

DRAFT 1.1 Dated October 26, 2023

Ocean Coordination Group Charge: For action item *SIT-TW-2022-14*, the Ocean Coordination Group was tasked to come up with a series of recommendations to the 2022 CEOS Plenary on the coordination of CEOS ocean-related activities, including activities in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable development (2021-2030) and GST1 (2023 UNFCCC Global Stocktake). This also required taking into account links to existing CEOS entities with an interest in oceans, and also to sustainability considerations for the COAST *ad hoc* team. The Ocean Coordination Group's mandate was extended by a year from its original deadline of 2022 CEOS Plenary, and will now complete its work by, and will report at, the 2023 CEOS Plenary.

The Ocean Coordination Group's Mission Statement: Serve as a point of integration from CEOS to the UN Ocean decade, facilitating understanding of how CEOS activities benefit the global needs for ocean management. Also, to serve as a resource to infuse aquatic and ocean space-based EO into relevant existing activities of CEOS organisations, including the UNFCCC Global Stocktake, to seek to enhance global understanding of the functions of aquatic systems, coasts and oceans in global carbon budgets and ecosystem dynamics and forecasting, as well as sustained and sustainable provision of goods and services for societal benefit.

The Ocean Coordination Group was initially led by the 2022-23 SIT Chair, the European Space Agency (ESA). The SIT Chair delegated responsibility for the Group to NOAA in late 2022, at which point Paul DiGiacomo assumed the lead role for the group.

Two deliverable documents have been prepared by the CEOS Ocean Coordination Group to better inform the SIT and others in the future about coordination of ocean-related activities and communication needs within and external to CEOS, including with the IOC regarding the UN Ocean Decade.

The group identified pros and cons of establishing a new dedicated CEOS Ocean Coordination entity; different governance structures were discussed and evaluated. Overall, there was no consensus that such a dedicated group was required, with the preference expressed by the group to rely on existing CEOS entities and mechanisms. In particular, there was concern that the value proposition of adding a new CEOS entity did not warrant the additional time and resources that would be required. The Ocean Coordination Group herein conveys its assessment, noting the planned future increase in ocean EO missions and the important role that CEOS continues to play to ensure the maximum utility of data.

To fulfill action item *SIT-TW-2022-14*, these are the deliverables from the Ocean Coordination Group, which will sunset at the 2023 CEOS Plenary.

1. The [CEOS OCG - IOC and UN Ocean Decade Activities](#) (dated September 12, 2023) is a spreadsheet relating CEOS Work Plan activities underway (or anticipated) that support the UN Ocean Decade &/or the International Oceanographic Commission mission. It lists points of contact within CEOS and IOC as well as other details.

2. The [CEOS OCG - Coordination Needs for Upcoming Ocean-related Missions](#) (updated October 19, 2023) is a spreadsheet listing upcoming ocean-related missions. CEOS entities and their anticipated coordination needs are listed to enable a resource assessment for support services.

It is recommended that CEOS Principals consider the two deliverable outputs from the CEOS Ocean Coordination Group in their mission and activity planning to support CEOS's ongoing efforts to improve coordination for EO in the ocean domain.