



CEOS SIT-28 Debrief

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“If it is not broken, don’t fix it”





History with CEOS

- PSTG members who have expressed some value to coordinate and report back to CEOS
- A report was provided to CEOS following PSTG 1 identifying issues pertinent to CEOS (October 2011)
- A memo entitled “Polar Space Task Group Information background and recommendations to CEOS” was produced and submitted to CEOS (October 2012)
- A presentation was made at the CEOS plenary (CEOS Plenary 26, November 2012)
- A set of actions was identified at Plenary 26



CEOS Plenary Action 26-13



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- Presentation and document submitted at CEOS 26 Plenary with the objective of seeking CEOS reaction
 - CEOS agencies encouraged to review the report of the Polar Space Task Group and to provide comments on the nature and structure of CEOS engagement and appropriate roles and responsibilities for the space systems coordination.

Converging reactions – provided at and post Plenary

- Understand the importance of PSTG as an interface with thematic and sectoral authorities;
- CEOS should develop an “accountable interface” and be responsible for the coordination of space-based earth observation assets in response to PSTG;
- Progress on these matters will be reported to SIT chair and to CEOS plenaries as appropriate.

Seeking guidance from CEOS (in the context of CSS)



Conclusion

- PSTG is composed of members nominated by heads of space agencies in response to an invitation by the WMO Secretary General.
- PSTG benefits from the coordination among space agencies and contribution made through their existing policy mandate and related science programs.
- “it appears as though PSTG is going on its own, and so there is no need for more coordination”

“If it is not broken, don’t fix it”
Does it apply here?

Questions posed by SIT28 discussions



Does the relative apathy displayed at SIT 28 reflect anything more profound/worrying for the PSTG and more broadly polar affairs ?

- Reasons?
 - Lack of agency interest in polar issues?
 - Lack of preparation/internal agency briefing of CEOS SIT participants?

- What is the potential impact for PSTG (or PSTG agencies) of this “apathy” in CEOS principals
 - Issues for agency contributions participation?
 - PSTG meeting participation issues?

