

CONSISTENCY OF CURRENT PLANS WITH PSTG TERMS OF REFERENCE

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

Summary and Purpose of Document

Objectives of PSTG and its key functional requirements are given, to (i) check whether current and planned PSTG activities are consistent with the ToR, and (ii) to guide the development of a short-, mid- and long-term implementation strategy.

The ToR are given here: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/pstg_en.php

ACTION PROPOSED

The session is invited to complete Table 1 as appropriate.

PSTG ToR	Addressed by current/ planned activities?	Implications for short-, mid- and long-term implementation	Comments
Objectives			
1. The group shall review cryosphere and polar scientific requirements, including user needs and observational requirements stemming from, but not limited to GCOS, the IGOS-P Cryosphere Theme Report, the WMO Expert Team on Satellite Utilization and Products (ET-SUP), and the specific needs of the WMO Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), SCAR/IASC and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO);			
2. The group shall develop a mechanism to source these requirements, through workshops, meetings, etc.;			
3. The group shall develop a set of key strategic goals to meet user needs and observational requirements and prioritize them considering existing Agency-specific programmes (in collaboration with the WMO Expert Team on Satellite Systems (ET-SAT)), or international project frameworks;			
4. The group shall develop a short-, mid- and long-term implementation strategy covering atmosphere, ocean and terrestrial domains, based on the strategic goals and requirements			
5. Members shall establish commitments on behalf of their Agency to support data acquisition, and support for product development and establishment of relevant accompanying scientific studies, as appropriate for the Agency			
6. Members shall participate in the joint development and coordination of mission acquisition plans with consideration of: - existing <i>in-situ</i> observing system infrastructure; - individual agency mandates and resources, including space-segment and ground-segment assets; - time-space distribution of planned in-situ and air-/ship- borne campaign activities;			
7. The group shall develop and coordinate plans for satellite data product distribution and archiving;			
8. The group shall develop indicators or metrics of success of data use;			
9. PSTG meetings shall be held at least once each year, with: - Intermediate Working Group meetings as needed; - Quarterly teleconferences as needed; Standing invitation to Members for hosting meetings at their respective premises or suitable local venues.			

<i>Key functional requirements (Annex to ToR)</i>			
a) Assemble disciplinary science requirements for polar and cryospheric research to be addressed with spaceborne systems through regular and broad interaction with the science community;			
b) Through iteration amongst the planning and processing arms of the participating international Space Agencies, including their representatives within ET-SAT, develop a concise, prioritized list of observational objectives based on: i) Efficient use of the int'l constellation of satellites ii) Operating mandates of each Space Agency iii) Satisfying science objectives best served by coordinating agency activities			
c) Regularly assess and revise observation acquisitions and acquisition plans;			
d) Redirect observation priorities over time			
e) Develop plans to use shared resources for processing and distributing data and data products;			
f) Establish subgroups addressing instrument specific issues			
g) Encourage active participation by all interested Space Agencies			

Source for PSTG ToR (October 2012): http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/pstg_en.php