



CGMS-38 EUM-WP-12
v1, 2 November 2010

Prepared by EUMETSAT
Agenda Item: E.1
Discussed in Plenary

COORDINATED INPUT BY CGMS ON SPACE MATTERS TO WMO EC/CONGRESS

The agenda of the WMO Council and Congress was modified a few years ago to reflect the new WMO strategic plan. As a result discussions were structured according to expected WMO results. This had the consequence that benefits of the WMO Space Programme were neither identified nor debated.

Following the WMO Executive Council Resolution of June 2010, Space matters have been reinstated on the agenda, and it is proposed to send a letter on behalf of CGMS acknowledging the recent WMO Council Resolution (3.4 Integration of WMO observing systems; 3.4.43-3.4.45) and requesting the WMO Secretary-General to implement it at the WMO Congress 2011.

Action proposed:

CGMS is invited to comment, provide feedback and agree on the content of such a letter for the CGMS Secretariat to send on behalf of CGMS to the WMO Secretary-General.

Coordinated input by CGMS on Space matters to WMO EC/Congress

1 INTRODUCTION

The agenda of the WMO Council and Congress was modified a few years ago to reflect the new WMO strategic plan. As a result, discussions were structured according to expected WMO results. This had the consequence that benefits of the WMO Space Programme were neither identified nor debated and the contributions of Space agencies to the WMO Space Programme were no longer discussed during WMO Executive meetings.

Following the adoption of a Resolution during the WMO Executive Council of June 2010, Space matters have been reinstated on the agenda of WMO Executive Meetings. It is proposed to send a letter to WMO to acknowledge this fact and to request the WMO Secretary-General to implement it in view of the WMO Congress 2011.

2 SPACE MATTERS AND WMO HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS

The fact that the WMO Council and Congress agenda were modified resulted in lost capacity and possibility to discuss the WMO Space Programme including Space agencies and their contribution to the Space-component of the WMO Global Observing System. CGMS agencies were as a result neither visible in the forum of principal users benefitting from Earth observation data nor could an interactive discussion take place to adapt to further user needs. The discussions held during the WMO Consultative Meetings on High Level Policy on satellite matters were also not directly reported nor discussed during Executive meetings.

In order for international coordination and collaboration for monitoring the Earth's environment from Space to be leveraged to the greatest extent possible, it was considered highly important to bring back the discussions on the Space Programme at the WMO Executive Council and Congress. Under the initiative of NOAA and EUMETSAT, discussions took place at the latest WMO Executive Council in June 2010, which ended with a Resolution where it was decided:

- "...to hold the Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters every two years, rather than annually, and to schedule the meetings preferably in conjunction with the sessions of the Executive Council or Congress in Geneva, beginning in 2011. Should exceptional circumstances warrant the need for Consultative Meetings to meet outside of the two-year sequence, or if one cannot be held in conjunction with a session of the Executive Council or Congress, WMO leadership can, in collaboration with Consultative Meeting satellite agency principals, agree to such a meeting; and
- that greater emphasis should be placed on discussion of critical satellite matters in the agenda of all WMO constituent body sessions, including reinstating a specific agenda item for the Executive Council and Congress..."

(Ref: WMO EC Resolution 62nd Session, WMO-No. 1059, 3.4 Integration of WMO observing systems [see extract in Annex 2]).

As a result, from WMO Congress 2011, Space activities will be addressed on the agenda again. The CGMS Secretariat therefore proposes to send a letter from CGMS to the Secretary-General of WMO to both acknowledge this fact and to request its implementation, starting at the WMO Congress of 2011.

3 CONCLUSIONS

It is proposed to send a letter on behalf of CGMS acknowledging the recent WMO Council Resolution (3.4 Integration of WMO observing systems; 3.4.43-3.4.45) and requesting the WMO Secretary-General to implement it at the WMO Congress 2011.

CGMS is invited to comment, provide feedback and agree on the content of such a letter for the CGMS Secretariat to send on behalf of CGMS (see draft proposal in Annex 1).

ANNEX 1: Draft letter on behalf of CGMS addressed to the WMO Secretary-General

ANNEX 2: Extract from WMO EC Resolution 62nd Session (WMO-No. 1059)
3.4 Integration of WMO observing systems (*Expected result 4*)

ANNEX 1: Draft letter on behalf of CGMS addressed to the WMO Secretary-General

Mr. Michel J.P. Jarraud
Secretary-General
WMO
7 bis, avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

EUM/SIR/LET/10/???? 2 November 201010

Subject: Space matters and WMO Congress

Dear Mr. Jarraud,

During the 38th session of the CGMS Plenary meeting, which took place in New Delhi, India, on 8-12 November 2010, CGMS Members discussed Space related matters vis-à-vis WMO and in particular with reference to WMO EC Resolution 62nd Session in June 2010 (WMO-No. 1059, EC-LXII/B/WP 3.4; EC-LXII/PINK 3.4 Integration of WMO observing systems; Paragraphs 3.4.43-3.4.45).

In their deliberations, CGMS Members strongly acknowledged and welcomed the Resolution and also encouraged the need to emphasise the key role that Space observations and related infrastructure constitute in response to WMO's primary users.

Earth observation satellites over the last decades reflect their unique abilities and benefits ranging from NWP measurements to climate related observations, such as wide area observation capability, global observation coverage, uniformity and continuity of observations, even in remote areas not covered by other observation networks. Hence, satellite observations increasingly play a major role in support to the WMO Global Observing System.

The decision to reinstate strategic discussions on satellite issues in relevant WMO fora is considered absolutely essential to secure that WMO members will continue to fully benefit and use this valuable source of information.



