

Prepared by EUMETSAT
Agenda Item: G.1, G.2,
WGI/2, WGIV/2
Discussed in Plenary, WGI,
WGIV

WGI AND WGIV REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

In response to CGMS action/recommendation: Plen A42.07

CGMS Working Group I on “Global issues on satellite systems and telecommunication coordination” was set up in 1989.

CGMS Working Group IV on “Global Data Dissemination” was created in 2001.

During the existence of the working groups a considerable evolution in telecommunication systems and associated services took place, leading to an expansion of the scope in each working group.

With the implementation of ATOVS Retransmission Services (RARS) and wider use of DVB dissemination services it became necessary to redefine the scope of WG-I and WG-IV to avoid unnecessary overlap in both groups.

This paper presents the revised Terms of Reference for WG-I and WG-IV.

Action/Recommendation proposed: CGMS is invited to agree to the revised Terms of Reference for WG-I and WG-IV.

WGI and WGIV revised Terms of Reference

1 INTRODUCTION

The CGMS Working Group I on Telecommunications was originally set off, together with the Working Group on Meteorological products, as part of the decisions taken in the CGMS-18 plenary meeting in Geneva (CH) in 1989. During the existence of WG-I, telecommunications techniques have evolved rapidly. The main focus of WG-I has always been to keep CGMS in line with the latest technological solutions that will operationally support the meteorological user community. In doing so, WG-I has provided a forum of discussion for the definition and consolidation of the digital transmission formats already in use by the meteorological community (LRIT and HRIT both global and mission specific details). WG-I has also provided a discussion forum for the different WMO programmes using the International (or even regional) Data Collection System (IDCS), like Tsunami Early Warning System, Aircraft to Satellite Data Relay (ASDAR) or Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (ASAP). Similarly, WG-I has allowed direct discussions between different CGMS members on the newer generation of Data Collection Platform (DCP) transmitters and receivers. Finally, it has allowed a coordinated effort in the utilisation and sharing, by the different CGMS members, of the frequency bands allocated to the Meteorological Satellite Service and, where relevant, to the Earth Observation Service.

CGMS Working Group IV on global data dissemination was created in 2001. The Group provided a forum for the discussion and distribution of information on satellite data dissemination from current and future CGMS members' satellite missions, data exchange and retransmission. Furthermore, the Group strived to standardise tools and equipment that will enable any authorised user to receive data from any satellite operator. Another key topic was the facilitation of exchange and rebroadcast of satellite data and products between CGMS member agencies. Over the years the Working Group has fostered discussions resulting in the setting up of a growing number of bilateral arrangements allowing access and use of satellite information from satellite systems operating in other parts of the world, not normally "visible" to the user via direct broadcast. The Working Group also realised that effective data exchange also requires a certain level of standardisation of data formats across CGMS satellite operators, and this too has been a major achievement of recent years.

With the implementation of ATOVS Retransmission Services (RARS) and wider use of DVB dissemination services it became necessary to redefine the scope of WG-I and WG-IV to avoid unnecessary overlap in both groups.

Both working groups have agreed to revise the terms of reference and the proposed update is presented in the following section.

2 Proposed updates of the TERMS OF REFERENCE for WG-I and WG-IV

2.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CGMS WG-I: Global issues on satellite systems and telecommunication coordination

Scope of WG-I

CGMS WG-I will provide a regular forum for CGMS agencies to address topics of interest in areas related to global coordination of satellite systems and telecommunication. The working group will address these issues for existing operational systems and also for future ones and will aim at supporting CGMS in preparing for the future generation of meteorological satellite systems and to contribute on the consolidation and updates of interoperability and standardisation that the evolution of technology imposes.

