

MINUTES OF THE 39TH CEOS PLENARY (2025)

4 – 6 November, 2025

Hosted by the UK Space Agency (UKSA)

Executive Summary

1. CEOS Plenary endorsed and welcomed the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) as a CEOS Member, and the African Space Agency (AfSA) and Hellenic Space Center (HSC) as CEOS Associates.
2. The Australian 2026 CEOS Chair team presented the draft *CEOS Decision Types* document for information, which aims to clarify the ways outputs are presented to CEOS leadership, what Plenary decisions mean in practice, and when CEOS branding can be applied. The CEOS Executive Officer team will take on development of the document in conjunction with the SEC, the 2026 CEOS Chair team and the SIT Chair team, for completion by the 2026 CEOS Plenary.
3. Outcomes from the *CEOS in Schools* Pilot Programme were presented by the UKSA CEOS Chair Team and summarised in a [review paper](#). The CEOS Chair Team created the [CEOS Youth Hub](#) to collect educational EO material and invited Agencies to contribute.
4. The UKSA CEOS Chair theme *Unlocking EO for Society* culminated in a [findings paper](#) summarising CEOS Agency challenges and insights to bridging gaps between satellite EO data and public services.
5. CEOS Plenary acknowledged the prolongation of the WGCapD Chair term of Dan Matsapola (SANSa) for an additional year (2026) and endorsed the nomination of Christoph Aubrecht (ESA) as WGCapD Vice Chair for 2026, followed by WGCapD Chair for 2027-2028. CEOS Agencies were asked to consider nominations for the 2027-2028 WGCapD Vice Chair position.
6. WGClimat will update its Terms of Reference to better reflect the realities and current activities of the group. The final version will be presented at SIT-41.
7. Lóránt Czárán (UNOOSA) was welcomed as the new WGDisasters Chair and Antonio Montuori (ASI) was endorsed as WGDisasters Vice Chair 2026-2027.
8. Nitant Dube (ISRO) was welcomed as the new WGISS Chair and Damiano Guerrucci (ESA) was endorsed as WGISS Vice Chair 2026-2027.
9. The [CEOS Interoperability Handbook v2.0](#), developed by WGISS, was endorsed.
10. CEOS Agencies were invited to review the [WGCV LPV Land Cover and Change Map Accuracy Assessment and Area Estimation Good Practices Protocol](#), for potential endorsement at SIT-41.
11. Updates were shared on the implementation of the *CEOS AFOLU Roadmap*, and the team welcomed further support from CEOS Agencies and invited the sharing of AFOLU success stories.
12. The revised CEOS GST Strategy draft recommendations were presented for information and discussion. The 2026-2027 SIT Chair will oversee the translation of the *2025 CEOS Global Stocktake Strategy* recommendations into the CEOS Work Plan.
13. The GHG Task Team shared updates on the status of G3W, the CEOS GHG Mission Portal and Controlled Release Database, and activities supporting IMEO.
14. Efforts to drive adoption of the *Common Practices for Quantifying Methane Emissions from Plumes Detected by Remote Sensing* were reported, with next steps to follow up on the document's

- recommendations, coordinate controlled release validation, and consider a v2.0 “Good practices”.
15. WGClimate were tasked to develop a proposal for the continuity of the UNFCCC Tiger Team at the WGClimate-24 meeting, for presentation at SIT-41.
 16. CEOS Agency Members delivered updates on recently launched, operational, and planned EO missions and programmes.
 17. CEOS agencies were asked to note Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) funding difficulties and encouraged to get in touch directly with GCOS leadership.
 18. CEOS Plenary acknowledged that the Biodiversity Study Team has fulfilled its originally assigned tasks and agreed with the initial proposal for a Biodiversity Virtual Constellation and to proceed with development of a Full Proposal for consideration at SIT-41.
 19. CEOS Plenary extended the term of the Biodiversity Study Team through to SIT-41 in order to complete the Full Proposal and develop inputs for the CEOS Work Plan.
 20. CEOS Plenary approved the development of CEOS-ARD Strategy 2026, commending the CEOS-ARD Oversight Group for its evidence-based approach to justify the initiation of the writing. CEOS Principals are asked to consider nominations of agency experts to the writing team.
 21. The *White Paper on a Coordinated International Satellite Altimetry Virtual Constellation* was presented by the Ocean Surface Topography Virtual Constellation (OST-VC) as a recommendation to CEOS. The OST-VC Co-leads were tasked to work with the CEOS Secretariat to ensure the white paper is appropriately formatted and contextualised prior to its publication on the CEOS Website.
 22. The CEOS SEO is developing a *CEOS Digital Object Identifier Process Paper* and *CEOS Organisational GitHub Governance* documentation. Contribution to the GitHub Governance definition was welcomed.
 23. The LSI-VC GEOGLAM Subgroup shared progress on its stocktake of Essential Agriculture Variables (EAVs) and asked CEOS Agencies to nominate additional experts to contribute.
 24. NASA was welcomed as the 2026-2027 SIT Chair.
 25. CEOS Plenary endorsed the Norwegian Space Agency (NOSA) as 2027 CEOS Chair.
 26. CEOS Plenary endorsed CSIRO as 2026 CEOS Chair, with support from Geoscience Australia and the Bureau of Meteorology.

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Day 1: Wednesday, November 5

Session 1: Welcome and Core Business

1.1: Opening Remarks, Agency Introductions, and Summary of Objectives [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Paul Bate (2025 CEOS Chair, UKSA)

Main points:

- Welcomed participants to Bath, UK, for the 39th CEOS Plenary.
- A video message was conveyed from Minister Lloyd, UK Minister for Digital Economy in the UK's Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology (DSIT).
- ESA and the European Commission were congratulated on the recent successful launch of the Copernicus Sentinel-1D mission, on 4 November 2025.
- A *tour de table* of in-person and online participants was undertaken.
- Mauro Facchini (EC) acknowledged the announced retirement of Tim Stryker (USGS), a dedicated contributor to CEOS and advocate of the EO community. He added remarks on the successful launch of Sentinel-1D. Eleni Paliouras (ESA) shared the news of Sentinel-1D's recent solar panel deployment.
- Select objectives of the 2025 CEOS Plenary, detailed in the [meeting agenda](#), were summarised, alongside a recap of the UKSA CEOS Chair Theme priorities.
- The items for decision and endorsement were reviewed.

1.2: Applications for CEOS Member or Associate Status

Moderator: Paul Bate (2025 CEOS Chair, UKSA)

African Space Agency (AfSA) [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Hamdi Kacem (remote)

Main points:

- Established in 2016, the African Space Agency (AfSA) is the continental space agency of the African Union. It was established to promote collaboration amongst African nations and other regions in harnessing space science and technology for Africa's socio-economic development, promoting collaborative research and peaceful exploration of outer space. AfSA's priorities include Earth observation, satellite connectivity, astronomy, and navigation and positioning. It is aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063.
- AfSA requests Associate membership in CEOS, highlighting strong mandate alignment, demonstrated achievements, a clear engagement plan, and mutual benefits, and asks CEOS Plenary to approve its membership to advance Earth observation in Africa and globally.
- AfSA will seek to ensure alignment between CEOS and the African Space Council. At a technical level, AfSA is looking to contribute to WGCapD, WGCV, and WGDIsasters.

Hellenic Space Center (HSC) [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Christina Karakizi

Main points:

- HSC was founded in 2020 and represents and delegates Greece through ESA, the EC, DEFSIS, and EUSPA.
- Their fundamental EO capability is providing EO data to public sector beneficiaries to support mapping, monitoring, and disaster response applications. Various commercial mission tasking capabilities are also available. They are now seeking to expand to a dedicated Greek National Space Programme, with €130M dedicated to a small satellite mission concept.
- Seven optical sensor small satellites are planned to be launched by March 2026, (through Open Cosmos), four thermal infrared systems by March 2026 (Ororatech), and two SAR satellites (from ICEYE) launching from November 2025. Analysis Ready Data is central to the processing chain to deliver services to users.
- HSC plays an important role in formulating the National Space Strategy 2025-2040, involving the public and private Greek space sector alongside other international agencies. The agency requested Associate CEOS Membership, with anticipated engagement in CEOS WGCV, LSI-VC (CEOS-ARD), and WGDIsasters.
- HSC requests Associate membership in CEOS.

Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Gay Jane P. Perez

Main points:

- PhilSA was established in 2019 under the Philippine Space Act as the central government body for all national activities related to space science and activities. The agency has key development areas in national development and security, research and development, hazard management, climate studies, industry capacity building, international cooperation, and space education and awareness.
- The Diwata-1 and Maya-1 satellites were developed alongside Japanese universities and launched from the ISS in 2016 and 2018 respectively. The next-generation MULA Multispectral satellite is currently being developed in the UK through a partnership with SSTL; planned to launch in 2026.
- PhilSA has three ground stations in each major Philippine island group. Through ESA collaboration, a Copernicus Mirror Site system provides access to Sentinel data (CopPhil). The CopPhil programme supports national monitoring of ground motion, benthic habitats, and land, forest, and crop cover.
- Insights are generated through The PAPGAPI-PAN pan-Asia air quality monitoring project, a nationwide benthic habitat map, and a 2025 mangrove map.
- Air quality monitoring is undertaken through the Pan Asia project. A robust nationwide benthic habitat map will be released for 2025.
- PhilSA requested CEOS Member status. The agency anticipates contributing to CEOS through upstream and ground receiving capabilities, downstream applications, international partnerships, and education and capacity building activities.

Discussion

- Multiple agencies cited their past and current cooperation and unanimously supported the applications of all three agencies. Supporting interventions were made by CSIRO, EC, ESA, CSA, GISTDA, NASA, JAXA, CNES, ASI, EUMETSAT, NSO, NOSA, DLR and UKSA.

- The Chair confirmed the consensus decision to welcome all three applicant agencies as new CEOS agencies. The agency representatives were welcomed back to the room (in person and via Webex) and congratulated on joining the CEOS family.

Decision 39-01	CEOS Plenary endorsed and welcomed the African Space Agency (AfSA) as a CEOS Associate.
Decision 39-02	CEOS Plenary endorsed and welcomed the Hellenic Space Center (HSC) as a CEOS Associate.
Decision 39-03	CEOS Plenary endorsed and welcomed the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) as a CEOS Member.

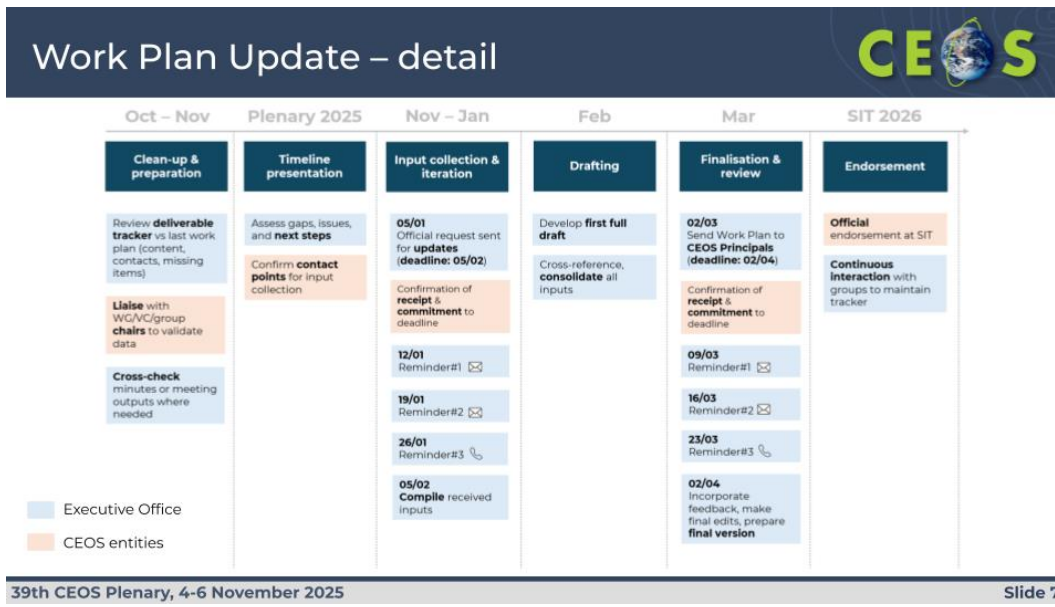
CEOS-39-01	CEOS Chair and SIT Chair teams will work with the Executive Officer team to ensure that representatives of the new Member and Associate agencies welcomed into CEOS are connected with the leads of relevant CEOS Working Groups, Virtual Constellations, and other entities, and included on the appropriate communication channels. <i>Notes: These agencies identified interest in contributing to various CEOS activities in their respective nomination letters and presentations at the 2025 CEOS Plenary.</i>	November 2025
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1.3: CEOS Executive Officer Report [[slides](#)]

Presenters: Steven Ramage (CEOS Executive Officer) and Lefteris Mamais (CEOS Executive Officer Team)

Main points:

- The CEOS Executive Officer team will introduce the new CEOS members to the chairs of the Working Groups and Virtual Constellations to help get them involved. Other space agencies interested in participating in CEOS include Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, and Saudi Arabia.
- The core tasks of the CEOS Executive Office are coordinating the CEOS Work Plan, liaising with CEOS WGs, VCs, and other teams, and providing support to the CEOS Chair and SIT Chair.
- The CEOS Work Plan currently details 115 open deliverables. The deliverables and most recent status updates can be viewed via the [CEOS Deliverables Tracker tool](#).
- The timeline for the annual CEOS Work Plan update was presented:



- Executive Officer continuity will be ensured via a rotation of responsibilities among the five SEC agencies, with slots reserved for non-SEC agencies. To support resource planning, greater visibility of the rotation schedule is needed. The full rotation will be confirmed periodically at the yearly Plenary, with firm commitments expected to cover the four-year period following each Plenary.
- The future staffing of the CEOS Executive Officer team includes Lefteris Mamais as incoming lead, Julia Caufape, Phil Harwood, and Branimir Radun, all from Evenflow’s Strategy Consulting Practice.

