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

EXPERT TEAM ON SATELLITE UTILIZATION AND PRODUCTS

ITEM: 1.2

EIGHTH SESSION

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 14-17 APRIL 2014

Original: ENGLISH

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1.1 Opening of the session

The meeting will open at 9.00 on Monday 14 April 2014 in Room 7 Lake in WMO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland. Registration will take place as of 8.30. The meeting will be chaired by Anthony Rea (Australian Bureau of Meteorology).

The objective of this eighth session is to advance the 2012-2014 work programme defined by CBS at its 15th session in 2012, in particular: global and regional data exchange issues; technical and programmatic aspects of satellite data distribution and access; simplifying the use of data formats and visualization tools; SCOPE mechanisms for consistent product generation; impact of satellite data for selected applications including the GFCS priority areas; preparing users to the new generation of satellites; training and education. The work of ET-SUP supports all WMO programmes and co-sponsored programmes such as WCRP and GCOS.

1.2 Adoption of the agenda

A provisional agenda was developed by the ET-SUP Chair and the Secretariat. The agenda, as contained in ET-SUP-7/Doc. 1.2(1), will be submitted to the session for adoption. The order and timing of agenda items may be modified and additional agenda items may be introduced if agreed by the participants.

1.3 Working arrangements for the session

The work of the session will be conducted in Plenary and in break-out groups as required (Rooms 7 Jura and 8 Jura are available). The session and the related documentation will be in English only. Working documents will be available before the meeting, in electronic form only, through the ET-SUP-8 web page: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/meetings/ET-SUP-8.php>.

The session will decide on other arrangements for the session such as its working hours, as indicated in the agenda.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The ET-SUP Chairman will provide his views and priorities in advancing the Team's work programme, and specific guidance for the session. This report will also include a status report on the Actions committed to by the Team.

3. GUIDANCE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF OPAG IOS

The Chairperson of the CBS Open Programme Area Group on Integrated Observing Systems (OPAG IOS), Jochen Dibbern, in coordination with the Chair, will inform the Expert Team on his expectations from ET-SUP in the context of OPAG IOS.

4. OUTCOME OF RELEVANT MEETINGS

The Secretariat provides a briefing on results of meetings relevant to the session, such as: the 65th session of Executive Council; the 41st session of CGMS; the first session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services; the 3rd session of the Inter-Commission Coordination Group on the WIGOS; the first session of the Expert Team on Observing System Design and Evolution (IPET-OSDE); and the 8th session of the Implementation/Coordination Team on the Integrated Observing System (ICT-IOS).

5. DATA EXCHANGE: GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ASPECTS

Under this item, the session discusses reports on global and regional efforts to determine user requirements for access to satellite data and products, including existing coordination mechanisms. This involves the North America-Europe Data Exchange (NAEDEX) and Asia-Pacific Satellite Data Exchange and Utilisation (APSDEU) mechanisms, as well as WMO Region-based coordination initiatives in Region I, II, III/IV, and V. In addition, participants are encouraged to raise specific issues or problems of data exchange, especially concerning near-real time access to data from R&D satellites.

6. DATA DISSEMINATION AND ACCESS

This agenda item will address both strategic and technical aspects of data dissemination, and mechanisms for data access (with focus on near-real time). A proposal for an updated Integrated Global Data Dissemination Strategy (IGDDS) will be provided, the status of satellite datasets registered in the WMO Information System (WIS) discussed, and Regional ATOVS Retransmission Service (RARS) issues elaborated. Participants will be briefed on availability of the various DVB-S/S2-based dissemination services, in GEONETCast and beyond. The Secretariat plans to present the online resources made available on the WMO website to facilitate access to satellite information and data (OSCAR; Product Access Guide; Data Access pages). The Team will be asked to provide detailed feedback to these resources.

7. DATA FORMATS AND VISUALIZATION

Satellite data come in various representations and (metadata) formats which sometimes poses challenges to their utility and access by satellite data users, especially those in less developed countries. Recognizing the WMO standard data formats (BUFR, GRIB, CREX), this session discusses ideas for consistent, interoperable and potentially simpler satellite data formats. Availability of processing and visualization tools for satellite data is an aspect of their usability and shall be discussed using regional examples.

