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Joint Study Group on the Global Climate Observing System - Interim report on the GCOS evolution

CGMS-49 plenary, agenda item 6

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Background of JSG-GCOS

- The GCOS programme started in 1992 under the sponsorship of WMO, IOC, UNEP and ICSU (now ISC)
- It has operated for more than two decades under an MoU signed in 1998
- In 2020, following:
 - A previous review of the GCOS programme in 2014 undertaken by the co-sponsors (GCOS Review document - GCOS-181)
 - the adoption of major constituent body reform by WMO



...the Joint Study Group on GCOS was formed in to review the governance and structure of GCOS

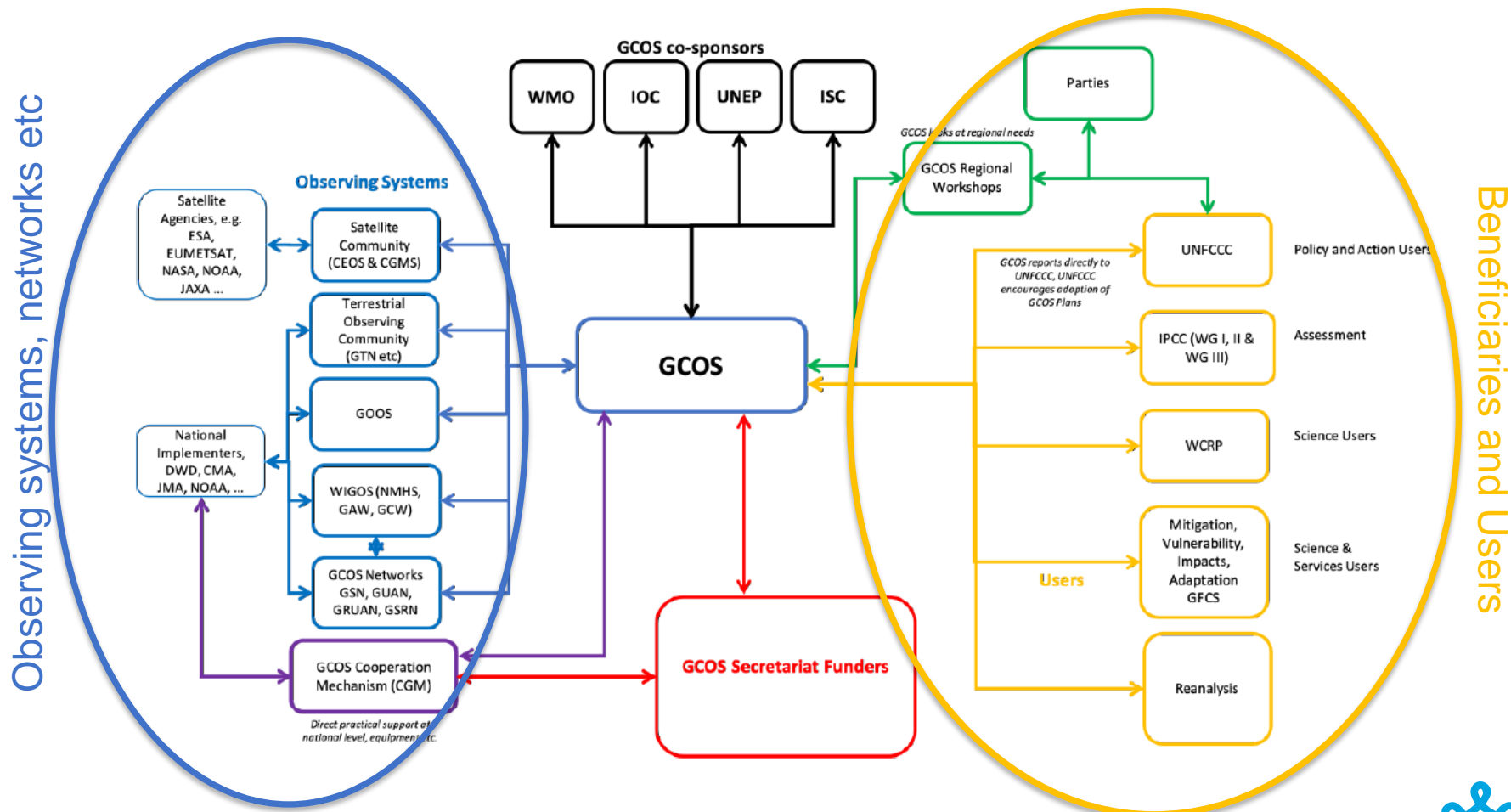
Terms of Reference of the JSG-GCOS

- The proposed Study Group will **review GCOS governance and structure**, and develop a proposal for an optimal governance and structure for GCOS, that recognises GCOS as an activity across the WMO Infrastructure Commission, the Services Commission and Research Board, as well as relevant programmes of IOC, ISC, and UNEP.
- This proposal will:
 - take into account the views of, and strengthen links with, partner agencies, coordinators and operators of major observing systems, as well as co-sponsors and partners of GCOS and other relevant organizations; and
 - ensure that the GCOS governance structure will include an appropriate representation of co-sponsors, partners, stakeholders and donors of GCOS

Membership JSG-GCOS

Qingchen Chao	CMA (WMO)	Co-Chairs	Co-Sponsor Representatives
Martin Visbeck	GEOMAR (IOC & ISC)		
Jian Liu	UNEP		
Tosta Tanhua	GOOS (IOC)		
Joanna Post	UNFCCC		
Jean-Noel Thepaut	Copernicus		
Karim Hilmi	Institut National de Recherche Halieutique, Morocco		
Albrecht von Bargaen	WGClimate		
Kazuto Suda	JMA		
Paul Counet	EUMETSAT		
Deke Arndt	Climate Science and Services Division, NOAA, USA		
Han Dolman	GCOS SC Chair (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands)		GCOS representatives
Thelma Krug	TOPC (IPCC, Brazil)		
Peter Thorne	AOPC (Maynooth University, Ireland)		
Sabrina Speich	OOPC (Ecole normale supérieure, Paris, France)		

Membership JSG-GCOS



Work done so far JSG-GCOS

Phase I: January – April 2021

- Four subteams:
 - SWOT analysis
 - Mandate expansion