Discussion

- Karen St. Germain (NASA) emphasised the importance of the Work Plan for driving the CEOS agenda and objectives. She thanked the CEOS Executive Officer team for their structured approach to updating the Work Plan for 2026.
- Jonathon Ross (GA) acknowledged the critical role of the CEOS Executive Officer as connective tissue of CEOS and thanked European colleagues for providing the service. Drawing the connections across CEOS is more important than ever and the Work Plan is a crucial part of this holistic assessment.

1.4: Clarification of CEOS Decision Types

Presenter: Jonathon Ross (2026 CEOS Chair Team, GA)

Main points:

- The draft “*CEOS Decision Types*” paper was provided with the agenda and meeting documents. It outlines proposed decision categories and examples.
- At the 2025 SIT Technical Workshop (9-11 September 2025; Darmstadt, Germany) it was recognised that there is no clear framework to present and respond to different requests brought to CEOS. This also highlighted the need to define the terms ‘endorsed,’ ‘approved,’ and ‘published’ as well as appropriate usage of the CEOS logo on the resulting documentation.
- Lack of clarity can cause confusion: for working teams understanding how to put their work forward to CEOS Principals; for Chairs in structuring agendas; for Principals and their teams so they are clear what is being asked. Beyond the CEOS family, we need the community to understand the implications of our decisions.

- Jonathon recalled the action recorded at the 2025 SIT Technical Workshop *SIT-TW-2025-16: Incoming CEOS Chair team to work with the CEO Team, incoming SIT Chair Team and SEO to provide clarification on the processes and possible outcomes for CEOS Agencies and groups bringing recommendations and documents to CEOS SIT and Plenary seeking recognition, publication, or endorsement of their outputs.*
- The topic requires a careful and considered approach and to maintain some flexibility in processes. The document is presented as a draft for Principal awareness.
- The CEOS Executive Officer team will take on development of the document in conjunction with the SEC, the 2026 CEOS Chair team and the SIT Chair team, for completion by the 2026 CEOS Plenary. The definitions in the document will be tested at SIT-41.

Discussion

- Julie Robinson (NASA) thanked GA and the SEO for the consideration that has gone into the draft. This work will help CEOS teams deliver outputs in the right format and clarify the process and expectations. The 2026 SIT Chair team will support the development of this document for decision at the 2026 CEOS Plenary.
- Mauro Facchini (EC) also expressed support and suggested that the decision types be sorted by degree of formality for ease of interpretation.

CEOS-39-02	CEOS Chair will shepherd the CEOS Decision Types document to completion and potential presentation for endorsement as an addition to the permanent CEOS Governance and Processes document at the 2026 CEOS Plenary. <i>Notes: The incoming SIT Chair and CEOS Chair will test the definitions in their construction of meeting agendas throughout 2026 and engage the CEOS Secretariat, CEOS Systems Engineering Office, and Executive Officer in the process of refining the definitions. An updated draft will be submitted for SIT-41.</i>	CEOS Plenary 2026
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Session 2: 2025 CEOS Chair Theme: “Unlocking EO for Society”

2.1: CEOS In Schools [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Patrick Gibson (2025 CEOS Chair Team, UKSA)

Main points:

- The CEOS in Schools initiative aims to inspire global youth collaboration in EO by offering a low-cost, repeatable programme that enables students to learn, collaborate, and engage with CEOS.
- A [document](#) has been developed summarising feedback from the CEOS in Schools initiative.
- International student webinars were held on 26 February and 26 March 2025, to discuss EO for natural disaster response and biodiversity. 125 students participated in the webinars across six countries.
- The CEOS Youth Event was held on 4 November 2025 and presented an opportunity for students to share EO concept posters and take part in a Q&A session with CEOS Principals.

- The [CEOS Youth Hub](#) has been developed to improve access to open-source educational material on EO. Now live on the CEOS website, agencies are invited to submit their materials to the platform.
- UKSA thanks the 2026 CEOS Chair Team for their plan to continue the programme and hopes to explore opportunities to integrate the youth programme into WGCapD.

Discussion

- Agnes Lane (BoM) congratulated the UKSA team for designing a programme well-coordinated across time zones. The three Australian schools who participated provided positive feedback with enthusiasm to join again. Team Australia looks forward to repeating the programme in 2026 and encourages CEOS Members to be involved.

CEOS-39-03	CEOS Agencies are encouraged to submit contributions to the CEOS Youth Hub (ceos.org/youth). <i>Notes: The UKSA 2025 CEOS Chair Team has created the CEOS Youth Hub as a place to collate high-quality educational material designed to spark curiosity and foster understanding of our planet through satellite Earth observation. The 2025 CEOS Chair team invites interested CEOS Members and Associates to submit relevant educational materials, initiatives, or outreach activities from all CEOS agencies and their partners.</i>	SIT-41
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2.2: Unlocking EO for the Public Sector [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Niall Bradshaw (CEOS Chair Team, UKSA)

Main points:

- Reviewed the outcomes of the 2025 CEOS Chair Theme “Unlocking EO for Society”, including the headline findings from the side meeting “Unlocking EO for the Public Sector” held during the 2025 SIT Technical Workshop. The meeting explored strategies to bridge the gap between satellite EO data and services, focusing on how national systems and initiatives deliver EO information to policy and service professionals to improve efficiency, stimulate growth, and enhance societal impact.
- Speakers were welcomed across the CEOS membership to discuss the practical challenges and barriers to public service uptake. A [findings paper](#) developed after the meeting summarised the challenges identified, including trust and risk aversion, institutional inertia, relevance and usability of data, procurement and licensing constraints, and difficulties in scaling pilot projects to operational applications. The paper highlights opportunities and successes such as Digital Earth Australia, the EC’s Knowledge Centre on Earth Observation thematic deep dives on EO legislation, JAXA’s Phase 5 2025-2031 plan, UK Defra’s Centre of Excellence, and UKSA’s Unlocking Space for Government Programme.
- The meeting identified a potential role for CEOS in supporting greater public sector adoption of EO by creating spaces for the sharing of good practices, curating practical playbooks and case studies to aid operational transition, and facilitating the alignment of EO-based indicators and products with both international reporting frameworks and national policy implementation needs.

Session 3: CEOS Working Groups Reports

3.1: Working Group on Capacity Building and Data Democracy (WGCapD) [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Dan Matsapola (WGCapD Chair, SANSA)

Main points:

- WGCapD is seeking the endorsement of Christoph Aubrecht (ESA) as Vice Chair for 2026 and subsequent Chair for 2027-2028. CEOS Plenary was notified that the WGCapD Chair term of Dan Matsapola (SANSA) will be extended for an additional year (2026) to bridge the leadership gap. Nominations are sought for a Vice Chair for 2027-2028.
- WGCapD aims to provide sustained long-term collaboration on EO training, capacity building of underrepresented communities, and cross-cutting deliverables between CEOS groups. Further priorities include the capacity development of decision and policy makers, the incorporation of new AI tools and best practices, and engagement with more CEOS Members.
- WGCapD members are currently working to execute 29 deliverables between 2025 and 2026.

Discussion

- Paul Bate (2025 CEOS Chair, UKSA) thanked Dan for extending his chairmanship of WGCapD for an extra year to ensure a smooth transition for the new chair.
- NASA, ESA, ASI, and DLR added their thanks and supported the nomination of Christoph as 2027-2028 Vice Chair.
- Beth Greenaway (CEOS Chair Team, UKSA) acknowledged Dan's experience and enthusiasm throughout the CEOS in Schools pilot programme.

Decision 39-04	CEOS Plenary acknowledged the prolongation of the WGCapD Chair term of Dan Matsapola (SANSA) for an additional year (2026) and endorsed the nomination of Christoph Aubrecht (ESA) as WGCapD Vice Chair for 2026, followed by WGCapD Chair for 2027-2028.
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CEOS-39-04	CEOS Agencies to consider nominations for WGCapD Vice Chair for 2027-2028. <i>Notes: Nominations are invited from CEOS Agencies that already actively contribute to and are familiar with the cross-cutting work of WGCapD. The nomination process must first occur within WGCapD, which will then put forward one nominee for endorsement by the 2026 CEOS Plenary. Nominations should be sent to current WGCapD Chair Dan Matsapola of SANSA <dmatsapola@sansa.org.za></i>	CEOS Plenary 2026
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3.2: CEOS/CGMS Working Group on Climate (WGClimate) [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Wenying Su (WGClimate Chair, NASA)

Main points:

- The 2025 CEOS-CGMS Space Agency Statement to SBSTA 63 was endorsed on 31 October 2025 for delivery by the Australian delegate (as representative of the 2026 CEOS Chair) at COP30 (10-21 November 2025; Belém, Brazil). The statement highlights the value of sustained Earth observation across six key thematic areas: Earth’s energy imbalance, land cover, ice loss, sea level rise, atmospheric composition, and early warning and disaster response.
- The Climate Data Record (CDR) Inventory continues to evolve, serving as a comprehensive database of satellite-derived CDRs that support GCOS-defined Essential Climate Variables (ECVs). A new, streamlined interface has been introduced to enhance discoverability, usability, and uptake. A new typology is being developed to better help map CDRs to specific needs.
- WGClimate is in the process of updating its Terms of Reference to better reflect the realities and current activities of the group. The final version is expected to be presented at SIT-41 (14-16 April 2026; Irvine, US) following further discussion at the WGClimate-24 meeting (9-12 February 2026; Harwell, UK).
- In the past year, CEOS and CGMS endorsed some key WGClimate documents, including the [“2024 Gap Analysis Report and Coordinated Action Plan”](#), [“Space Agencies’ Response to the 2022 GCOS Implementation Plan”](#), [“Lessons Learned from the First Global Stocktake”](#), and the CEOS-CGMS Statement for SBSTA 63. The WGClimate UNFCCC Tiger Team was also established.

Discussion

- Jonathon Ross (GA) acknowledged Kelsey Gray, of the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, as the speaker that will deliver the Space Agency Statement to SBSTA 63. He also welcomed the review of the WGClimate Terms of Reference and supported their presentation at SIT-41. He would welcome that agenda item at SIT-41 covering connections between WGClimate and other groups like WGDisasters and LSI-VC.
- Mark Dowell (EC) suggested that any discussion of WGClimate’s linkages across CEOS should include the Terms of Reference of the related groups.

CEOS-39-05	SIT Chair to ensure a CEOS Chair-led Plenary session features on the agenda for SIT-41 so that the new WGClimate Terms of Reference can be discussed and potentially endorsed. <i>Notes: CEOS governance documents have a provision for a Plenary session to be organised within SIT meetings. The CEOS Chair as overseer of the Working Groups will convene the session. The session should cover the cross-linkages between WGClimate work and that of other CEOS groups.</i>	CLOSED <i>WGClimate has since decided to postpone the update of their Terms of Reference.</i>
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3.3: Working Group on Disasters (WGDisasters) [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Marcelo Uriburu Quirno (WGDisasters Chair, CONAE; remote)

Main points:

- WGDisasters welcomes its new Chair, Lóránt Czárán (UNOOSA), Chief of the Space Applications Section and Coordinator of UN-SPIDER, who has held various CEOS roles since 1997, including former Vice Chair of WGISS.