As the Secretariat of CGMS, I have been tasked by the Plenary Meeting to convey this message to you and I would like to express my genuine thanks for reinstating Space matters on the named agenda, and sincerely hope that it will be properly considered in the preparation of the WMO Congress in 2011.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the CGMS Members,

Dr. Lars Prahm
Director-General
CGMS Secretariat

cc: Heads of CGMS Delegations, CGMS plenary group

CGMS Delegations:

CMA – Mr Yang Jun, Director General, NSMC

CNES – Mrs Pascal Ulte-Guerard, Head of Earth Observation Programme

CNSA – Mr Lai Yan Sun, Administrator

ESA – Dr Stephen Briggs, Head of Earth Observation Science and Applications Department

EUMETSAT – Dr Lars Prahm, EUMETSAT Director General

IMD – Dr A Tyagi, Director General of Meteorology

IOC/UNESCO – Dr Keith Alverson, Director, GOOS Project Office

JAXA – Dr Masanori Homma, Executive Director, Space Applications Mission Directorate

JMA – Mr Yukito Tanaka, Director-General, MSC

KMA – Dr Byung-Seong Chun, Administrator

NASA – Dr Jack Kaye, Associate Director for Research, Earth Science Division

NOAA – Mr Gary Davis, Director, Office of Satellite Operations and Systems Development

ROSCOSMOS - Mr Mikhail Khaylov, Deputy Head of Department

ROSHYDROMET – Dr Valery N Dyadyuchenko, Deputy Head

WMO – Dr Wenjian Zhang, Director, WMO Observing and Information Systems Dept

ANNEX 2 – Extract from WMO EC Resolution 62nd Session (WMO-No. 1059)

3.4 Integration of WMO observing systems (*Expected result 4*)
(EC-LXII/B/WP 3.4; EC-LXII/PINK 3.4)

The full Resolution is available on:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/governance/ec/ec_docs_en.html

3.4.43 The Council noted that participation of senior satellite agency officials in the Consultative Meetings on High-Level Policy on Satellite Matters (CM) had decreased during recent years. It acknowledged that increased participation by the non-WMO-focused operational and research environmental satellite agencies is necessary to improve the effectiveness of the meetings, particularly in addressing the requirements of monitoring Earth's climate from Space. The Council agreed to hold the CM every two years and to schedule the meeting preferably in conjunction with the Executive Council or Congress beginning in 2011. Should exceptional circumstances warrant the need for CM to meet outside of its two-year sequence, or if a CM cannot be held in conjunction with Executive Council or Congress, WMO leadership may, in collaboration with CM satellite agency principals, schedule such a meeting.

3.4.44 The Council also noted the importance of the Space-based observing infrastructure for all WMO Members and agreed that greater emphasis should be placed on discussion of critical satellite matters in the agenda of all WMO constituent body sessions, including re-instating a specific agenda item for the Executive Council and Congress in order to ensure that all WMO Members will continue to use and benefit from the full spectrum of satellite capabilities. The Council adopted Resolution 12 (EC-LXII) – Schedule of Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters.

3.4.45 The Council noted that the Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters had stressed that a collaborative effort by all Members supporting Earth observation Space agencies was needed to monitor the Earth's climate from Space. Climate monitoring requirements have been identified by GCOS and the WCRP, and could be supplemented by future requirements arising from the GFCS. In view of the long-standing experience of satellite system coordination by the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS), the Council wished that CGMS would expand its activity to the coordination of operational missions in support of climate monitoring. It invited the WMO Space Programme, in coordination with GCOS and with the support of relevant technical commissions, to work with Space agencies, the CGMS, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) in order to develop an architecture for sustained, Space-based climate monitoring as a component of the future WIGOS and GFCS, for consideration by next Congress.

Resolution 12 (EC-LXII)

SCHEDULE OF CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS ON HIGH-LEVEL POLICY ON SATELLITE MATTERS

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

Noting:

(1) *The Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifty-second Session of the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 915),

(2) *The Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fourteenth World Meteorological Congress* (WMO-No. 960), Resolution 6 (Cg-XIV) – WMO Consultative Meetings on High-Level Policy on Satellite Matters,

Recalling the agreement by the Executive Council at its fifty-second session that a mechanism for discussions between the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and the environmental satellite community should be provided in the form of Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters,

Considering that, as satellites have become the most important source of data assimilated in numerical weather prediction models, WMO must assure increasing emphasis and strategic discussions on how these data could be assimilated and used by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services all over the world,

Considering also that there is very close interaction between the WMO Space Programme, the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, and entities such as the Global Space-based Inter-Calibration System and the Sustained, Coordinated Processing of Environmental Satellite Data for Climate Monitoring, but Agency Director/senior-level participation of satellite agencies has decreased in the annual Consultative Meetings, mainly among the non-WMO-focused operational and research environmental agencies,

Considering also the increase in the number of related satellite-focused meetings, which reduces the availability of senior satellite agency officials for annual Consultative Meetings,

Considering further the improvement to the effectiveness of the meetings to be expected from increased participation by senior satellite agency officials, particularly for addressing the requirements of monitoring the Earth's climate from Space,

Decides to hold the Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters every two years, rather than annually, and to schedule the meetings preferably in conjunction with the sessions of the Executive Council or Congress in Geneva, beginning in 2011. Should exceptional circumstances warrant the need for

Consultative Meetings to meet outside of the two-year sequence, or if one cannot be held in conjunction with a session of the Executive Council or Congress, WMO leadership can, in collaboration with Consultative Meeting satellite agency principals, agree to such a meeting;

Further decides that greater emphasis should be placed on discussion of critical satellite matters in the agenda of all WMO constituent body sessions, including reinstating a specific agenda item for the Executive Council and Congress;

Requests the Secretary-General to implement these changes.