

**PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE
COORDINATION GROUP ON SATELLITE DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR RA III AND RA IV**

College Park MD, USA, 8 April 2013

MEETING OBJECTIVES

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting is to prepare the work of a standing coordination group on satellite data requirements for RA III and RA IV. This includes a brief review of the status of existing requirements and users' needs, perspectives of satellite providers, and a discussion on future working arrangements and practical next steps.

Background

- Requirements¹ established by the Task Team on Satellite Data Requirements established in June 2009 by the Secretary General of WMO have contributed to improved, tailored dissemination of satellite data and products in RA III and RA IV.
- CBS-15 in September 2012 adopted the "*Procedure for Documenting Regional Requirements for Satellite Data Access and Exchange*"², encouraging the formation of standing coordination groups for the stated purpose in all WMO Regions
- In a letter dated 2 November 2012, the Secretary-General of WMO invited Members in RA III and RA IV to nominate candidates for a standing regional coordination group; to date, nominations have been received from seven Members (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela) and two satellite operators (CONAE, EUMETSAT).
- Formal endorsement of such a group is being sought by RA IV at its 16th session (12-19 April 2013, Curaçao).
- In the 2012 WMO survey on the use of satellite data, access to satellite data in near-real time and data processing were identified as major challenges by many Members in RA III and RA IV (apart from resource concerns).
- In the particular case of South America, several DVB-S systems are being operated, but no single system is offering an integrated access to all needed data on a sustained basis.
- For facilitated regional and inter-regional data dissemination, the Guide to the WMO Information System (WIS)³, as adopted by CBS-15, recommends the implementation of DVB-S systems in every Region as part of the IGDDS strategy.
- Training on data dissemination systems and the use of satellite data needs to accompany this effort, therefore liaison of the group with VLab Centres of Excellence in the Region is essential.

Expected outcome of the workshop

The meeting is expected to result in a status report based on participants' contributions, and in recommendations by meeting participants on a coordination group's:

- Objectives
- Structure and composition
- Working arrangements
- Support structure

Reference documents

Available at: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/meetings/RA-3-4-SDR-PREP.php> .

¹ <http://satellite.cptec.inpe.br/geonetcast/es/datareq.html>

² Recommendation 5 (CBS-15), [CBS-15 Abridged Final Report](#)

³ [Guide to the WMO Information System \(WIS\)](#), WMO-No. 1061 (section 2.7)