- Endorsement is sought for Antonio Montuori (ASI) as WGDisasters Vice Chair for 2026-2027, with a subsequent term as WGDisasters Chair for 2028-2029.
- Key achievements for WGDisasters in 2025 include the establishment of G-VEWERS as a permanent activity, a new GSNL supersite in Cyprus, and the Recovery Observatory’s transition to tripartite leadership (WB–UNDP–EU). Further updates include the establishment of the Seismic Initiative with permanent sites in Latin America, the Flood Pilot’s expansion to include soil moisture, and the completion of the Wildfire Pilot Phase I.
- The WGDisasters-25 Meeting will be held jointly with WGISS from 16-20 March 2026. WGDisasters-26 will be held in September 2026 in Rome, Italy.
- Marcelo thanked Laura Frulla (CONAE) for her leadership of WGDisasters, and all the CONAE team (especially Ana Médico and Pablo Pepe) for their support.

Discussion

- Julie Robinson (NASA) complemented the diversity of the WGDisasters demonstrators and encouraged the group to explore connections with the Virtual Constellations. After the March meeting, WGDisasters might take advantage of the SIT-41 meeting to explore these connections, including with the anticipated Biodiversity VC.
- CNES, ASI, and ESA colleagues thanked the WGDisasters leadership and commended the Working Group for its contribution to CEOS.
- Albrecht von Bergen (DLR) suggested that upon completion, WGDisasters activities provide a lot of progress and recommendations for a way forward would be highly appreciated.
- Guennadi Kroupnik (CSA) noted the productive Plenary side meeting “Coordination of global wildfire monitoring using EO” held on 4 November 2025, in which participants agreed on the need for international collaboration and coordination of efforts related to wildfires. He noted the importance of the second phase of the WGDisasters Wildfire Pilot.

Decision 39-05

CEOS Plenary endorsed the nomination of Antonio Montuori (ASI) as WGDisasters Vice Chair 2026-2027, followed by WGDisasters Chair for 2028-2029.

3.4: Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS) [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Nitant Dube (WGISS Vice Chair, ISRO; remote)

Main points:

- WGISS is separated into four interest groups: Data Preservation and Stewardship, Data Interoperability and Use, Technology Exploration, and Data Discovery and Access.
- The [CEOS Interoperability Handbook v2.0](#) is a revision of the 2008 edition, building on the 2023 Interoperability Framework definition activity. Developed on GitHub from 2024-2025 and led by WGISS with contributions from WGCV, LSI-VC, and the SEO, it incorporates community feedback from the past six months, including input from COAST-VC, OGC, NASA, UK NPL, DLR, and UKSA. The handbook underwent in-depth review at WGISS-59, WGISS-60, WGCV-55, SIT-40 and SIT-TW 2025.
- Next steps for the Data Interoperability and Use Interest Group include the development of an interoperability maturity matrix to enable self-assessment of data and service provider

interoperability levels, with links to the WGCV Cal/Val and WGISS Data Management and Stewardship maturity matrices.

- Further 2025 achievements included the finalisation of the [AI/ML](#) and Software Preservation White Papers, the publication of [Collection Management Principles](#), and the continued provision of [WGISS Connected Data Assets](#).
- A request driven by the climate community to recover heritage datasets has led WGISS to work with CEOS Agencies to recover global AVHRR data from NOAA POES and METOP satellites, at 1 km resolution from 1978 onwards.
- WGISS has nominated Damiano Guerrucci (ESA) as WGISS Vice Chair for 2026-2027, followed by WGISS Chair for 2028-2029. CEOS endorsement is sought for this appointment.
- Nitant Dube (ISRO) was welcomed as the new WGISS Chair for 2026-2027.

Discussion

- Harshbir Sangha (2025 CEOS Chair Team, UKSA) welcomed Nitant as WGISS Chair and thanked Tom Sohre (USGS, 2024-2025 WGISS Chair) for his leadership. Niall Bradshaw (CEOS Chair Team, UKSA) noted UKSA's contribution to the Interoperability Handbook v2.0 and looks forward to the next steps and engagement with commercial operators.
- Eleni Paliouras (ESA) recognised the hard work to develop and update the Interoperability Handbook, highlighting it as a foundational document and an example of what CEOS does best. ESA is pleased to nominate Damiano Guerrucci as WGISS Vice Chair.
- Karen St. Germain (NASA) noted that the Interoperability Handbook will serve as a great practical guide for CEOS. NASA supports the endorsement of Damiano as Vice Chair.
- Sally Roberts (USGS) congratulated the many contributing experts in WGISS and other components of CEOS for their outstanding work on the Interoperability Handbook. The document advances interoperability principles from the tactical (data protocol) to the strategic (data ecosystem) level, while leveraging new developments in cloud-native, distributed, and user-driven data technologies. The framework is fundamental to helping users realise the full benefits of a multi-source, multi-modal EO data ecosystem. USGS supports the handbook as well as Damiano as WGISS Vice Chair.

Decision 39-06	CEOS Plenary endorsed the Interoperability Handbook v2.0 developed by WGISS.
Decision 39-07	CEOS Plenary endorsed the nomination of Damiano Guerrucci (ESA) as WGISS Vice Chair 2026-2027, followed by WGISS Chair for 2028-2029.

3.5: Working Group on Calibration and Validation (WGCV) [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Medhavy Thankappan (WGCV Vice Chair, GA; remote)

Main points:

- Meeting highlights over the last year included the Pre-flight Calibration and Characterisation Workshop (November 2024) and WGCV-55 (July 2025). Upcoming meetings include VH RODA (17-21 November 2025; Frascati, Italy), JACIE (13-17 April 2026; Reston, US), and the joint WGCV-56/LSI-VC-19 meeting in April 2026.

- At the start of 2025, the WGCV SAR Calibration Network ([SARCalNet](#)) was operationalised. CEOS Agencies operating SAR calibration infrastructure are invited to review the SARCalNet database and submit site information.
- Subgroup highlights included support to the Radiometric Calibration Network (RadCalNet) and the CEOS Product Validation Platform (PVP), the initiation of the Ground Control Point and Global Reference Grid Intercomparison Exercises (GCPIX and GRGIX), and contributions to reports on tropospheric ozone ([TOAR-II](#)) and radar Cal/Val ([ISO 19159-4](#)). Recent publications included the best practice protocols for Aerosol, Cloud, and Precipitation Profile Validation (ACPPV) and Land Cover Change Map Accuracy Assessment.
- CEOS Agencies were invited to review the WGCV Land Product Validation (LPV) Land Cover and Change Map Accuracy Assessment and Area Estimation Good Practices Protocol, which will be presented to SIT-41.
- The CEOS Fiducial Reference Measurement (CEOS-FRM) framework defines well characterised measurements and assessment criteria for EO Cal/Val. A number of in-situ and satellite instrument networks have volunteered for pilot intercomparison exercises for the assessment framework.
- The Surface Reflectance Quality and Consistency Project is developing guidelines for harmonising CEOS-ARD surface reflectance data, which will serve as a demonstrator for the WGISS Interoperability Handbook V2.0.

Discussion

- Christian Hauglie-Hanssen (NOSA) noted the importance of calibration between agency and commercial missions, enabled by initiatives such as the CEOS Product Validation Platform (PVP). Sustained coordination is needed between both sectors.
- Jonathon Ross (GA) thanked Cody Anderson (USGS) for his leadership of WGCV and acknowledged the PVP as an opportunity for CEOS to enable the commercial sector with assured quality and interoperability, which will be critical for the future of CEOS-ARD.
- Julie Robinson (NASA) recognised the extensive and exemplary work of WGCV.
- Sally Roberts (USGS) thanked Medhavy for presenting on Cody's behalf and looks forward to hosting the joint WGCV and LSI-VC meeting at USGS EROS in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, during the week of 20 April 2026.

CEOS-39-06	CEOS Agencies operating SAR calibration infrastructure are asked to review the SARCalNet database and submit site information via info@sarcalnet.org. <i>Notes: To promote standardised SAR calibration and facilitate the harmonised implementation of cal/val tasks by a broad SAR community, it is crucial to have a network of curated calibration sites for SAR as well as established cal/val procedures.</i>	WGCV-56
CEOS-39-07	CEOS Agencies are invited to review the WGCV Land Product Validation (LPV) Subgroup Land Cover and Change Map	SIT-41

	Accuracy Assessment and Area Estimation Good Practices Protocol ahead of its presentation for potential endorsement at SIT-41 (April 2026). Feedback should be sent to WGCV LPV Subgroup Chair Fabrizio Niro <fabrizio.niro@esa.int>. <i>Notes: The document has already been endorsed by the Working Group on Calibration and Validation (WGCV) and its Land Product Validation (LPV) Subgroup. However, consistent with past practice (e.g., the Aboveground Woody Biomass Product Validation Good Practices Protocol at SIT-36) the WGCV team sees value in a Principal-level endorsement.</i>	
CEOS-39-08	CEOS Agencies are requested to identify points of contact for contributions to the CEOS Product Validation Platform (PVP) to Samantha Malone at the U.K. National Physical Laboratory <Samantha.Malone@npl.co.uk>. <i>Notes: The CEOS Product Validation Platform will allow satellite data providers, CEOS agencies and others, to assess the quality of their data in a consistent manner through comparison with community agreed references.</i>	WGCV-56

Session 4: EO Data Impact

4.1: Session Introduction

Hironori Maejima (2024-2025 SIT Chair, JAXA) introduced and moderated the session, which was structured around this SIT Chair priority area.

4.2: CEOS Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Roadmap Implementation [[slides](#)]

Presenters: Clement Albergel (ESA), Takeo Tadono (JAXA), Neha Hunka (ESA)

Main points:

- The CEOS AFOLU Roadmap is a framework for long-term coordination of agency programmes in support of the needs of society for AFOLU-related information, with a particular focus on the needs and ambition cycle of the Global Stocktake.
- The AFOLU Roadmap was approved at the 2023 CEOS Plenary with implementation actions finalised at SIT-40 (8-10 April 2025; Fukuoka, Japan). Progress on individual actions and related work was presented, with details available in the given [slides](#).
- Actions 2.6, 2.8, and 3.1 under the roadmap include the continued collaboration with GFOI to advance the use of space-based biomass products and integrate EO data with forest inventories. The group contributed to GFOI's "Forests and the Marvel of Monitoring" event in October 2025.

- The ESA-INPE CarbonARA Campaign responds to the CEOS recommendation for a large-scale field experiment to improve understanding of emissions from the Amazon basin, and measures GHG concentrations with a combination of ground, airborne, and satellite sensors.
- The ESA RECCAP 2 study aims to process atmospheric inversions for better accounting transparency and suitability for national inventories.
- CEOS engagement in expert workshops will help strengthen two-way communication on country needs and data provision, while efforts will also focus on communicating dataset maturity and developing approaches tailored to national contexts.
- CEOS Members were invited to share AFOLU success stories to highlight the impact of agency EO data in national reporting, develop guidance materials and case studies to support the roadmap, and enhance the quality, transparency, and documentation of available datasets. The roadmap leads are keen on having more input from other CEOS Agencies.

4.3: CEOS GST Strategy Draft Recommendations [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Osamu Ochiai (SIT Chair Team, JAXA)

Main points:

- The CEOS Global Stocktake Strategy, first developed in 2021, has been revised following the first Global Stocktake in 2023 and the subsequent delivery of the lessons learned report led by WGClimate. The revised CEOS GST Strategy was led by the JAXA SIT Chair Team with contributions from a broad group of experts across CEOS Agencies and partner organisations.
- The strategy's draft recommendations were presented for information and discussion, with further work and consultation planned with potential actionees and relevant CEOS groups before finalisation. More details are available in the given [slides](#).
- The priority moving forward is to progress the strategy's recommendations with the community and to define actions for incorporation into the 2026 CEOS Work Plan. Some recommendations, particularly those related to adaptation under the 2026 CEOS Chair priority, may require additional time.
- The GST Strategy is a pan-CEOS undertaking and the responsibility of the SIT Chair, with the incoming SIT Chair taking on the management, supported by the 2026 CEOS Chair team.

Discussion

- Jonathon Ross (GA) commended the heroic and comprehensive effort by JAXA and the contributing authors. Adaptation and resilience will be a theme of the 2026 CEOS Chair period and the timely set of recommendations on adaptation from the GST effort will be a valuable input to that process. We can take the time to reflect on these recommendations, and other perspectives on adaptation and resilience, to understand how best to realise them through the CEOS Work Plan – with some likely to be tractable for the 2026 CEOS Work Plan, but some perhaps needing a little more time. The plans should address Recommendation 11 (*"showcase adaptation use cases that employ EO data"*) in 2026.
- Beth Greenaway (CEOS Chair Team, UKSA) congratulated JAXA on the accomplishment. UKSA is very keen to ensure the impact of EO in UNFCCC processes and will continue to support the effort in the future.
- Eleni Paliouras (ESA) thanked the SIT Chair team for its tremendous work, and shared ESA's support to finalise the recommendations and implementation of resulting actions.

