

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

IPET-SUP-4/Doc. 11.3
(20.1.2018)

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

INTER-PROGRAMME EXPERT TEAM ON SATELLITE UTILIZATION AND
PRODUCTS

ITEM: 11.3

FOURTH SESSION

Original: ENGLISH

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 26 FEBRUARY – 1 MARCH 2018

Surface Remote Sensing / Soil Moisture Int'l Community Building

(Submitted by Stephen English)

Summary and Purpose of Document

This paper is to provide information on the status of developments for the efforts to improve coordination of science requirements in the surface remote sensing communities.

ACTION PROPOSED

The second session is invited to:

- (a) Provide critical feedback on coordination efforts to the surface remote sensing community

DISCUSSION

Introduction

1. Dr. Gianpaolo Balsamo and Dr. Benjamin Ruston organised a Land Surface Working Group meeting at Monterey 19-20 July 2017. Outcomes were reported to the ITSC-21 meeting and a follow up meeting is being planned for Lisbon 26-28th June 2018 (2.5 days). More information about this group can be found at <http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/iswg/meetings/2017/>.
2. The 2017 meeting had sessions on land surface modelling, soil moisture, snow applications and land surface classification. Speakers came from North America, Europe and Asia. The group aims to engage a broader cross section of the community and plans to continue to have short but frequent meetings to try and gain wide acceptance as an international science group for land surface.
3. The group builds on an effort of a sub-group (Remote Sensing and Modelling of Surface Properties) of the ITWG which has organised four workshops over the past decade. The ITWG has hosted a website (<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/itwg/groups/rtwg/meetings/sfcm/2016/>) where more information on the activities of this subgroup can be found. The group reports directly to the ITWG, and thus indirectly to CGMS via ITWG. However the new group has a much clearer focus on the land surface, not just fixing the land surface to enable atmospheric sounding.
4. The group will put forward recommendations and actions to ensure EO surface application continuity and direct development of techniques for their utilization.
5. Noting that CGMS has no International Science Working Group with a surface focus it is the longer term ambition of this group to eventually become a CGMS International Science Working Group and Drs. Balsamo and Ruston are open to advice, critical or otherwise, that will help the group take the necessary steps to be a credible entity to perform this role.