

RARS IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

**First Meeting
(Geneva, 3-4 July 2007)**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. A RARS Implementation Group is established by the WMO Space Programme in order to support the development and implementation of a global network of Regional ATOVS Retransmission Services (RARS) as discussed by the Consultative Meeting on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters¹, the Commission for Basic Systems², the Executive Council³ and the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS.)
2. Building on the model of the EUMETSAT ATOVS Retransmission Service (EARS) the goal of the global RARS network is to improve availability and timeliness of critical polar-orbiting satellite data from the global domain through the collection and redistribution of data sets acquired from multiple receiving stations that are coordinated and inter-connected. The WMO Space Programme is pursuing RARS activities as part of the Integrated Global Data Dissemination Service (IGDDS) project.
3. The objective of the RARS Implementation Group is to coordinate and facilitate:
 - Establishment of new RARS to expand the RARS network towards global coverage;
 - Inter-regional data exchange of RARS data;
 - Standardization in the areas of e.g:
 - product processing software usage;
 - product formats;
 - quality-tagging of data;
 - service management.
 - Ensuring consistency with the IGDDS concept;
 - Expansion of data types to be retransmitted as part of the global RARS network;
 - Reviewing the RARS concept to ensure it fulfils regional and global requirements for improved timeliness of critical LEO data.
4. The RARS Implementation Group shall be composed of technical experts designated by organizations contributing to the global RARS network, planning or considering to contribute to it, and of supporting staff from the WMO Space Programme.
5. The RARS Implementation Group will meet nominally once a year and report on its activities to CGMS and WMO.
6. Unless otherwise agreed, the RARS Implementation group will cease its activities when its objectives will be completed or handed over to a new structure ensuring operational coordination of activities in the longer term.

¹ CM-5, January 2005

² CBS XIII, St Petersburg, February-March 2005, item 6.10

³ EC 57, Geneva, June-July 2005, item 3.10.7