

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

Distr.: RESTRICTED

WMO (CM-12/Doc. 1.2(2))
(12.VI.2014)

CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS
ON HIGH-LEVEL POLICY ON SATELLITE MATTERS

ITEM: 1.2

TWELFTH SESSION

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 21 JUNE 2014

Original: ENGLISH

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Objectives of the session

The role of the Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters (CM) is to support a high-level dialogue between the environmental satellite community and WMO representatives (including the President, Vice-Presidents, Presidents of Technical Commissions and Regional Associations, Secretary-General and Directors). As decided by the Executive Council (EC-62 Res.12) the CM session is normally held every two years, in conjunction with Executive Council or Congress. The CM is expected to provide broad policy overview of the WMO Space Programme and strategic guidance on satellite matters in general.

The twelfth session will focus on two topics:

- (i) Climate monitoring from space and related data policy considerations.
This topic is of particular importance in the context of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), noting the increasing role of space-based observation in climate monitoring, and the need to ensure the sustained generation of satellite-based climate data records within the Architecture for Climate Monitoring from Space.
- (ii) Socio-economic benefits of satellite programmes.
As WMO Members and their space agencies have to manage priorities in an increasingly resource-constrained environment, it is of utmost importance to evaluate and document the socio-economic benefit of space programmes in order to assist the decision process of satellite programmes in an optimal way. In particular, socio-economic benefit assessments should provide an objective basis to inform the process of transitioning mature Research and Development capabilities to an operational status.

The outcomes of the session should be brought to the attention of relevant WMO constituent bodies for consideration and/or action.

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1.1 Opening of the session

The session will be held on Saturday 21 June 2014, at WMO Headquarters, Salle B (Ground floor). It will be chaired by Dr David Grimes, President of WMO.

Registration of participants will start at 9:00. The meeting will start at 9:30 with opening remarks by the President and the Secretary-General of WMO.

1.2 Adoption of the agenda

The session will be invited to adopt the provisional agenda contained in Document 1.2 (1). All available working documents and reference documents will be posted on the CM-12 document web page: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/meetings/CM-12.php> .

2. PROGRESS ON THE SPACE-BASED ARCHITECTURE FOR CLIMATE MONITORING, AND ASSOCIATED DATA POLICIES

2.1 Update on Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and preliminary outcome of the WMO EC Task Team on the WMO Policy for International Exchange of Climate Data and Products to support the implementation of GFCS

An update on GFCS will be provided by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS). The session will also be informed on the progress of the Executive Council Working Group on Climate and related Weather, Water and Environmental Matters (ECWG-CWE).

The session will be informed on the preliminary outcome of the EC Task Team on the WMO Policy for International Exchange of Climate Data and Products to Support the Implementation of the GFCS. The session will be invited to provide feedback on the proposals put forward by this EC Task Team, from a satellite operators' perspective.

2.2 Progress report on development of the Architecture for Climate Monitoring from Space, data preservation and data policy

Space-based observation is playing an increasing role in climate monitoring, thanks to the length of historical satellite data records, improvement of satellite observation capabilities, improved calibration, increased maturity of satellite data processing and re-processing, and improved use of satellite data in model analysis and reanalysis. The WMO Congress has adopted Resolution 19 (Cg-16) on the development of an Architecture for Climate Monitoring from Space. In response, a report on "Strategy towards an Architecture for Climate Monitoring from Space" was jointly prepared by representatives of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) and the WMO Space Programme Office.

A brief update will be given on this strategy and subsequent actions.

The Chair of the CEOS-CGMS Working Group on Climate will then present his views on the progress and future plans for the Architecture.

2.3 Presentations by Satellite Operators and Space Agencies on responses to the Architecture and associated data policies

A report will be presented by the European Space Agency (ESA) on the ESA Climate Change Initiative and related issues such as long-term data preservation.

A report will be presented by Canada on the Polar Communications and Weather Mission, its status and potential contribution to the space-based architecture for climate monitoring.

2.4 Discussion and conclusions

In the discussion, the session will be invited to express feedback on the presentations and provide guidance for the development of the Architecture for Climate Monitoring from Space.

The meeting will be invited to discuss, for instance, the following points:

- The general approach of international exchange of climate data and products;
- Current space agency practices for archive data access and distribution;
- The climate relevant “essential data” in the sense of Resolution 40 and Resolution 25;
- The specific constraints of climate data record generation from space-based observations;
- The importance of metadata and long-term data preservation;
- The development of the physical architecture by satellite operators for supporting the GFCS requirements;
- Any other issue arising from the presentations;
- Suggested actions and recommendations.

3. SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF SPACE PROGRAMMES

3.1 Progress report from the Tiger Team on socio-economic benefits from space programmes

The Chair of the Socio-Economic Benefit Tiger Team (SETT) established by CGMS will report on the progress of this team and its short- and medium-term plans.

3.2 Presentations by Satellite Operators and Space Agencies on socio-economic benefit studies

EUMETSAT, JMA, NOAA/NESDIS and CMA will report on the studies they have performed on socio-economic benefits of satellite programmes and will share their experience in this area.

3.3 Discussion and Conclusions

The session will be invited to exchange views on the basis of the presentations, and to provide guidance to the WMO Space Programme for further activities in this respect.

In particular, the session may wish to provide guidance in terms of:

- Evaluation methodology and best practices;
- Target applications to be considered for business cases;
- The role of impact evaluation workshops;
- Further studies involving more space agencies;
- Communication actions (including e.g. contribution to possible Meteorological Socio-economic Conference);
- Other actions and recommendations.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Other issues, as agreed by the Chair, can be raised under this agenda item.

5. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The session is expected to close at 16:30.