- Selma Cherchali (CNES) noted the relevance of the Space for Climate Observatory (SCO) and its 120 projects to the GST Strategy’s recommendations.
- Mark Dowell (EC) noted that the adaptation recommendations are numerous and will benefit from consideration by the 2026 CEOS Chair (as well as recommendations 7, 8, and 11).

4.4: CEOS Greenhouse Gas Roadmap Implementation [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Yasjka Meijer (ESA, GHGTT Lead; remote)

Main points:

- 2025 has seen the successful launches of GHG missions GOSAT-GW (29 June), Microcarb (26 July), and Sentinel-5 (12 August) into the expanding international GHG constellation.
- The CEOS [GHG Mission Portal](#) has been updated for 2026, including updates on both public and non-public GHG missions. The portal enables users to explore GHG missions, instruments, and timelines, build constellations, and access related case studies.
- Issue 2 of the CEOS-CGMS GHG Roadmap was endorsed at the 2024 CEOS Plenary. It is supplemented by Annex C, which includes 21 near-term actions across eight thematic areas.
- The SIT Chair Team and GHG Task Team collaborated with ASI and DLR to provide IMEO with access to PRISMA and EnMAP data as well as to revitalise the joint IMEO-CEOS working groups. A CEOS-IMEO community workshop is planned for 2026.
- The GHG Task Team has developed a database of controlled release experiments to maximise utility and opportunity for satellite observations. The database features a table of past and planned experiments, a submission form, automated notifications, and a mailing list. It is a new addition to the CEOS GHG Portal [here](#).
- The Extraordinary World Meteorological Congress confirmed on 23 October 2025 that the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W) will be integrated into the existing WMO matrix infrastructure. A joint virtual meeting between G3W and the GHT-TT is being considered.
- Thanked JAXA for supporting GHG monitoring efforts over their SIT Chair term. The next GHG-TT meeting will be held jointly with the WGClimate-24 Meeting.

Discussion

- Albrecht von Bargaen (DLR) shared that collaboration between DLR and IMEO has been intensified, including through provision of automated access to EnMAP L1B data for IMEO. This has led to significantly higher and growing numbers of use cases and facilitates automated processing chains.
- Francesco Longo (ASI) confirmed ASI’s support for providing PRISMA data to IMEO.
- Beth Greenaway (UKSA) announced that UKSA contracted GHGSat to provide methane data to IMEO. She thanked Yasjka for his leadership of the GHG-TT and encouraged those working with GHG missions to participate in the controlled release database activity.
- Guennadi Kroupnik (CSA) thanked Yasjka and the GHG-TT for sharing their support to the GHG component of the proposed Arctic Observing Mission (AOM).

CEOS-39-09	CEOS Agencies are asked to review the database of controlled release experiments on the CEOS GHG Portal.	SIT-41
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	GHG mission managers and other relevant individuals are asked to sign up to controlled release notifications by sending an email to: controlled-release-database+subscribe@googlegroups.com and to submit details of controlled release experiments here: https://airtable.com/apphCiY4iwGxjHS4A/pagIzCSssHxohyhMx/form. <i>Notes: With the objective of maximising the value of controlled release experiments, CEOS agencies are asked to:</i> <i>1) share details of controlled release experiments and 2) sign up to receive notifications of others' events.</i>	
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4.5: Implementation of the Common Practices for Quantifying Methane Emissions from Plumes Detected by Remote Sensing [\[slides\]](#)

Presenter: Paul Green (NPL)

Main points:

- The Global Methane Pledge, signed by 155 countries, seeks to reduce methane emissions by 30% by 2030. High-emitting sources (>100 kg/hr) contribute to a significant portion of global fossil fuel and waste emissions. Public and New Space observations of CO₂ and CH₄ are increasingly being used to identify emitters, support regulation, improve efficiency, and underpin reporting and carbon markets.
- The “Common Practices for Quantifying Methane Emissions from Plumes Detected by Remote Sensing” provides data producers with an understanding of community expectations, and data users with guidance on data generation and application.
- The overall structure covers the motivation, remit, and timeliness for facility scale observations, detailed guidance for Levels 0 to 4 data, current approaches to validation, a quality assessment framework, and integration efforts across multiple agencies.
- The Common Practices began development in 2024 and were endorsed by CEOS and CGMS in August 2025 and published online [here](#).
- First adopters of the Common Practices are encouraged, with two commercial producers (GHGSat and CarbonMapper) currently evaluating their data against them. Engagement continues with IMEO, CCAC, G3W and the IG3IS 2026 Good Practices. The Common Practices feature in the CEOS-CGMS statement to SBSTA 63 at COP30 and are highlighted in the UK Government’s Carbon Budget and Growth Delivery Methane Action Plan.
- Next steps include coordinating controlled release validation with academic partners, following up on the document’s recommendations, and conducting L2/L4 intercomparison exercises. A version 2.0 is being considered, with the aim to evolve from “common practice” to “good practice.”

Discussion

- Beth Greenaway (CEOS Chair Team, UKSA) congratulated CEOS for achieving this ambitious framework, which is now being implemented by satellite providers, UK policy, and IMEO. She also noted the aim to raise the Common Practices at the COP30 Global Methane Pledge Summit.

- Hironori Maejima (SIT Chair, JAXA) thanked the key contributors at NPL, JPL, and JAXA, and invited the CEOS Chair Team to share their coordination efforts with the Global Methane Pledge (GMP) and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).

4.6: CEOS-CGMS UNFCCC Tiger Team and COP30 Preparations [\[slides\]](#)

Presenter: Vincent-Henri Peuch (ECMWF)

Main points:

- The UNFCCC Tiger Team was established at the WGClimate-22 Meeting (11-13 February, 2025; Harwell, UK) to strengthen the CEOS-CGMS presence at COP and EID and improve interactions with UNFCCC.
- A workshop was held on 30 April 2025 to engage with UNFCCC and stimulate wider engagement with its workstreams. A number of topics were identified to progress jointly with designated WGClimate POCs.
- The Tiger Team has also sought to develop a strong proposal for COP Earth Information Day (10 November 2025), coordinated with the UNFCCC Secretariat. Delivered jointly by CEOS-GGMS, WMO, and GEO, the Plenary presentation seeks to identify gaps and present collective progress. In-person participation in Belém will be limited, largely due to reduced number of accreditations and availability of accommodation.
- At SIT Technical Workshop 2025 the Tiger Team was tasked to provide a sustainment plan for its activities, which will be discussed at the WGClimate-24 meeting in February 2026.

Discussion

- Hironori Maejima (SIT Chair, JAXA) expressed appreciation for Vincent-Henri's efforts in fostering inclusivity and leading CEOS alignment in preparation for the UNFCCC COP. For future coordination, he recommended that decisions regarding communication and representation with external stakeholders—specifically related to policy opportunities—be discussed at the CEOS SEC.
- Christian Hauglie-Hanssen (NOSA) noted that it's encouraging to see EO sessions at COP and asked if Blue Zone accreditation has been considered. Vincent-Henri noted prior discussions on the importance of liaising better with national delegates, ensuring visibility at EID, and making use of negotiators.
- Mark Dowell (EC) commended the renewed engagement with UNFCCC and noted that one idea for the annual engagement plan is to prepare common briefing materials for distribution to CEOS Members to engage with negotiators.
- DLR, UKSA, and CSIRO added their thanks to Vincent-Henri and supported the annual engagement plan.
- John Remedios (UKSA) noted the successful engagements with external stakeholders at the WGClimate-22 and SIT-40 meetings, which yielded examples of the challenges they face and where CEOS can support, with an emphasis on adaptation.

CEOS-39-10	The CEOS/CGMS Working Group on Climate (WGClimate) is tasked with developing a proposal for continuity of the UNFCCC Tiger Team activities at the WGClimate-24 meeting	SIT-41
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	(9-13 February 2026, hosted by ESA in Harwell, UK). The proposal will subsequently be presented at SIT-41 (April 2026). <i>Notes: The activities of the Tiger Team have been part of the core functions of WGClimate. It was suggested that an annual plan of engagement with UNFCCC be developed and maintained. On top of the already existing tasks and activities, the plan should foresee preparation of common talking points for sharing with country delegates ahead of COP.</i>	
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Session 5: CEOS Agency Reports #1

Agency (Presenter's Name)	Main Points
EUMETSAT (Phil Evans)	– Meteosat-12 is now fully operational following its two-year commissioning period. – MTG-S1 and Metop-SG A1 were successfully launched in 2025, with commissioning progressing well and first light imagery released. – Key upcoming missions include Sentinel-6B (17 November), Metop-SG-B1 (Q3 2026), Sentinel-3C (Q4 2026), MTG-I2 (Q3 2026), and CO2M-A (Q4 2026). – Progress continues on major programmes including the commercial RO data pilot, EPS-Sterna approval process, and the Destination Earth digital-twin platform.
CSA, ECCC, CCMEQ (Guennadi Kroupnik)	– Operations of the RADARSAT Constellation Mission (RCM) have been extended to 2026-2027, with RADARSAT+ progressing through preparatory contracting for the next-generation system. – Missions in development include the High-Altitude Aerosols, Water Vapour and Clouds (HAWC) mission and WildFireSat. Proposed missions include the Arctic Observing Mission (AOM), and the Terrestrial Snow Mass Mission (TSM). – Digital Earth Canada continues to advance user consultations and prototype development. – Twenty projects have been launched under the CAD \$5M SaMBA programme, including the RADARSAT-2 Tropical Forests dataset – Canada will host the XXV ISPRS Congress and 47th CSRS in Toronto in July 2026.
UKSA (Paul Bate)	– UKSA will merge with the UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology in April 2026. – TRUTHS passed its PDR, but funding constraints have paused further development, with work focused on wrap-up and capability reuse.

<u>ASI</u> (Francesco Longo)	– CSES-02, developed in collaboration with CNSA, was launched on 14 June 2025 to study Earth’s geophysical properties. – Upcoming SAR missions include next-generation COSMO-SkyMed, IRIDE, PLATINO-1, GEOSAR, SATURN, and RODiO. – Upcoming optical, hyperspectral, thermal, and lidar missions include MAIA, PRISMA Second Generation, Luce, and SBG-TIR. – ASI is advancing downstream innovation through I4DP and IRIDE services, and has expanded CEOS engagement, including future WGDIsasters chairmanship and participation in WGCapD, GHG-TT, and WGCv.
<u>NSO</u> (Joost Carpay)	– NSO’s long-term space agenda focuses on six objectives, including atmospheric monitoring, secure connectivity, space research instruments, miniaturisation, small satellites, and high-end satellite applications. – Strong atmospheric instrument heritage through TROPOMI, TANGO, Sciamachy, OMI, and SpexOne. – EO activities continue across data applications, early technology development, instrument maturation, and user needs studies. – SPEXone-Second Generation spectro-polarimeter remains mission-ready and NSO is seeking partnerships to host it.

Day 2: Thursday, November 6

Session 6: CEOS Agency Reports #2

6.1: Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Update [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Albert Fischer (WMO; remote)

Main points:

- GCOS continues to provide a global framework for sustained climate observations, with Essential Climate Variables (ECV) widely used as the agreed reference for climate monitoring requirements.
- The GCOS Implementation Plan (IP) includes 31 actions, with 16 relevant to space agencies. The Joint CEOS/CGMS WGClimates coordinates space agency response to the IP and reports progress to GCOS. A new GCOS Status Report and IP will be delivered in early 2027, with updated ECV requirements planned for 2028.
- Sustained funding remains a major concern, as GCOS relies heavily on contributions from the WMO Regular Budget, GCOS Climate Observing System Fund (COSF), and GCOS Cooperation Fund (GCF), which are facing uncertainty beyond 2027.
- The GCOS Secretariat together with the GCOS Chairs are actively seeking additional support through donors, partners, and COP30 engagement to ensure the continued delivery of core activities and outputs.

Discussion

- Mark Dowell (EC) noted that EC contribution to GCOS is foreseen through the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) until the end of 2027. WMO remains eligible for Horizon Europe grants, some of which might be of interest.
- Beth Greenaway (UKSA) noted that the UK is proud of its support to GCOS and fully supports the network's continuation. The UK recognises the pressing need for GCOS funding and suggests that this be followed up outside of CEOS by individual agencies.

