

COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS
OPEN PROGRAMME AREA GROUP ON INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

ITEM: 1.3

EXPERT TEAM ON SATELLITE SYSTEMS
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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

(Submitted by Jack A. Kaye (NASA), Chairman of ET-SAT)

Summary and Purpose of Document

This document highlights the main activities related to ET-SAT since the eighth meeting and provides the Chairman's views on the future role and work plan of ET-SAT.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Expert Team is invited to take note.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF ET-SAT

1. MAIN ACTIVITIES SINCE ET-SAT-8

1.1. ET-SAT virtual meetings

After the eighth meeting held in Geneva from 28 to 30 May 2013 (See: [ET-SAT-8 Final Report](#)) the team has held two virtual meetings on 21 January and 11 February 2014, to provide guidance and review the report of the analysis of FCDRs as an input to the climate monitoring architecture.

The virtual meeting scheduled on 18 and 19 March was postponed to 9 May and focused on finalizing the gap analysis for submission to CGMS.

A virtual meeting was held on 22 October to prepare the ET-SAT-9 discussion on the Vision for 2040.

1.2. ET-SAT representation in other meetings

The report on the analysis of FCDRs availability was presented remotely by the Secretariat to the Joint CGMS-CEOS Working group on Climate (JWG-Climate) on 5-7 March.

ET-SAT was represented by Sid Boukabara (NOAA) at the Inter-Programme Expert Team on Observing System Design and Evolution (IPET-OSDE) in Geneva on 31 March-3 April 2014.

I presented (remotely) a report on ET-SAT activities at the 8th Implementation-Coordination Team on Integrated Observing Systems (ICT-IOS-8) on 7-10 April, including an updated work plan and a proposal to update the Terms of Reference of ET-SAT (See: [Report of ET-SAT](#)).

The Gap Analysis was presented to the CGMS Working Group III (Operational continuity and contingency planning) by the WMO Secretariat on 20 May.

1.3. Main outcomes

- The outcome of the study of FCDRs potentially provided by CGMS planned missions was finalized.
- The Gap Analysis with respect to the CGMS baseline was updated.
- The recommendation to update the Vision of the space-based observing system was endorsed, and subsequent actions were taken by CBS.
- The Terms of Reference of ET-SAT have been updated.

2. ROLE OF ET-SAT

The ET-SAT occupies a unique niche among the constellation of coordinating groups that bring together agencies involved in the provision and utilization of space-based remote sensing observations to study the Earth's environment.

The ET-SAT is part of the Open Programme Area on Integrated Observing Systems (OPAG-IOS), together with the Inter-Programme Expert Team on Satellite Utilization and Products (IPET-SUP), the Inter-Programme Expert Team on Observing System Design and Evolution

(IPET-OSDE) and other expert teams focusing on surface-based observation. The ET-SAT and these other teams all report up to the WMO Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) through the Implementation-Coordination Team on Integrated Observing Systems (ICT-IOS).

By virtue of its organization under the auspices of WMO and specifically the OPAG-IOS, the ET-SAT is positioned both to inform the WMO Programme areas and the WMO leadership and staff about the actual and potential satellite capabilities, and to hear from these programmes, in particular through the IPET-SUP and IPET-OSDE, how satellite observations are most contributing to their activities, and ultimately meeting the needs of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and other users, and to investigate how satellite and surface-based observations can best complement each other in an integrated system. The ET-SAT contributes to a three-way dialogue between the satellite data provision agencies, the providers of surface-based observations, and the WMO Members using these data to provide meteorological and other environmental information to their nation's citizens, businesses, and government.

These characteristics separate ET-SAT from other organizations in which many of its member agencies are also involved, such as the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) and the Coordination Group on Meteorological Satellites (CGMS). For those agencies which participate in several of these groups, the ET-SAT members interact closely with their agencies' representatives to those groups, so that information flow is efficient, and the synergies of these several groups can be identified and captured.

3. FUTURE WORK PLAN

Three main activities shall be pursued in 2015, in accordance with the new Terms of Reference:

- Vision of WIGOS space-based components in 2040: It is anticipated that ET-SAT will have to contribute to the development and finalization of the new Vision, once the various inputs will be consolidated by IPET-OSDE.
- Gap Analysis: It is the primary task of ET-SAT to assess the actual and planned capabilities of the satellite agencies represented therein. The capabilities should ultimately be documented in OSCAR and evaluated, taking into account not only the plans of ET-SAT member agencies but also those from non-participating agencies whose plans they are aware (e.g., those participating in the CEOS constellations)..
- Support to the development of the Architecture for Climate Monitoring from Space (recognizing also that this item has a strong overlap with the two above).

4. CONCLUSION

The ET-SAT is actively working to facilitate a dialogue between, satellite providers, satellite users, and the wider WMO system, enabling improved information flow among all, and taking care to avoid duplication of effort with other existing entities (especially CEOS and CGMS). The ET-SAT will report up through the ICT-IOS to the CBS, helping to assure that matters related to satellite data receive full visibility and coordination by WMO and, through it, by the many NMHSs that participate in it. ET-SAT can thus also inform activities of the WMO Space Programme and provide information that WMO leadership and staff can use in planning for the WMO's Consultative Meeting on High Level Policy on Satellite Matters.