8. SCOPE MECHANISMS

This item presents two WMO-led initiatives aiming at sustained, coordinated processing of environmental satellite data, with (8.1) targeting the use of satellite products in nowcasting applications, and (8.2) focussing on the generation of climate data records and elevating the scientific and operational maturity of such records. The plans for Pilot Project 2 of SCOPE-Nowcasting on consistent generation of volcanic ash products and necessary algorithm intercomparisons will be discussed in detail.

9. SATELLITE APPLICATIONS

The impact of satellite and other data sources on NWP is subject of regular assessments, and the session intends to highlight the latest developments in this area. It should be elaborated to what extent these assessments can be objective (in terms of global/regional scope, diagnostic tools such as Forecast Sensitivity to Observations; metrics). Since the impact of satellite data on climate applications is much harder to quantify, thoughts on possible approaches are invited.

Furthermore, the session will highlight developments in the areas of marine applications (within the WMO/IOC Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology, JCOMM), disaster response and the International Charter on Major Disasters, and atmospheric composition. A presentation by IMD covers the utility of satellite data for tracking and forecasting the tropical storm Phailin in the Indian Ocean in 2013.

10. PREPARING USERS TO NEW SATELLITES

A major focus of the session is how to support users in preparing for the upcoming new generation of satellites that will be launched before the end of this decade, with an initial focus on meteorological, geostationary satellites. Representatives from satellite operators will be invited to provide an update on their programmes (Himawari-8, GOES-R, FY-4A, MTG, INSAT-3D), with primary interest in user preparation programmes. Participants are expected to report on preparation efforts within their institutions. The Secretariat will present the online Satellite User Readiness Navigator portal (SATURN) and a user perspective on upcoming non-geostationary satellites of major importance to WMO Programmes.

11. INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUPS (UPDATE)

This item will provide reports from the 3rd workshop of the International Radio Occultation Working Group (IROWG) held in September 2013, and the 19th International TOVS Study Conference (ITSC; 26 March – 1 April 2014).

12. ARCHITECTURE FOR CLIMATE MONITORING FROM SPACE: USER CASE STUDIES

The session will discuss progress with developing user case studies for the priority areas of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). These studies are intended to investigate the climate service requirements of users (for example those recognized in the publication *Climate ExChange*) and then trace back the impact of satellite data (ECV products, FCDRs, sensors) to these services. These user case studies will be essential to demonstrate the link between the Architecture for Climate Monitoring from Space and the GFCS. Work undertaken in the CGMS Tiger Team on Socio-Economic Benefits of Satellites will also be considered in this context.

13. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The session will review the overall progress made in training and education on satellite applications: status of the Virtual Laboratory for Education and Training in Satellite Meteorology (VLab) over the past year, in particular the range of global and regional training events (partly in cooperation with the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)), preparation for the 7th meeting of the Virtual Lab Management Group. ET-SUP will also be invited to endorse the proposal for a new co-chair for the VLab, aimed to replace a current co-chair who is stepping down. Selected training activities by CMA, ROSHYDROMET and COMET will also be discussed.

14. NEXT WMO SATELLITE USER SURVEY

Participants are invited to discuss scope, approach, format, and timing of a next WMO survey on the use of satellite data, taking into account previous ET-SUP guidance and regional user surveys.

15. ET-SUP COMMUNICATION PLAN

This item will discuss the idea of a communication plan and outreach strategy for ET-SUP.

16. UPDATE ON FORTHCOMING EVENTS

This agenda item consists of brief reports on:

- The 2014 NOAA GOES-R User Readiness Conference
- The 5th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users Conference in China, and associated events (October 2014)
- The 2014 EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite Conference in Geneva, Switzerland
- The Climate Research and Earth Observations Symposium 2014

Participants are invited to announce other events as appropriate. The group will also be informed of the plans for the 42nd session of the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites, held in Guangzhou, China, 19-23 May 2014, and related WMO input to the session.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

18. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT

The Secretariat will provide a draft report of the session, for initial feedback by participants.

19. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting will decide on the date, venue and scope of its next session.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The session is tentatively scheduled to close at 15.00 on Thursday, 17 April 2014.