CEOS-39-11	The CEOS Chair will circulate the GCOS presentation from the 2025 CEOS Plenary to CEOS agencies to draw attention to the GCOS funding challenges and to encourage interested agencies to get in touch directly with GCOS leadership.	November 2025
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6.2: CEOS Agency Reports

Agency (Presenter's Name)	Main Points
ESA (Eleni Paliouras)	– ESA's Living Planet Symposium took place in June 2025 in Vienna, drawing a record 6,900 in-person participants. – Successful 2025 launches include Sentinel-1C, AIX, Hive, Forest-3 (InCubed), Biomass, MTG-S1, MetOp-SG A1, and Sentinel-1D, with AIS receivers on Sentinel-1D now operational.

	– Upcoming missions include HydroGNSS, Eaglet, Sentinel-6B on 17 November 2025, and in 2026-27 the launches of MTG-I2, MetOp-SG B1, Sentinel-3C, FLEX, Altius, and CO2M-A. – WIVERN has been approved, work continues on Scout mission candidates and NGGM design.
CNES (Selma Cherchali)	– CNES approved key decisions to advance the REVALTO mission, designed to complement SWOT and Sentinel-3 NG TOPO. – MicroCarb, CO3D, and IASI-NG were launched in 2025, with MicroCarb operating nominally and delivering key observations over the Amazon. – CO3D will provide a global 1m DEM – IASI-NG ensures enhanced continuity of the 20-year IASI climate data record.
European Commission (Mauro Facchini)	– Copernicus now supports 955,220 users, delivering over 1500 products and 95,167 TB of Sentinel data. – Sentinel next-generation and expansion missions continue to progress, including CO2M, CRISTAL, ROSE-L, CIMR, CHIME and LSTM.
DLR (Godela Rossner)	– Metop-SG A was launched in August 2025, with the METImage instrument's commissioning phase completed and first-light data delivered. – The EnMAP hyperspectral mission has been in routine operation for three years, with more than 150,000 products archived and over 5,100 registered users worldwide. – EnMAP now supports IMEO through automated L1B access, enabling seamless methane mapping workflows. – Phase 0 of the TerraSAR-FOX mission was completed in July 2025, advancing plans for a multistatic SAR constellation with enhanced precision. – DLR also highlighted the German 'New Space' sector, Copernicus contributions, data platform activities including CODE-DE, and contributions related to capacity building, which align well with WGCapD activities.
ECMWF (Vincent-Henri Peuch)	– AI-based forecasting systems are now operational at ECMWF, and the AI Weather Quest challenge is underway to improve week 4 and 5 forecasting. Significant forecast improvements have been achieved through successful assimilation of ESA's AWS data. – Geostationary NO2 and ozone profile products from NIER's GEMS are in preparation for assimilation into the Sentinel-4 data stream. – ECMWF is supporting the commissioning of missions including Biomass, GOSAT-GW, MicroCarb, MetOp-SG A1, and MTG. – Effective 1 January 2026, Florian Pappenberger will succeed Florence Rabier as Director-General of ECMWF.
NOSA (Christian Hauglie-	– Norway's space priorities focus on climate and environment, security and resilience, high North and the Arctic, industry and services development.

Hanssen)	– EO activities include participation in Copernicus, ESA EO programmes at the industrial level, national missions, and other bilateral cooperations. Polar activities focus on marine, land, atmosphere, climate, and EMS. – The 2023 Global Space Conference on Climate Change (GLOC 2023) took place in Oslo, Norway. The next is planned in Rwanda in June 2026. – Norwegian satellites currently in orbit include the NorSat series. Launches of MicroSAR and AOS are planned for 2027.
JAXA (Hironori Maejima)	– GOSAT-GW was successfully launched in June 2025. Early observations from AMSR3 and TANSO-3 instruments have recently been released. – ALOS-4 entered routine operations in 2024 supporting disaster response, maritime applications and forest monitoring with L-band SAR. – JAXA recently announced four new thematic areas for strategic initiatives: Global Water-related Disaster Risk and Resource Management; Understanding natural capital and utilising satellite data for carbon credits; Maritime Observation; Infrastructure and Disaster Management. – A future mission concept under a public-private initiative includes a lidar altimeter satellite designed to generate global geodetic reference points for highly accurate 3D mapping.
UNOOSA (Lóránt Czárán)	– UNOOSA, established in 1957, supports 110 member states and 56 observers, including CEOS. – Restructuring is underway to consolidate its Space Applications Section such as UN-SPIDER. – Developing a central hub for very high-resolution (VHR) EO data procurement to support UN-wide operations.

Session 7: Virtual Constellation Topics and Other CEOS Priorities

7.1: Presentation of the Biodiversity Study Team's (BST) Proposal for Sustainable Support for Biodiversity in CEOS [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Gary Geller (NASA, BST Co-Lead)

Main points:

- The Biodiversity Study Team (BST) was established at the 2024 CEOS Plenary (22-24 October; Montréal, Canada) and tasked to assess options for enduring CEOS engagement with biodiversity through a stakeholder assessment, exploring connections with CEOS WGs and VCs, and providing recommendations for a proposed way forward.
- A Biodiversity Virtual Constellation (B-VC) was proposed, with alternative approaches considered including a CEOS Working Group, a subgroup under LSI-VC, an Ad Hoc Team, or a federated approach. A comparison of options is available in the given [slides](#).
- The B-VC mission statement is to “*advance biodiversity understanding, monitoring, and conservation for the benefit of society by strengthening the community’s use of space-based Earth observations and data products.*” The proposed objectives and activities of the B-VC are detailed in the [slides](#).

- CEOS Principals were requested to acknowledge the Biodiversity Study Team’s fulfilment of its assigned tasks, endorse the development of the full B-VC proposal for consideration at SIT-41, and extend the Biodiversity Study Team through to SIT-41 to complete the full proposal.

Discussion

- CEOS Principals from CSA, CSIRO, NASA, GISTDA, CNES, JAXA, UKSA, ESA, EC, GA, and USGS supported the initial proposal to establish a Biodiversity Virtual Constellation and acknowledged that the BST had fulfilled its initial mandate.
- Karen St. Germain (NASA) commended the great effort by the BST and supported its extension until SIT-41, when a full proposal for a B-VC will be presented for decision. NASA encourages all CEOS agencies to support the B-VC’s objectives and activities, and to foster connections between the B-VC and other VCs and WGs as appropriate.
- Selma Cherchali (CNES) noted the importance of understanding the intent and willingness of CEOS Members to support B-VC activities and welcomed a full report on the outcomes of the demonstrators.
- Mark Dowell (EC) noted that the new Copernicus Thematic Hub on Biodiversity may support the B-VC activities.
- Jonathon Ross (GA) welcomed the emphasis on partnerships beyond CEOS and other community engagement, such as through a statement to the UNCBD COP.

Decision 39-08	CEOS Plenary acknowledged that the Biodiversity Study Team has fulfilled its originally assigned tasks, agreed with the initial proposal for a Biodiversity Virtual Constellation, and to proceed with development of a Full Proposal for consideration at SIT-41 (April 2026).
Decision 39-09	CEOS Plenary extended the term of the Biodiversity Study Team through to SIT-41 in order to complete the Full Proposal and develop inputs for the CEOS Work Plan.

CEOS-39-12	The Biodiversity Study Team will develop a Full Proposal and final Implementation Plan for the Biodiversity Virtual Constellation for consideration at SIT-41 (April 2026). <i>Notes: As directed in the Virtual Constellations Process Paper.</i>	SIT-41
CEOS-39-13	CEOS Principals are asked to consider where their capabilities align with the objectives and activities of a potential Biodiversity Virtual Constellation and assess possible nominations to the team. <i>Notes: As a broad and cross-cutting topic, agencies are encouraged to consider connections with the activities of other Virtual Constellations and Working Groups.</i>	SIT-41

7.2: CEOS Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Group Update [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Steven Ramage (CEOS Executive Officer, SDG Coordination Group Lead)

Main points:

- The CEOS Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Coordination Group is led by the CEOS Executive Officer Team
- The SDG Coordination Group recently contributed to the “*Rescuing the SDGs with Geospatial Information*” paper and a response to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).
- Updates continue to be made to the [SDG Support Sheets](#), covering CEOS support to SDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 14: Life Below Water, and SDG 15: Life on Land.
- Collaboration with EO4SDG through GEO continues, under JAXA leadership.
- UNOOSA recently released a call for inputs to support Space4SDGs within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Future plans include a CEOS SDG Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), proposed by ESA to clearly link EO applications to SDGs, initially through WGCapD. The initiative will enable CEOS Members to contribute to the SDG Coordination Group in flexible ways and aims to strengthen partnerships with UN agencies, development banks, and universities. A pilot MOOC webinar is planned for 2026, building on the existing [Towards Zero Hunger SDG2](#).

Discussion

- Osamu Ochiai (JAXA) noted that he is now the EO4SDGs lead, and he shared that several communities like the UAE and SANSA are willing to become involved.
- Lóránt Czárán (UNOOSA) noted that UNOOSA is drafting a booklet on EO for the SDGs at the request of the UN-GGIM Secretariat. He proposed that the CEOS SDG Coordination Group review the booklet, contribute use cases, and publish it jointly with UNOOSA.

CEOS-39-14	Lóránt Czárán will share information on the EO Booklet for SDGs being developed under UNOOSA with the Executive Officer and CEOS Chair Team. <i>Notes: CEOS input to the booklet is welcomed, and the Executive Officer will ensure the opportunity is shared with the SDG Coordination Group.</i>	November 2025
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- David Borges (SEO) thanked the CEO Team for taking on the role of the SDG Coordination Group.
- Mark Dowell (EC) noted that GEO has various areas focused on SDGs, such as the GEO-LDN, GEO Human Planet, and GEOGLOWS Flagships. The 2026 GEO Work Plan aims to lay out new engagement processes and should feature EO4SDGs as an enabler. Further CEOS contributions towards the GEO Work Plan could be considered.

7.3: Future of CEOS Analysis Ready Data (CEOS-ARD) [[slides](#)]

Presenters: Ferran Gascon (ESA, CEOS-ARD Oversight Group Lead) & Matt Steventon (CEOS-ARD Oversight Group Sec)

Main points:

- The CEOS-ARD Oversight Group seeks a CEOS Plenary action to develop the CEOS-ARD Strategy 2026, aiming for endorsement at CEOS Plenary 2026. The strategy will define the actions, resources, and commitments required to deliver the next level of ambition for CEOS-ARD and meet community expectations.
- A community engagement campaign was undertaken in 2025 to understand the community's needs, with particular focus on stakeholders outside of CEOS. Community engagement included presence at key events such as ESA's Living Planet Symposium, IGARSS, IAC, and WGCV-55, a [survey](#) to gather feedback, and a social media campaign. The campaign's findings are summarised in the supplied [Consultation Paper and Concept Note](#).
- Headline findings from the campaign highlighted key topics for a future CEOS-ARD Strategy to consider, including consistent and enhanced metadata specifications; ongoing quality assurance and integrity monitoring; fitness for purpose metrics; increased support for scientific applications, environmental adaptation and resilience; and strengthening the business case and commercial relevance.
- The paper notes connections to WGCV's Product Validation Platform, cal/val networks, and maturity matrices, as well as the WGISS Interoperability Handbook v2.0. Connections to the commercial sector are identified through the ESA-NASA Joint Quality Assessment Framework, the ESA EDAP and NASA CSDA teams, ESA CCM and MPC, JACIE and VH-RODA communities.
- In 2025, new CEOS-ARD compliant datasets were approved from GA, EarthDaily, NRCAN, ISRO, Catalist, and DLR.
- The need to incorporate higher level products in the CEOS-ARD framework has been identified by the CEOS AFOLU Roadmap team, LSI-VC GEOGLAM Subgroup, and Biodiversity Study Team.

Discussion

- Jonathon Ross (GA) noted that CEOS-ARD is an important vehicle to drive impact in agency investments, as well as a cross-cutting activity supporting all CEOS entities. CEOS-ARD has high participation from a wide geographic spread and represents a great opportunity for CEOS to strengthen its value proposition for the commercial sector, as well as with value-adders. He also supported the proposed action for CEOS Agencies to engage more closely with their national standards bodies after having observed discussions within ISO that require CEOS expertise. Jonathon thanked ESA for their leadership of the CEOS-ARD Oversight Group.
- Participants commended the CEOS-ARD Oversight Group for its evidence-based approach to justify the initiation of the CEOS-ARD Strategy 2026, and highlighted CEOS-ARD's recognition within the wider EO community.
- Phil Evans (EUMETSAT) expressed support for the initiative and noted that 'quality' needs careful consideration, as it is application dependent.
- Eleni Paliouras (ESA) expressed appreciation for Ferran Gascon's leadership of the CEOS-ARD Oversight Group and noted that ESA is pleased to support this important activity. She acknowledged

the significant work and strong engagement in creating the Concept Note and fully supported the next step of developing the next CEOS-ARD Strategy to meet community and stakeholder needs.

