

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CEOS WORKING GROUP ON DISASTERS (WGDisasters)

Issue v0.1, dated 2 September 2013

Mission Statement

The Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Working Group on Disasters (WGDisasters) ensures the sustained coordination of disaster-related activities undertaken by the CEOS Agencies and acts as an interface between CEOS and the community of stakeholders and users involved in risk management and disaster reduction.

Membership

Membership is open to all CEOS Agencies (Members and Associates). In addition, the Working Group may include experts from non CEOS Agencies who have relevant expertise to contribute to the objectives of the WGDisasters.

Objectives

The CEOS Working Group on Disasters will:

- Identify priority areas and initiatives within the theme of risk management and disaster reduction that should be supported by the CEOS Agencies.
- Represent CEOS in the GEO Work Plan Disaster Tasks and Components (to include leadership of Tasks and Components, as determined by CEOS leadership) and develop CEOS Actions to support the execution of the GEO Disaster Tasks and Components in accordance with CEOS Work Plan
- Ensure the coherency and the proper coordination of CEOS Agencies resources that support disaster-related activities undertaken by CEOS.
- Interface the major stakeholders and other representatives of the user community involved in disaster risk management to better understand and assess their needs and priorities, taking into account the resources available in the CEOS agencies.
- Develop a realistic and coherent observing strategy aimed at responding as well as possible to user needs through improved coordination and use of available resources.
- Identify and assess gaps in Earth Observation data necessary to address all parts of the disaster management cycle with the aim of better supporting the needs of the user community involved in disaster risk management.

- Advise and coordinate CEOS Agencies in better use of existing assets and the deployment of new assets that will reduce these gaps
- Maintain a close dialogue with GEO and UN experts to ensure appropriate recognition for the use of space-based Earth Observations within the 2015-2025 Post-Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Relevant activities will include and leverage existing disaster-related efforts supported by CEOS Agencies.
- Identify and establish a dialog with the major potential funding agencies active in this domain
- Undertake any other relevant activities as instructed by CEOS Chair.

In addition, it will:

- Develop a multi-year plan of action aimed at increasing progressively both the coverage of disasters types and the geographical areas (globally, regionally and locally).
- Make recommendations to the CEOS Agency Principals for the transition from demonstrator projects to more operational services whenever relevant.

In carrying out the tasks above, it will:

- Interface with the other CEOS Working Groups to address aspects related to disasters that those Working Groups are better equipped to tackle. This may include specific activities such as capacity building, calibration / validation, access mechanisms to data and services.
- Work with the CEOS Virtual Constellations to enhance the provision of data that can be used for risk management and disaster reduction.
- Promote openness and access to relevant data and products
- Coordinate with existing in situ networks to integrate complementary measurements and observations

The Group shall operate under the same procedures of conduct as established CEOS Working Groups.

Structure and Procedures

The WGDisasters will normally meet twice per year, rotating the meeting venue among its membership or locations conducive to WGDisasters goals. Remote participation at these meetings will be possible. At each meeting, the time, place and host for the next meeting will be established.

A WGDisasters Chair and Vice-chair will be designated by the CEOS Plenary and will rotate among WG members every two years. Both will be staff from CEOS Agencies. In addition, WGDisasters Chair will provide administrative support during the whole chairmanship period. The designated Vice-chair will assume the chair after two years, and a replacement Vice-chair will be designated by Plenary.

For each meeting, the Chair of WGDisasters will prepare the agenda prior to the meeting and distribute notes and actions following the meeting. WGDisasters Chair will be responsible for following actions established during their chairmanship.

Each CEOS Agency is invited to designate a point-of-contact for WGDisasters correspondence and representation; otherwise correspondence will be addressed to the Agency's main point-of-contact within CEOS.

The WGDasters will coordinate its work with other CEOS Working Groups, the Virtual Constellations, and with the CEOS SIT who will be invited to send a representative to WGDasters meetings to facilitate coordination.

The WGDasters may propose modifications to these Terms of Reference, and such modifications will be submitted to CEOS Plenary for approval.