Objectives

WG-I will have the following objectives:

- 1) Provide a technical forum for CGMS agencies to address global issues and technical aspects of their satellite systems;
- 2) Address areas of mutual interest and advice agencies on topics related to frequency coordination and management;
- 3) Act as CGMS point of contact, at expert level, between CGMS and other groups and organisations in areas of frequency management (e.g. SFCG, ITU and preparation status and topics for WRCs);
- 4) Address technical and operational aspects of direct broadcast services (present and future) of mutual or global interest for the CGMS agencies;
- 5) Promote standards and interoperability and operational procedures to the CGMS agencies for the benefit of the user community of their direct broadcast services and the associated regional retransmission services;
- 6) Address technical and operational aspects of the Data Collection Systems at international level;
- 7) Promote standards and interoperability and operational procedures to the CGMS agencies for the benefit of the user community of the DCS Regional (and international) systems;
- 8) Optimisation/harmonisation and update of CGMS global specifications.
- 9) Address topics from the CGMS High Level Priority Plan within the scope of WG-I.

Working arrangements

The working group will be of permanent nature and will be co-chaired by two chairpersons who will be supported by a rapporteur, all appointed by the CGMS Plenary. All agencies of CGMS participate in WG-I. Nomination is under the responsibility of each agency but shall promote continuity and foster active contribution. WG-I co-chairs, WG-I rapporteur and CGMS Secretariat shall be informed by agencies of names of representatives and changes before the CGMS

Plenary. CGMS Secretariat will maintain the list of representatives up-to-date in the corresponding WG-I CGMS web page.

The working group will meet during CGMS with an agenda covering the objectives of WG-I and shall also assess the status of implementation of the CGMS High Level Priority Plan and update it as necessary. The WG I co-chairs, with the support of the rapporteur, shall compile a report on the outcome of the meeting of the working group, including proposals for relevant CGMS actions and recommendations. This will be reported to CGMS Plenary and will highlight aspects of relevance and/or identify topics needing high-level approval or guidance at the plenary. As necessary, the working group will also convene inter-sessional meetings for addressing topics of interest or to complete actions and tasks identified at WG meeting and plenary.

2.2 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CGMS WG-IV: Global data dissemination.

Scope of WG-IV

CGMS WG-IV will provide a regular forum for CGMS agencies to address topics of interest in areas related to data access in general and the contribution to the WMO Information System. Not within the scope of WG-IV are direct readout systems and Regional Retransmission Systems, which are handled by WG-I. The working group will address issues related to the dissemination systems, data formats and metadata exchange, and will also deal with the user interfaces and data access.

Objectives

WG-IV will have the following objectives:

- 1) Support user-provider dialogue on regional/continental scales;
- 2) Support the implementation of sustained and coordinated communication satellite broadcast systems;
- 3) Support the use of the WIS infrastructure for data provision and discovery;
- 4) Increase access to R&D and pre-operational mission data;
- 5) Analyse the extension of coordinated dissemination services for additional user communities;
- 6) Support the development of efficient standardized data handling for high-resolution imaging and hyper-spectral instruments;
- 7) Coordination of metadata for satellites and instruments;
- 8) Support the evolution and promote harmonisation of data access portals;
- 9) Address topics from the CGMS High Level Priority Plan within the scope of WG-IV.

Working arrangements

The working group will be of permanent nature and will be co-chaired by two chairpersons who will be supported by a rapporteur, all appointed by the CGMS Plenary. All agencies of CGMS participate in WG-IV. Nomination is under the responsibility of each agency but shall promote continuity and foster active

contribution. WG-IV co-chairs, WG-IV rapporteur and CGMS Secretariat shall be informed by agencies of names of representatives and changes before the CGMS Plenary. CGMS Secretariat will maintain the list of representatives up-to-date in the corresponding WG-IV CGMS web page.

The working group will meet during CGMS with an agenda covering the objectives of WG-IV and shall also assess the status of implementation of the CGMS High Level Priority Plan and update it as necessary. The WG IV co-chairs, with the support of the rapporteur, shall compile a report on the outcome of the meeting of the working group, including proposals for relevant CGMS actions and recommendations. This will be reported to CGMS Plenary and will highlight aspects of relevance and/or identify topics needing high-level approval or guidance at the plenary. As necessary, the working group will also convene inter-sessional meetings for addressing topics of interest or to complete actions and tasks identified at WG meeting and plenary.

3 CONCLUSIONS

CGMS is invited to agree to the revised Terms of Reference for WG-I and WG-IV.