 - MoU revision
 - Financial Arrangements



An Interim Report was produced compiling the findings of the sub-teams, presented at WMO INFCOM in April 2021 and was/is being discussed with the GCOS co-sponsors

Directions after Phase I JSG-GCOS

1. Clarify the role of a GCOS sponsor and consider other types of GCOS support functions:
 - How should sponsors support GCOS? What input should major funders have? Partners?
2. Ensure a more active and systematic involvement of GCOS with the observing system
 - Direct input into planning, and monitoring performance of observing system
 - Supporting data curation (data centres, standards, open and free access, long-term storage)
3. Engage more (pro)actively with funding organisations, scientists and agencies to achieve continuity in essential *in situ* networks.
4. Improve the connection between GCOS and UNFCCC,
 - maintain the mandate of GCOS to report to the UNFCCC and respond directly to UNFCCC requests to GCOS,
 - include support of the Paris Agreement and its global stocktake.
5. Continue and improve the engagement of GCOS with Climate Science programmes such as WCRP.
6. Improve outreach and communication of the benefits of GCOS and engage partners and stakeholders in this process.
7. Reorganize the structure of the GCOS MOU in two parts distinguishing between the programme ambition (long-term) and its technical execution (short-term, flexible).

Future work for JSG-GCOS

Phase II: April 2021 – August 2021

1. Consultation with current co-sponsors (WMO, IOC, UNEP, ISC) (done)
2. MoU and Financial sub-teams continue to work
3. New sub-team on the role of GCOS through the whole value chain from observations to user benefits
4. Consultation with the wider ecosystem of stakeholders
 - Including CGMS, CEOS and WGClimate

Questions for CGMS

- Are you happy with the current GCOS governance? Options include:
 - Current arrangement: 4 Co-sponsors (not all of whom provide substantial support)
 - More input from those that fund GCOS
 - A closer implementation role for WMO
- What role should CGMS have in GCOS (if any)?
- What do you expect from GCOS?
- How do you support GCOS?
 - ECV Inventory, WGClimate, Development of ECV Requirements, Application areas, Input to Implementation Plan, Support to GCOS Secretariat and activities, ...

Thank you
Merci