

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION



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

TASK TEAM ON REGULATORY MATERIAL

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

26-30 November 2001



FINAL REPORT

DISCLAIMER

Regulation 42

Recommendations of working groups shall have no status within the Organization until they have been approved by the responsible constituent body. In the case of joint working groups the recommendations must be concurred with by the presidents of the constituent bodies concerned before being submitted to the designated constituent body.

Regulation 43

In the case if a recommendation made by a working group between sessions of the responsible constituent body, either in a session of a working group or by correspondence, the president of the body may, as an exceptional measure, approve the recommendation on behalf of the constituent body when the matter is, in his opinion, urgent, and does not appear to imply new obligations for Members. He may then submit this recommendation for adoption by the Executive Council or to the President of the Organization for action in accordance with Regulation 9(5).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first meeting of the Task Team on Regulatory Material was held in Geneva at the WMO Headquarters from 26 to 30 November 2001. In accordance with the tasks assigned to the Team by CBS, the major issues reviewed by the meeting were :

- Review and updates to the Manual on the GOS;
- Review of proposals for the improvement of the utility of Volume A of WMO Publication N°9;
- Action plan and outline of final proposals on the updating of the above publications to CBS.

In reviewing and updating the Manual on the GOS, the meeting kept in mind the following criteria :

- The original text of the Manual should be retained as far as possible to avoid re-opening of discussions at CBS or in other fora;
- No parts of the Manual should be deleted unless the material was erroneous, outdated, irrelevant or was not part of the regulatory material and could be located elsewhere. In the latter case appropriate cross-referencing would be provided;
- Additional new material should be included where considered necessary;
- Like or related material should be co-located, where appropriate, under a recognisable heading or sub-heading (e.g. Networks).

Regarding Vol. A of the WMO publication No. 9, the meeting discussed the latest draft of the report prepared by the Rapporteur on Improvement of Volume A which contained numerous proposals to improve the content and usefulness of Volume A.

Based upon review and discussions, the meeting made a number of specific suggestions for updates and improvements of the content of the Manual on the GOS and the WMO publication N°9 including provision of more close interaction between these publications.

Finally the meeting agreed on the following action plan on the updating of publications :

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 Feb. 2002 | - Completion of first final draft of revised Manual. |
| 15 Feb.-15 Mar. 2002 | - Review of first final draft of revised Manual by the Task Team. |
| 31 March 2002 | - Completion of final draft revision of Manual on the GOS. - Completion of final report on improvements to Volume A. |
| Early April 2002 | - Final draft revisions of the Manual and the final report on Volume A to be posted on WMO Web site for review by CBS/OPAG/IOS members. |

The meeting also proposed that CBS should consider, as a matter of urgency, the need to revise the Guide on the GOS.

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The meeting of the Task Team on Regulatory Material was held in Geneva from 26 to 30 November 2001 at the WMO Headquarters Building. The list of participants is attached as Appendix A.

1.1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened at 10 a.m. on 26 November by Dr Alexander Karpov, Acting-Chief, Observing Systems Division. He welcomed the participants and recalled the objectives of the meeting. These include the review of the work done by rapporteurs on Regulatory Material and on the Improvement of Volume A in accordance with their terms of reference and tasks assigned by CBS and the development of proposals to CBS-EXT regarding updates to the content of the Manual on the GOS and WMO-N°9, Vol.A.

1.2 Election of the Chairman

Dr Peter Ryder was unanimously elected chairman of the meeting.

1.3 Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda submitted for the meeting was adopted and is given in Appendix B.

1.4 Working arrangements

The meeting agreed in its working hours and on a tentative work plan.

1.5 Documents for the session

The chairman briefly reviewed the documents before the meeting for consideration. A list of the documents is given in Appendix C.

2. REVIEW OF THE REVISED MANUAL ON THE GOS AND WMO PUBLICATION 9, VOLUME A

The meeting discussed its purpose and the desired output. It agreed that the main purpose was to ensure that proposals to CBS would be consistent.

Also, the meeting considered the procedure to be followed in the submission of proposals to CBS. It stressed that the proposals should be submitted by the Rapporteurs under their individual responsibilities. The report of the Task Team should confirm to CBS that the consistency of the proposals had been examined and proved.

2.1. General

In reviewing and updating the Manual on the GOS, the meeting kept in mind the following criteria :

- a) The original text of the Manual should be retained as far as possible to avoid re-opening of discussions at CBS or in other fora.
- b) No parts of the manual should be deleted unless the material was erroneous, outdated, irrelevant or was not part of the regulatory material and could be located elsewhere. In the latter case appropriate cross-referencing would be provided.

- c) Additional new material should be included where considered necessary.
- d) Like or related material should be co-located, where appropriate, under a recognisable heading or sub-heading (e.g. Networks).
- e) All proposals should relate to the first draft revisions prepared in 1999 by WMO Consultants.

The meeting requested that the proposed amendments to the Manual should be actioned by the Secretariat in consultation with the Rapporteur.

In this light, the meeting advised, in particular, that :

- f) An up-to-date list of observational requirements should be maintained on the WEB, accessible through the WMO Home Page.
- g) Requirements on emergency response and on volcano eruptions should be dealt within Part II as special requirements.
- h) In Part VI, Sections 3 and 4 be deleted, as the contents of these sections are addressed in a more adequate manner in the Guide on Instruments and Methods of Observations.

