing organizations.

Action EXP2.2: WMO to invite each GSICS Member to identify a primary point of contact for its participation in each GSICS group in order to facilitate project management and information flow.

Action EXP2.3: The Panel recommended that major exchange of information with GRWG and GDWG Members is systematically copied to the relevant Executive Panel Members and to WMO Space Programme acting as GSICS Secretariat.

3. Review of GSICS Operations Plan for 2007

Communication and coordination

The Chairman indicated that he would participate in a meeting of the Working Group on Calibration and Validation of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS Cal-Val) immediately following the GRWG-GDWG meeting. The Panel welcomed this opportunity for closer coordination between GSICS and CEOS. The Panel also welcomed contacts made with ISCCP.

Action EXP2.4: The Chairman to invite the Director of ISCCP at the 3rd Executive Panel.

As concerns CGMS 35 it was recommended that each GSICS Member reports on its own technical activities and that the project level activities are reported through a WMO paper to be jointly prepared by WMO and the Chairman. As concerns CEOS-21, WMO was invited to briefly report on GSICS as part of its update on the WMO Space Programme activities.

The Panel thanked NESDIS for the development of the website and recommended including links to relevant web pages of other GSICS Members. The Panel welcomed the first Newsletter and encouraged its wide distribution. The GCC was invited to maintain an e-mail distribution list of persons interested to receive it. The Panel agreed that, as a rule, the Newsletter should be sent to the Executive Panel Members for review 2 weeks prior to its open distribution.

Software

The Panel confirmed the approach taken by GRWG that GSICS Members would initially share a “pseudo-code” (e.g. in terms of collocation criteria) but would develop on this basis their own software adapted to their own computer and software environment. However, this strategy should be reviewed in future with the potential to save software development effort if portability can be achieved.

Data

For the exchange of datasets between GCC and GPRC it was recommended to carefully define the level and format to be adapted. The Panel recalled the Terms of Reference of the GDWG which include “to specify formats and procedures for exchange of data” and “to oversee and coordinate data management activities”. The Panel was confident that GDWG would take due account of IT security constraints.

The Panel agreed that GDWG should validate the definition, structure and format of the dataset to be made available to GPRC, in coordination with GCC. It should also provide guidance for algorithm version control and documentation management, as appropriate.

The Panel recommended that the Spectral Response Functions (SRF) be shared among GSICS Members through the GSICS website.

Overall plan

The Panel reviewed the draft operations plan provided by the GCC and adopted the first version of the *GSICS Operations Plan*, covering 2007 and 2008 (GSICS_Operations-Plan_v1.xls).

4. Next Executive Panel meeting

The 3rd Executive Panel Meeting will be held in the USA on 1-2 November 2007 prior to the 35th CGMS plenary meeting.