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CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS
ON HIGH-LEVEL POLICY ON SATELLITE MATTERS

ITEM: 2

ELEVENTH SESSION

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 19 MAY 2011

Original: ENGLISH

ACTIONS DERIVING FROM CM-10

(Submitted by the WMO Secretariat)

Summary and Purpose of Document

The document reports on the status of actions initiated in response to the conclusions of the tenth session.

All actions and recommendations from CM-10 have been addressed.

ACTION PROPOSED

The eleventh session is invited to take note.

REPORT

Introduction

1. The tenth session of the Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters (CM-10) identified a number of recommendations on the various topics it addressed. The status of progress on these recommendations is recalled below.

Status of actions and recommendations from CM-10

2. "Having regard to the importance of Earth Observation satellites for WMO programmes and the major investment they represent for WMO Members, CM-10 recommended that satellite matters be given greater visibility in the meetings and deliberations of WMO bodies, including the Executive Council and the Congress."

Status: This recommendation from CM-10 was discussed, and well received by the sixty-second session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-LXII). The Council recommended, and the Secretariat responded by creating a separate agenda item and document for the WMO Space Programme. At the upcoming Sixteenth WMO Congress (Cg-XVI), document 3.7 will be presented and deliberated. Appreciation is extended, in particular to EUMETSAT, for their active engagement and intervention at EC-LXII regarding this issue.

3. "CM-10 recommends to the Executive Council to consider including Space Weather in the Space Programme activities for the 2012-2015 WMO Budget."

Status: Following CM-10, EC-LXII considered this recommendation. While much discussion was held, it was ultimately not accepted largely on grounds of limited resources and not all of the National Meteorological Services (NMSs) have Space Weather responsibilities. The Cg-XVI Side Event on Space Weather held on 17 May 2011, was intended to increase awareness of the importance of Space Weather events to WMO Members, regardless of their agency-specific mandates.

4. "Recognizing the significance of ocean surface wind data acquired from scatterometry, CM-10 encouraged all interested parties to work together expeditiously to ensure restoration of such data streams and maximize its availability."

Status: This issue was discussed by the ET-SAT and CGMS meetings. For the coming years, scatterometer data will continue to be provided on an operational basis by the METOP-A,B,C series. ISRO, in cooperation with EUMETSAT, intends to provide Oceansat-2 scatterometer data in near-real time. ROSHYDROMET plans a scatterometer on Meteor-M 3 to be flown in 2015. CMA indicated plans, under consideration, to disseminate HY-2A scatterometer data over CMACast.

5. "Space agencies to consider the 2010 Update of the GCOS Implementation Plan when developing and reviewing their individual and collective plans in support of climate."

Status: The CEOS Climate SBA Team Leader, in coordination with the CEOS Working Group on Climate, is leading the development of the CEOS response to the update of the GCOS Implementation Plan in 2010. The Climate SBA Team Leader has also taken the opportunity to brief CGMS, so that the CEOS-led response can also include activities of space agencies who are members of CGMS. The CEOS-led response is a priority in 2011.

6. "It is recommended that space agency activities in response to UNFCCC COP-15 decisions related to satellite observations (on Systematic Observation, and on Methodological Guidance for Activities related to REDD) should be coordinated where appropriate."

Status: A decision on systematic climate observations (Decision 9/CP.15), adopted by the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15) held in Copenhagen in December 2009, contains provisions to further enhance climate observations, including through observations from space, coordinated through the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), and activities to be undertaken by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS). In particular, the decision encourages CEOS to continue coordinating and supporting the space-based component of the GCOS and other related activities to meet relevant needs of the Convention.

The SBSTA-33, at COP-16 in December 2010, welcomed the *Update of the Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC* (hereinafter referred to as the 2010 updated GCOS implementation plan), submitted by the GCOS Secretariat and prepared under the guidance of the GCOS Steering Committee in response to the invitation extended to GCOS through decision 9/CP.15.

The SBSTA-33 welcomed the coordinated response by CEOS to the relevant needs of the GCOS implementation plan and those of the Convention, and the progress and commitment by space agencies involved in climate observations to address the space-based component of the GCOS and improve climate monitoring capabilities from space on a sustained basis. The SBSTA encouraged Parties that support space agencies involved in global observations to continue, through CEOS, cooperation with and support to the GCOS and to respond to the relevant needs identified in the 2010 updated GCOS implementation plan. It invited CEOS to provide, by SBSTA-37, an updated report on progress made on major achievements in relevant areas.

The CEOS Climate SBA Team Leader participated at the workshop on the update of the satellite supplement to the GCOS Implementation Plan 2010, 10-12 January 2011, Geneva.

7. "Space agencies are encouraged to follow the GCOS Guideline (GCOS-128) in all their climate dataset-related programme activities, and to provide for adequate resources in their funding schemes to enable such documentation be prepared and made available on a systematic basis."

Status: No detailed information available. Space agencies have agreed, in principle, to follow, to the extent possible, the GCOS Guideline (GCOS-128).

8. "Space agencies to instigate and strengthen international scientific working groups performing inter-comparisons and effective peer-review of algorithms, datasets and products for climate."

Status: At its 24th Plenary, CEOS expressed its support for this initiative. In particular, ESA is supporting this activity within its Climate Change Initiative (CCI), and EUMETSAT sent a letter of support, and a second letter with a detailed response in July 2010 to the GCOS Secretariat. Additionally, the WCRP-GCOS WOAP workshop of the evaluation of satellite-related global climate datasets was hosted by ESA/ESRIN, at their facilities in Frascati, Italy, 18-20 April 2011. The recent efforts of SCOPE-CM to include WCRP/GEWEX representation on its Executive Board has also gone a long way to increasing collaboration and coordination of the research community into the product-generation efforts of the SCOPE-CM projects.

9. "Recalling the benefit of missions in HEO as an important supplement to geostationary and LEO missions for the monitoring of a number of important phenomena as mentioned in the Vision of the GOS to 2025, as well as other applications such as Space Weather, CM-10 strongly supports the plans made by Canada and the Russian Federation regarding the PCW and Arctica missions and encouraged cooperation between these two projects along the lines identified by the IGEOLAB HEO meeting."

Status: In 2010 the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) participated, as an observer, in the 38th session of CGMS, whereby informal bilateral meetings were held with ROSCOSMOS and ROSHYDROMET regarding their respective plans for missions in HEO. There are no formal IGEOLAB HEO meetings scheduled for 2011, but the two countries may have additional informal discussions planned.

CONCLUSIONS

10. All actions and/or recommendations have been addressed.