- Karen St. Germain (NASA) commended the consultation paper and noted that the incoming SIT Chair team looks forward to advancing this topic alongside the CEOS-ARD Oversight Group and incoming CEOS Chair team.
- Mark Dowell (EC) noted the strong response to the survey and highlighted the CEOS-ARD Oversight Group as an exemplary model for CEOS engagement with the commercial sector.
- Sally Roberts (USGS) noted via Webex chat: *“The USGS is fully committed to supporting the development of a next-generation CEOS-ARD strategy, and we’re excited to continue contributing to this important initiative. We’re especially grateful for the extensive user consultations and external surveys you’ve conducted. It’s clear there’s a lot of work ahead, but this foundation gives us a strong starting point to drive greater uptake and impact. We are particularly encouraged by the level of commercial engagement and the valuable feedback we’ve received over the past year. That input will be instrumental in shaping our path forward. We want to thank the entire CEOS-ARD team for your dedication and efforts. We really appreciate the thoughtful engagement with the broader community.”*

Decision 39-10	CEOS Plenary approved the development of the 2026 CEOS-ARD Strategy.
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CEOS-39-15	The CEOS Analysis Ready Data (CEOS-ARD) Oversight Group will develop the 2026 CEOS-ARD Strategy for presentation to the 2026 CEOS Plenary. <i><u>Notes:</u> The Strategy will define the actions, resources, and commitments required to deliver the next level of ambition for CEOS-ARD.</i>	2026 CEOS Plenary
CEOS-39-16	CEOS Principals are asked to consider nominations of agency experts to the CEOS-ARD Strategy 2026 writing team, with particular consideration to the ‘CEOS Dependencies’ noted in the supplied Consultation Paper and Concept Note.	December 2025
CEOS-39-17	CEOS Agencies are asked to identify their national organisations within ISO and inform CEOS-ARD Oversight Group of any willingness to convey priorities to inform formal voting procedures. <i><u>Notes:</u> Maintaining awareness and leadership of CEOS-ARD progress in global standards bodies (e.g. ISO, OGC) requires increased coordination between CEOS agencies and national</i>	December 2025

	<i>standards bodies to influence national representation and voting results.</i>	
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7.4: White Paper on a Coordinated International Satellite Altimetry Virtual Constellation [[slides](#)]

Presenters: Estelle Obligis (OST-VC Co-lead, EUMETSAT), Yannice Faugere (OST-VC Co-lead, CNES)

Main points:

- The final draft of the white paper “*A Coordinated International Satellite Altimetry Virtual Constellation: Towards 2050*” was finalised in October 2025 and is presented as a recommendation to CEOS. It will also be shared during the next Ocean Surface Topography Science Team (OSTST) meeting on 16 November 2025, coinciding with the launch of Copernicus Sentinel-6B.
- The paper identifies emerging applications and innovative technologies, inventories user needs and gaps in the current international space constellation and highlights the need to ensure the continuation of the three decades-long time series of reference altimetry.
- The paper further highlights the need for in-situ cal/val, FRMs, and coverage over polar regions, as well as opportunities to address gaps, develop higher level products, and improve user service.
- The international satellite altimetry community has historically fostered open collaboration, bringing together experts from many disciplines working towards the same shared goals.

Discussion

- Julie Robinson (NASA) expressed appreciation for OST-VC’s efforts and recognised the performance of SWOT and the upcoming Sentinel-6B and Sentinel-3 NG missions. She raised the need to clarify the intent of the white paper as a published CEOS document.
- Selma Cherchali (CNES) recalled the scope of the white paper and the history of the “*Future of Spaceborne Altimetry*” papers, which gathered experts from CEOS and external communities to address scientific gaps. It provides inputs for future mission consideration but is not focused on specific mission requirements.
- Phil Evans (EUMETSAT) reiterated Selma’s comments, noting that the paper is an important piece of work that is valuable in the forward-looking context for altimetry. Whilst recognising the need to clarify CEOS endorsement processes, we should be careful not to discourage such work.

CEOS-39-18	Ocean Surface Topography Virtual Constellation (OST-VC) Co-Leads will work with the CEOS Secretariat to ensure the <i>White Paper on a Coordinated International Satellite Altimetry Virtual Constellation</i> is appropriately formatted and contextualised prior to its publication on ceos.org/observations and ceos.org/publications-key-documents/ .	Follow up at SEC-343
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Decision 39-11	The 2025 CEOS Plenary acknowledged the <i>White Paper on a Coordinated International Satellite Altimetry Virtual Constellation</i> prepared by Ocean Surface
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Topography Virtual Constellation (OST-VC), thanking members for their effort. Plenary agreed to the closure of the associated CEOS Work Plan Deliverable.

7.5: CEOS Virtual Constellation Synthesis Report [[slides](#)]

Presenters: Hironori Maejima and Osamu Ochiai (SIT Chair Team, JAXA)

Main points:

- The CEOS Virtual Constellation (VC) Co-leads provided updates to the SIT Chair in support of the annual synthesis report to CEOS Plenary. Gratitude was expressed to the Co-leads of the eight VCs for their sustained coordination, international collaboration, and efforts to meet common requirements across thematic EO domains.

Atmospheric Composition (AC-VC)

- A strong record and outlook for atmospheric composition observations was highlighted, supported by new missions in 2025 including GOSAT-GW, MicroCarb, MetOp-SG-A1, and MTG-S1, and by the continued data records from Sentinel-4 and Sentinel-5.
- Consolidated drafts of the white papers *“Enhancing the role of satellites in PM2.5 monitoring”* and *“Expanding geostationary monitoring of atmospheric composition”* are planned for completion by the end of 2025.
- Emma Knowland (NASA) has replaced Barry Lefer (NASA) as AC-VC Co-lead.

Coastal Observations Applications Services and Tools (COAST-VC)

- In 2025, COAST-VC established a new group for Coastal Satellite-derived Bathymetry, welcomed CSA as a new member, and began a coastal data gap analysis.
- Expressions of interest are being welcomed for future COAST-VC Co-leads, following NOAA’s nominal transition back to membership status.
- The VC continues to contribute to the CEOS Aquatic Carbon Roadmap and joint coastal activities with OCR-VC and SST-VC, as well as collaboration with CoastPredict, IOCCG, and GOOS.

Land Surface Imaging (LSI-VC).

- Reported the successful launches of Biomass and NISAR, and the start of ALOS-4 data distribution.
- LSI-VC is supporting CEOS-ARD compliance assessments for surface reflectance and SAR products and contributing to the CEOS-ARD Surface Temperature Product Family Specification (PFS) with the commercial sector. PFS are also being developed for multi-source SAR backscatter and very-high resolution SAR data, enabling new product and industry participation.
- Needs and challenges were reported regarding time series for land degradation neutrality efforts, identifying more activities to support the AFOLU Roadmap, mapping Essential Agriculture Variables (EAVs) to CEOS Agency products and activities, and supporting the Ramsar community with EO.

Ocean Colour Radiometry (OCR-VC)

- OCR-VC is leading the development of the CEOS Aquatic Carbon Roadmap, with key events planned for the 2nd Ocean Carbon from Space Workshop (24-26 November and 2-3 December, 2025).

- In 2025, the VC contributed to ocean colour protocols for system various calibration, in situ measurements, and FRMs, as well as to the CEOS-ARD Aquatic Reflectance PFS v2.0.
- Challenges were noted for the continuity of hyperspectral ocean colour observations, and the need to support requirements for long-term time series and in-situ FRM infrastructure.

Ocean Surface Topography (OST-VC)

- Shared the current constellation of altimetry missions, with 11 in-flight and 11 planned, including the upcoming launches of Sentinel-6B on 17 November 2025 and Sentinel-3C in 2026. Sentinel-6B will provide continuity to the mean sea level record started in 1992 by TOPEX/Poseidon.
- The upcoming OST Science Team Meeting is scheduled to coincide with the launch of Sentinel-6B.
- The key role of Chinese missions in the constellation of altimetry missions was acknowledged, and OST-VC welcomes the participation of Chinese agencies.

Ocean Surface Vector Wind (OSVW-VC)

- The continuity of ocean surface vector wind observations is foreseen into the 2040s, with support from upcoming missions including EPS-SG SCA in late 2026 and the HY-2 constellation.
- The high societal impact of wind observations was emphasised, alongside the importance of complementarity with SAR and microwave radiometers.

Precipitation (P-VC)

- Recent developments included new AI/ML-based precipitation products, and consideration to develop a CEOS-ARD PFS for precipitation.
- Gaps in product availability are identified post-2030 with the end of the GPM Core mission.

Sea Surface Temperature (SST-VC)

- SST-VC is contributing to Version 3 of the GHRSSST Data Specification, which will introduce ultra-high resolution (<100 m) SST and sea ice temperature. There is interest to develop a CEOS-ARD PFS for SST, perhaps built on the GHRSSST Data Specification.
- Challenges highlighted included data gaps in microwave imaging beyond 2032 and the need for continued mission planning and coordination between parameter and area-focused VCs.

Session 8: CEOS Agency Reports #3

Agency (Presenter's Name)	Main Points
CSIRO (Amy Parker)	– In addition to preparing for the 2026 CEOS Chair role, CSIRO remains actively engaged in WGCV, WGISS, LSI-VC PolSAR activity, CEOS Analytics Lab, Biodiversity Study Team and SDG Coordination Group. It will host the 2026 SAR Subgroup workshop in Perth and is working with GA to operationalise in-situ Cal/Val sites across Australia. – A joint water quality workshop was held with the SIT Chair, including Aquawatch. Inland water quality products are being

	piloted in Indonesia to monitor harmful algal blooms. – Mission concepts include Aquasat, CyanoSense, AquaWatch-UK, and Bushfire Fuel Watch. – CSIRO delivered the Great Western Woodlands demonstrator to the Biodiversity Study Team (BST), with biodiversity work supported by EASI Open Data Cube.
WMO (Natalia Donoho)	– WMO is celebrating 75 years as a UN organisation and continues its close collaboration with CGMS and CEOS through the WMO Space Programme. – A streamlined WMO structure was introduced for 2025-2026, with new departments for Earth System Data and Predictions, science, services, capacity development, regional coordination, and administration. – The Extraordinary Congress in October 2025 endorsed AI for forecasts and warnings, enhanced EW4All, approved technical regulations for national EW services, and adopted a 2025-2027 Youth Action Plan. – WIGOS Vision is being updated for delivery in July 2026, and CEOS leadership is invited to a high-level meeting on 3-4 March 2026.
NASA (Karen St. Germain)	– Launched NISAR in partnership with ISRO in July 2025, delivering new capabilities for disaster response and land and water management. First light imagery from the L-band SAR was recently released, shedding light on different attributes such as crop type, irrigation, and water bodies. – NASA's Earth Science Division, through EOSDIS, operates one of the world's largest open Earth science archives, collecting 160 TB of data per day, holding over 116 PB in the cloud, and serving more than 10 million users with 7.8 billion distributed files.
SANSA (Abel Ramoelo)	– SANSA's five-year strategy is built on five pillars, including space science, EO R&D, and Earth intelligence. Key programmes include Earth observation, space engineering, space operations, and space science. – Decision support tools are developed to support thematic applications including disaster management, air quality, agriculture, drought monitoring, water resources, and human settlements. – SANSA continues to contribute to CEOS through its WGCapD Chair role and participation in other WGs and VCs.
GISTDA (Pakorn Apaphant)	– GISTDA hosted the Thailand Space Expo and AOGEO Symposium in October 2025. – THEOS-2A, co-designed with SSTL, is scheduled for launch in December 2025. – A timeline for Thailand's next generation EO Programme was presented, outlining THEOS-3 to THEOS-6 constellations featuring

	advanced optical and SAR capabilities. – Thailand has drafted a Space Act aimed at boosting economic growth, ensuring treaty compliance, and strengthening space governance.
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Session 9: CEOS Services Highlight

9.1: CEOS Systems Engineering Office (SEO) Report [[slides](#)]

Presenters: David Borges (NASA, SEO)

Main points:

- SEO is addressing CEOS mailing list deliverability issues and is testing Groups.io as a potential full replacement for Listserv.
- The CEOS Analytics Lab (CAL) continues to expand as a cloud-native analysis platform, supporting activities for the WGCV SAR Subgroup and SARCalNet, as well as processing of ALOS-2 observations over the Amazon basin, with massively reduced processing times.
- A new “*CEOS Digital Object Identifier Process Paper*” is in development, proposing Zenodo as the primary repository to ensure long-term preservation, discoverability and citation of CEOS documents. The process paper will be seeking endorsement at the 2026 CEOS Plenary.
- A “*CEOS Organisational GitHub Governance*” is also under development, and aims to address governance decisions around ownership criteria, membership standards, and team structure for the CEOS Organisational GitHub.

