

Ad Hoc Water Strategy Implementation Study Team (WSIST)

Terms of Reference

(Version 0.1)

Objective

The objective of the Water Strategy Implementation Study Team (WSIST) is to assess the feasibility of CEOS Agencies to contribute to the development of the GEOSS Water Implementation Plan (WIP), and to define the potential CEOS contribution to the implementation of the GEOSS Water Strategy Report (WSR).

The WSR was released in January 2014 and contains a review of the current monitoring status for components of the water cycle and includes a number of recommendations to address gaps and requirements. The WIP, the response to the WSR, is expected to consolidate the commitments of GEO Members and Participating Organizations to begin building a global water monitoring system. CEOS has been specifically invited to "identify those recommendations they would be interested in helping address." The WSR identifies 22 recommendations that are highly relevant to CEOS; 10 recommendations are in the "Advancing satellite data acquisition" theme and 12 other recommendations associated with four other themes.

The WSIST is to review the 22 recommendations and prepare a response from CEOS to the Integrated Global Water Cycle Observation (IGWCO) Community of Practice for inclusion in the WIP. The response will be presented first for consideration to the SIT at SIT-30 in March/April 2015. Based on the outcome of the SIT-30 discussions, a consolidated response from CEOS to the IGWCO will be forwarded and a recommended way forward on CEOS oversight of the actions will be proposed for consideration and decision by the CEOS Plenary in 2015.

Methodology

The Study Team shall elect a Chairperson from the group of nominated Study Team participants provided by CEOS Principals.

In developing the potential CEOS contributions to the WIP which will implement the WSR, the Study Team shall:

- Review the 22 recommendations and:
 - Determine if the recommendation is feasible for CEOS to support, specifically focusing on the 10 recommendations in the "Advancing satellite data acquisition" them;
 - Identify the contributions that CEOS proposes to provide in response to the recommendation.

- For each proposed contribution, identify the associated actions and propose CEOS organizational mechanisms for both **action implementation** and **action monitoring** that takes due account of:
 - The existing CEOS organizational structure and the ToRs of each CEOS entity;
 - The need expressed for an "integrated oversight" of the action implementation status (i.e. action monitoring);
 - The guidance given in the CEOS "Governance and Processes" document and associated subsidiary documents;
 - The views of all CEOS entities (both Working Groups and Virtual Constellations) on their possible participation in the implementation;
 - Compatibility with the available CEOS resources;

- Identify any actions for which CEOS may need to establish partnerships, together with the proposed partnership roles;
- Justify within a document the proposed set of implementation options for each action, addressing all the above points (including the identification of preferred options);
- Circulate this document to CEOS SEC members for comment 4 weeks prior to the SIT-30 in March/April 2015;
- Present the proposed contributions, actions and implementation options (including any preferred options) to the SIT-30 in March/April 2015 for final adjustments and adoption, taking due account of the feedback from members of CEOS SEC;
- Forward the consolidated CEOS response to IGWCO in mid-2015;
- Determine the correct mechanism within CEOS to track the actions that were adopted to ensure that the activities are being accomplished.