2.2. Updating the Manual on the GOS - Surface-based Observations.

In supporting the proposals by the Rapporteur, the meeting made a number of additional suggestions for improvements including that :

- a) All material on Networks in Part II and III be combined in a Network section in Part III, before the current section 2.1.
- b) In Part III, the paragraphs on GCOS and GAW should be taken out of subsection 2.9 and be assigned separate subsections after "climatological stations".

2.3. Updating the Manual on the GOS - Space-based Observations.

The meeting reviewed a draft revision of Part IV of the Manual on the GOS. In this it was aided by Dr D.E. Hinsman, Senior Scientific Officer of the Secretariat. The draft revision was largely accepted, but it was agreed that the section on the role of Experimental Satellites should be expanded in the light of recent and foreseen developments in this area. Dr P. Ryder agreed to draft that revision based on the outcome of the meeting of the Expert Team on Observational Data Requirements and Redesign of the GOS, to be held at the end of January 2002.

2.4. Improvement of the utility of Volume A of WMO Publication N°9.

The Rapporteur on Improvement of Volume A presented the latest draft of his report which contained numerous proposals to improve the content and usefulness of Volume A. The meeting also had a presentation on the WWW Operational Information Service by Mr P. Kerhervé, Scientific Officer of the WMO Secretariat, which was greatly appreciated.

The meeting discussed the desirability of a limitation of the spacing of instruments at an observing site with a view to the definition of geographical latitude and longitude in Volume A. It concluded that such a limitation might raise contradictions with respect to the requirements of representativity of a site for the environment. The meeting recognised that a clear definition of the location to which the co-ordinates refer is necessary; this definition could be given in the Introduction to Volume A.

Mr P. Kerhervé informed the meeting on the WWW Operational Information Service that also comprises the data base for Volume A. The meeting recognised the importance of clear references within this OIS system and advised to ensure the consequences of this recognition in the final proposals on Volume A.

The meeting concluded that only very few references to Volume A are made in the Technical Regulations and its Annexes, including the Manuals. Most of the contents of the Volume is defined in the Introduction to the Volume itself. As a consequence, the decisions to be made by CBS are very limited and the final recommendation for CBS could be accordingly concise.

The meeting strongly supported the proposals of the Rapporteur.

2.5. Interaction between the Manual and Volume A

The meeting noted in particular the proposal to designate focal points, within each National Meteorological Services, who would have the responsibility to notify the WMO Secretariat promptly of any changes in observational stations for inclusion in Volume A. Noting also that CBS had already endorsed this proposal, the meeting accordingly advised a provision to this effect in the draft revised Manual on the GOS.

3. ACTION PLAN AND OUTLINE OF FINAL PROPOSALS TO CBS

3.1. Action plan

The meeting discussed the future action plan taking into account the CBS/OPAG/IOS calendar of activities in 2002. It agreed on the following :

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 Feb. 2002 | - Completion of first final draft of revised Manual. |
| 15 Feb.-15 Mar. 2002 | - Review of first final draft of revised Manual by the Task Team. |
| 31 March 2002 | - Completion of final draft revision of Manual on the GOS. - Completion of final report on improvements to Volume A. |
| Early April 2002 | - Final draft revisions of the Manual and the final report on Volume A to be posted on WMO Web site for review by CBS/OPAG/IOS members. |

3.2. Proposals to CBS

The meeting invites CBS to consider, as a matter of urgency, the need to revise the Guide to the GOS.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1. Approval of the report

There being no further business, the meeting approved the report of its session.

5. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

5.1. The meeting closed at 11am on 30 November 2001.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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APPENDIX B
PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION
 - 1.1 Opening of the meeting
 - 1.2 Selection of the Chairman
 - 1.3 Adoption of the agenda
 - 1.4 Working arrangements
 - 1.5 Documents for the session

2. REVIEW OF THE REVISED DRAFT MANUAL ON THE GOS AND PUBLICATION 9, VOLUME A
 - 2.1 General
 - 2.2 Updates to the Manual on the GOS – surface-based observations
 - 2.3 Updates to the Manual on the GOS – space-based observations
 - 2.4 Improvement of the utility of Volume A of Publication N°9
 - 2.5 Interactions between the Manual and Volume A

3. ACTION PLAN AND OUTLINE OF FINAL PROPOSALS TO CBS

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

APPENDIX C**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

| Doc. No. | Title | Agenda Item | Prepared by |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Provisional Agenda | 1.3 | Secretariat |
| 2 | Explanatory Memorandum | 1.3 | Secretariat |
| 3 | Revisions to the Manual on the GOS | 2 | Dr. Vasiliev |
| 3 Add 1 | | | Dr. Ryder |
| 3 Add 2 | | | Mr. Daan |
| 4 | Proposed changes to Vol. A of WMO No. 9 | 2 | Mr. Daan |
| 5 | Links between Volume A and other elements of the Operation Information Service database | 2.3 | Secretariat |
| 6 | CBS guidance related to the GOS regulatory material | 2 and 3 | Secretariat |