Discussion

- Paul Bate and Beth Greenaway (CEOS Chair Team, UKSA) thanked the SEO team for their connective efforts in CEOS, and supported the development of the DOI process paper, ensuring CEOS documentation is made visible and accessible.
- Ake Rosenqvist (via Webex chat): “*Grateful to NASA, CSIRO and Dave and the SEO for making the CAL available to the CEOS community. It’s a fantastic resource.*”

CEOS-39-19	Individuals interested in contributing to the definition of CEOS GitHub Governance are encouraged to contact David Borges <david.borges@nasa.gov>.	November 2025
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9.2: CEOS Communications Team Update [[slides](#)]

Presenter: David Borges (NASA, SEO)

Main points:

- SEO continues to lead the CEOS Communications Team, covering the website, social media, outreach activities, and exhibition booths, with support from the CEOS Executive Officer team, the JAXA Newsletter Team, and colleagues from USGS, ESA, NOAA, and CSIRO.

- The Communications Team organised a booth presence at the 2025 Living Planet Symposium, hosted by ESA to introduce, promote, and welcome participation in CEOS activities.
- All communications material is digital and can be reused for all community events and can be accessed through the SEO team.
- New interactive Storymaps were developed to highlight CEOS tools and services, including [RadCalNet](#), [SARCalNet](#), [EO Support Sheets](#) and the [Impact of CEOS](#).
- Multiple [ceos.org](#) news articles have been published throughout 2025, with upcoming pieces on the CEOS wildfire pilot outcomes, the CDR inventory, FRM Assessment Framework, and data loss prevention. Quarterly revisits are posted every three months, and include messages from the CEOS community, recent newsletter and blog posts, the CEOS Database Quarterly report, meetings, and training events.
- CEOS social media presence continues to grow, with 68 LinkedIn posts, 1,146 new followers, 80,000 impressions and strong engagement over the past year.
- Work is underway to update the CEOS Communications Strategy for 2026-2027. Key updates to this strategy include an updated target audience classification and new campaigns aligned with the incoming CEOS and SIT Chair priorities.

Discussion

- Paul Bate (2025 CEOS Chair, UKSA) celebrated the work done by the Communications Team to promote CEOS and emphasised the value of making materials available for other events.
- Jonathon Ross (GA) commended the team for its impactful communications efforts and encouraged CEOS members, WGs, VCs and other teams to work with the Communications Team to maximise their impact.

CEOS-39-20	CEOS Agencies, Working Groups, Virtual Constellations, and other teams are invited to review the proposed target audiences and 2026 campaigns, to be included in the 2026-2027 CEOS Communications Strategy. Feedback should be sent to Libby Rose <libby@sybioscomms.com> and David Borges <david.borges@nasa.gov>.	December 2025
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9.3: CEOS Newsletter 2025 Recap and Future Plans [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Satoshi Uenuma (SIT Chair Team)

Main points:

- The CEOS Newsletter is published and maintained by JAXA, providing regular updates on CEOS activities, Working Groups, Virtual Constellations, and major events.
- Ten articles have been published so far in 2025, with additional articles planned on the SIT Technical Workshop, 39th CEOS Plenary, and CEOS Youth Event. Each year, the Newsletter articles are compiled into a single 'Annual Roundup' newsletter edition.

- Newsletter website traffic continues to grow, with more than 21,000 page views in October 2025. Subscriber numbers also continue to increase, with 170 people now receiving email notifications of new posts.
- JAXA will continue to coordinate with CEOS Members to develop content for the Newsletter in 2026.

Discussion

- Paul Bate (2025 CEOS Chair, UKSA) thanked JAXA for their support of the CEOS Newsletter, which dates back to 1993.
- Eleni Paliouras (ESA) expressed support for the CEOS Newsletter, which represents a great tool to announce the accomplishments of CEOS.
- Beth Greenaway (CEOS Chair Team, UKSA) suggested that the acceptance of the new CEOS members be featured in an upcoming edition of the newsletter.

9.4: WGISS Connected Data Assets [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Damiano Guerrucci (ESA, WGISS Vice Chair 2026-2027; remote)

- The WGISS Data Access Interest Group continues to improve the discoverability and access to CEOS data through standardised protocols, federated authentication work, and expanded metadata ingestion.
- The Federated Earth Observation Gateway (FedEO) and International Directory Network (IDN) remain the core CEOS data access assets, providing a single entry point to scientific catalogues and global datasets.
- The integration of CEOS Agency catalogues continues to expand, now covering 252 million granules and 3000 collections, with recent additions from ISRO, INPE, EUMETSAT, JAXA and CNES.
- Work is ongoing to develop best practices, STAC and OpenSearch implementations, and coordinate on interoperability with CEOS-ARD, the MIM Database, WGISS TEIG, and the SEO teams.

9.5: CEOS Missions, Instruments and Measurements (MIM) Database Report [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Marie-Claire Greening (ESA, CEOS MIM Database Team)

Main points:

- The CEOS MIM Database is the official consolidated statement of CEOS Agency programmes and plans and now includes a redesigned website. The database currently lists 216 active missions and 140 future missions, with updates received from 33 out of 40 CEOS Agencies in the 2025 survey. The total number of users rose to 53,000 over the last year.
- Quarterly reports are published throughout the year, summarising recent launches and mission updates. 15 CEOS Agency launches are represented in the database for 2025, with another 11 forecast by the end of the year.
- EO Portal (eoportal.org) is an independent site that uses CEOS Database metadata and provides detailed mission and other articles.
- The full PDF archive of the twelve EO Handbooks published over 33 years is now available at eohandbook.com. The next edition of the EOHB is being planned for 2026, with a focus on adaptation and resilience, aligned with the incoming SIT and CEOS Chair priorities.

Discussion

- There was a discussion on whether KPIs could be implemented for the CEOS information platforms, as well as the current metrics used to assess site traffic.
- Mark Dowell (EC) supported the planned focus of the 2026 EO Handbook on adaptation and resilience.
- Joost Carpay (NSO) thanked the MIM Database team for providing a valuable tool that comprehensively lists CEOS agency EO capabilities.
- Karen St. Germain (NASA) noted NASA's heavy usage of the MIM database and recognised the effort to maintain its consistency and currency.

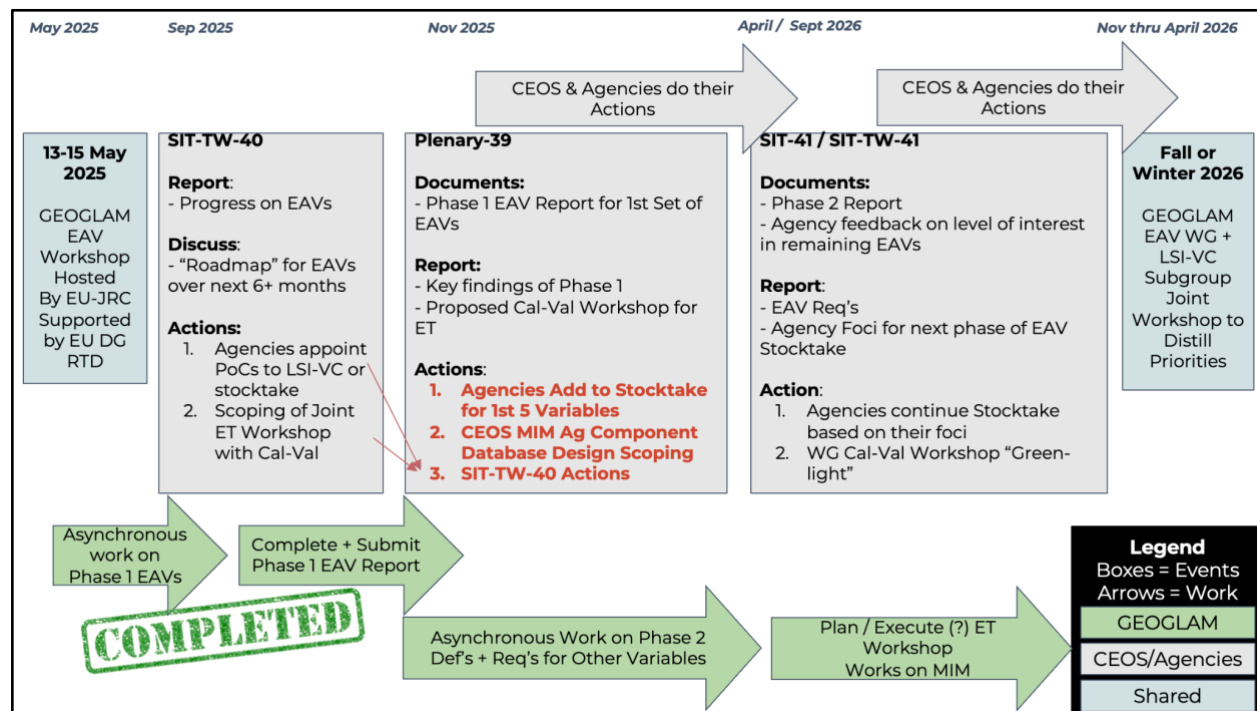
Session 7: Virtual Constellation Topics and Other CEOS Priorities (Continued)

7.6: Essential Agriculture Variables (EAVs) and GEOGLAM [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Alyssa Whitcraft (GEOGLAM; remote)

Main points:

- GEOGLAM was established in 2011 by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and has the mandate to “develop bottom-up, consensus-driven outlooks on crop production as it impacts markets, food security, and increasingly/implicitly sustainability”.
- A GEOGLAM Workshop was held in May 2025 at EC/JRC in Ispra, Italy, to achieve consensus on a framework for EAVs. Active contribution from a wider pool of CEOS Agencies is needed to progress the EAV stocktake. Part of the EAV effort is to articulate a suite of attributes and requirements, followed by a stocktake and gap analysis across all variables to assess the availability of EAV products. The complete timeline is shown below:



- The crop type variable, for example, aims to support national monitoring for food and water security and early warning systems. Attributes describe requirements for spatial and temporal resolution, accuracy, and latency.

- GEOGLAM aims to establish a long term home for EAVs in the CEOS MIM Database. The community will begin the second phase of variable articulation, for completion by SIT Technical Workshop 2026.
- Alyssa expressed gratitude to Dr. Bradley Doorn for his contribution to GEOGLAM; he retired from NASA in July 2025 after 40 years of government service.

Discussion

- Mark Dowell (EC) noted the WGClimat CDR Inventory as another potential home for the EAVs.
- Alex Held (CSIRO) acknowledged Roger Lawes' (CSIRO) contributions to GEOGLAM and highlighted CSIRO's work on the Rangeland and Pasture Productivity (RAPP) Map. Currently based on MODIS products, the team is exploring the incorporation of VIIRS and Sentinel data, as well as potential links with ESA's RAMONA project.

CEOS-39-21	CEOS Agencies are asked to nominate additional points of contact to contribute to the stocktake of the first five Essential Agriculture Variables (EAVs) being undertaken in the LSI-VC GEOGLAM Subgroup. <i>Notes: The LSI-GEOGLAM team is aware that there are many more efforts already undertaken by CEOS agencies related to observations and EAV development that should be included in the stocktake. Additional CEOS agencies need to be involved in the LSI-GEOGLAM Subgroup. The CEOS MIM Database and LSI-GEOGLAM team will scope an agriculture portal to present findings of the stocktake.</i>	November 2025
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Session 10: CEOS Leadership Transitions and Closing Business

10.1: Accomplishments of the JAXA 2024-2025 SIT Chair Term [[slides](#)]

Presenters: Hironori Maejima (2024-2025 SIT Chair, JAXA)

Main points:

- An overview of the 2024-2025 JAXA SIT Chair priorities was presented. Within the EO Data Impact priority, the SIT Chair team has strengthened engagement with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and UNFCCC, led an update to the CEOS GST Strategy Portal (ceos.org/gst), and finalised the AFOLU Roadmap. Future work relates to further collaboration with IPCC, assisting the UNFCCC Tiger Team enhance our impact at COP/EID, coordinating the GST Strategy recommendations to support the second GST, and ensuring progress on AFOLU, GEOGLAM, and GFOI activities.
- The SIT Chair Team's GHG Observation Priority included the provision of the CEOS GHG Portal (ceos.org/ghg), coordination of the CEOS Greenhouse Gas Roadmap v2.0 and Methane Common Practices, and support to UNEP IMEO Working Group revitalisation, data supply for IMEO MARS, and controlled release collaboration.
- Video messages were conveyed from Rob Sturgiss (IPCC), Vincent-Henri Peuch (ECMWF, UNFCCC Tiger Team lead), Ben Poulter (NASA, AFOLU Roadmap Lead), Yasjka Meijer (ESA, GHG-TT lead), John

Worden (NASA, Methane Common Practices Co-lead), and Itziar Irakulis Loitxate (IMEO). Each video highlighted key achievements achieved alongside the JAXA SIT Chair Team.

Discussion

- Selma Cherchali (CNES) thanked the JAXA SIT Chair for the tremendous work accomplished over the 2024-2025 term, citing the commitments made with external stakeholders as an exemplary demonstration of continuous involvement and support to the CEOS community.
- Guennadi Kroupnik (CSA) expressed sincere appreciation for the JAXA SIT Chair’s collaboration with CSA during their 2024 CEOS Chair term and requested that the incoming SIT Chair Team continue to explore the potential integration of ICGS-SAR into CEOS.
- CEOS Principals from ESA, ASI, DLR, EC, EUMETSAT, CSIRO, and UKSA added their thanks and appreciation to the JAXA SIT Chair Team for their strong leadership, active working-level engagement, and effective delivery of results.
- Karen St. Germain (NASA) congratulated the JAXA SIT Chair Team for setting a high standard for coordination, cooperation, and impact. She noted that over the 2024–2025 term, the team delivered a concise and comprehensive set of accomplishments across CEOS, along with consistent excellence in meetings and attention to detail.

10.2: SIT Chair Transition and Photos

Presenters: JAXA 2024-2025 SIT Chair Team and NASA 2026-2027 SIT Chair Team

Main points:

- Hironori Maejima (2024-2025 SIT Chair, JAXA) expressed sincere appreciation to CEOS Members for their contributions and support, and for progress made under the JAXA SIT Chair term, while welcoming NASA as the 2026-2027 CEOS SIT Chair Team.

10.3: SIT Chair 2026-2027 Priorities [\[slides\]](#)

Presenters: Julie Robinson, Erin Urquhart, and Eleanor Pierel (2026-2027 SIT Chair Team, NASA)

Main points:

- For the 2026-2027 SIT Chair term, NASA will focus on two priorities: “Water Planet – Seeing Earth's Water from Space,” and “Connected Data for Community Resilience.”
- Priority 1 will deliver coordinated water observations, interoperable data products, and user-focused solutions to support water management, hazard resilience, and socio-economic benefit assessments. Deliverables for the priority include a water and resilience impact assessment report, best practice guidance for combining multiplatform and multispectral data as well as deriving actionable water solutions, contribution to the CEOS-ARD Strategy 2026, stakeholder engagement and capacity building initiatives, and use cases for socio-economic benefits.
- Priority 2 will enhance community-level resilience by improving data interoperability, reviewing existing CEOS resilience activities, and delivering an interoperability demonstrator and partner workshop. Key deliverables include an impact assessment report, an updated CEOS data value chain, resilience findings and a resilience data partner workshop.
- The SIT-41 Meeting will be held from 14-16 April 2026 at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Beckman Centre in Irvine, California. The SIT Technical Workshop

2026 will take place from 8-10 September at the NASEM National Academy of Sciences Building in Washington, DC.

Discussion

- Selma Cherchali (CNES) confirmed CNES support for the first priority, noting the many initiatives in the water domain that will be of use. She encouraged synergies with the CEOS Working Groups, particularly WGDIsasters, on the second priority.
- Marie-Claire Greening (ESA) supported the incoming SIT Chair's priorities, reflected as wide reaching with several opportunities to progress. Work over the coming months should define how agencies can best support them. The second priority is a timely reflection on our delivery to stakeholders.

CEOS-39-22	CEOS Agencies are asked to identify contributors to the NASA SIT Chair priorities. Please reach out to the SIT Chair team: nasa-sit-chair-2026-27@googlegroups.com	SIT-41
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Decision 39-12	The 2025 CEOS Plenary thanked the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) for its leadership and contributions as SIT Chair during the last two years and welcomed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as SIT Chair for the two-year term of 2026 and 2027.
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10.4: Nomination for 2027 CEOS Chair from the Norwegian Space Agency (NOSA)

Presenters: Christian Hauglie-Hanssen (NOSA)

Main points:

- Christian expressed appreciation for the eye-opening Plenary discussions as an introduction to CEOS. The shared activities and priorities of CEOS align well with Norway's national priorities, with growing support for efforts that promote the effective use of EO for climate and sustainability initiatives.
- NOSA will seek advice from the outgoing and incoming CEOS Chairs to prepare for the 2027 CEOS Chair role.

Discussion

- No objections were raised and the CEOS Plenary endorsed the nomination.

Decision 39-13	CEOS Plenary endorsed the nomination of the Norwegian Space Agency (NOSA) to be 2027 CEOS Chair.
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- Paul Bate (2025 CEOS Chair, UKSA) welcomed nominations for 2028 CEOS Chair.

CEOS-39-23	CEOS Agencies to consider nominations for the role of CEOS Chair for 2028.	2026 CEOS Plenary
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10.5: CEOS Chair Transition and Photos

Presenters: UKSA 2025 CEOS Chair Team and Team Australia 2026 CEOS Chair Team

Main points:

- Paul Bate (2025 CEOS Chair, UKSA) introduced the 2026 CEOS Chair Team, the Australian contingent from CSIRO, Geoscience Australia (GA), and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), and invited photos to mark the CEOS Chair transition.

Decision 39-14

The 2025 CEOS Plenary thanked the U.K. Space Agency for its leadership and contributions as 2025 CEOS Chair and welcomed the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) as 2026 CEOS Chair, formally recognising the broader Chair Team including Geoscience Australia (GA) and the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM).



10.6: 2026 CEOS Chair Theme Presentation [[slides](#)]

Presenter: Alex Held (CSIRO)

Main points:

- The 2026 CEOS Chair Team will be led by CSIRO with support from GA and BoM.
- The 2026 CEOS Chair headline theme is “Positioning CEOS for Success in a Rapidly Changing Context”, with focus on how EO can support adaptation and resilience to environmental change and increase the relevance and impact of CEOS. Two major activities are planned within this theme.
- The first planned activity, “CEOS Support to Environmental Adaptation and Resilience,” aims to prepare information products including a new CEOS EO Handbook that will be produced and published by ESA, and a collation of challenges and opportunities that support Principals to consider strategic topics. The second activity, “Future CEOS-ARD Strategy” aims to provide additional capacity and attention to the development of the 2026 CEOS-ARD Strategy, ensuring the initiative is fit for the future.

- Three highlight events will be delivered during the chair term, an Antarctica Plenary Experience, a joint CEOS Chair and SIT Chair Water Quality Workshop, and CEOS in Schools sessions. A timeline of the Chair term was presented and is available in the given [slides](#).
- The 40th CEOS Plenary will be held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart, Australia, from 3-6 November 2026.

Discussion

- Karen St. Germain (NASA) commended Team Australia for the thoughtful shaping of the 2026 CEOS Chair themes. The incoming SIT Chair Team recommended Sid Boukabara (NASA) to contribute to the editorial advisory team for Activity 1, and Katie Baynes (NASA) for the writing team of Activity 2.
- Selma Cherchali (CNES) noted potential contributions and use cases for the environmental adaptation theme from the Space for Climate Observatory (SCO).
- Marie-Claire Greening (ESA) commended the team on their careful and considered thinking, noting that CEOS-ARD is close to ESA's heart. ESA will support the adaptation and resilience theme with the 2026 EO Handbook and ESA initiatives as case studies.

CEOS-39-24	CEOS Agencies are asked to identify contributions to the CEOS Chair-led effort to develop Adaptation and Resilience Information Products. Information is to be provided to the Co-Leads Alex Held (CSIRO) and Mark Dowell (EC) via the activity secretariat team@symbios.space. <i>Notes: Contributions may be in the form of case studies, identification of other resources (such as code, online tools or articles), or referrals to other contacts, initiatives, or sources of information.</i>	14 December 2025
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10.7: Review of Preliminary Action and Decision Record

Presenters: Matt Steventon (CEOS Chair Team)

Main points:

- The draft actions and decisions captured over the 39th CEOS Plenary were reviewed.
- The incoming CEOS Chair and SIT Chair Teams proposed actions for CEOS Agencies to identify contributions and POCs to each of their priority areas.
- The way forward for the updated CEOS GST Strategy was discussed. The SIT Chair will progress the strategy's recommendations with the community and work to define actions for incorporation into the 2026 CEOS Work Plan.

10.8: Closing Remarks

Presenters: UKSA 2025 CEOS Chair Team

Main points:

- The UKSA CEOS Chair Team thanked all participants of the 39th CEOS Plenary and expressed gratitude for all the goals achieved over the last year.
- Acknowledgements were made for those leaving the CEOS community this year, namely Christine Bogner (NASA), Laura Frulla (CONAE, WGDisasters Chair), Ben Poulter (NASA, AFOLU Roadmap Lead), Sylvia Wilson (SilvaCarbon lead), Steven Ramage (CEOS Executive Officer), John Worden (AC-VC GHG Roadmap Lead), Chris Kidd (P-VC Co-Lead), Katy Matthews (NOAA), Julio Castillo (WGCapD Vice Chair), Tim Stryker (USGS), Nancy Searby (NASA), Patrick Quinn (NASA), and Bradley Doorn (NASA).

APPENDIX A: Attendees

In-person

Organisation	Name	Organisation	Name
ASI	Francesco Longo	JAXA	Aya Takatsuki
ASI	Simona Zoffoli	JAXA	Stephen Ward
ASI	Giorgio Viavattene	NASA	Karen St. Germain
CEOS Executive Office	Steven Ramage	NASA	Julie Robinson
CEOS Executive Office	Lefteris Mamais	NASA	Dave Borges
CEOS Executive Office	Julia Caufape	NASA	Michelle Hanssen
CEOS Executive Office	Phillip Harwood	NASA	Gary Geller
CNES	Selma Cherchali	NASA	Chris Kidd
CSA	Guennadi Kroupnik	NOSA	Christian Hauglie-Hanssen
CSA	Frederic Fournier	NOSA	Vigdis Lonar
CSIRO	Alex Held	NOSA	Dag Anders Moldestad
CSIRO	Amy Parker	NRCan	Tracy Cooke
DLR	Godela Roßner	NRCan	Mark De Jong
DLR	Albrecht von Barga	NSO	Joost Carpay
EC	Mauro Facchini	SANSA	Abel Ramoelo
EC	Mark Dowell	SANSA	Dan Matsapola
ECMWF	Vincent-Henri Peuch	UKSA	Paul Bate
ESA	Eleni Paliouras	UKSA	Beth Greenaway
ESA	Marie-Claire Greening	UKSA	Harshbir Sangha
ESA	Clement Abergel	UKSA	Shaneigh Turner
ESA	Susanne Mecklenburg	UKSA	Niall Bradshaw
ESA	Ferran Gascon	UKSA	Patrick Gibson
ESA	Alexander Smith	UKSA	Rebecca Corey
EUMETSAT	Phil Evans	UKSA	David Brown
EUMETSAT	Robert Husband	UKSA	Matt Steventon
GA	Jonathon Ross	UKSA	Harvey Jones
GA	Maggie Arnold	UKSA/NCEO	John Remedios
GISTDA	Pakorn Apaphant	UKSA/NCEO	Svetlana Zolotikova
GISTDA	Poramet Thuwakham	UKSA/Space4Climate	Sally Stevens
HSC	Christina Karakizi	UKSA/NPL	Paul Green
JAXA	Hironori Maejima	UNOOSA	Lóránt Czárán
JAXA	Osamu Ochiai	UNOOSA	Jorge Del Rio Vera
JAXA	Mariko Harada	WMO	Natalia Donoho
JAXA	Satoshi Uenuma		

Online

Organisation	Name	Organisation	Name
AfSA	Hamdi Kacem	JAXA	Yuko Nakamura
BoM	Agnes Lane	JAXA	Takeo Tadono
CEOS Executive Office	Branimir Radun	JAXA	Toshi Kamei
CSIR	Christo Whittle	NASA	Wenying Su
EC	Astrid Koch	NASA	Sid Boukabara
ECCC	Carla Schmitt	NASA	Erin Urquhart
ECCC	Shannon Kaya	NASA	Eleanor Pierel
ESA	Yasjka Meijer	NOAA	Mary Ann Kutny
ESA	Marc Paganini	NOAA	James Donellon
ESA	Marie-Helene Rio	NOSA	Ola Nordbeck
ESA	Neha Hunka	NRCan	Roger De Abreu
ESA	Damiano Guerrucci	PhilSA	Gay Perez
ESA	Christoph Aubrecht	PhilSA	Princess Angela Young
ESA	Ben Veihelmann	PhilSA	Julius Judan
ESA	Valentina Boccia	USGS	Darcee Killpack
EUMETSAT	Estelle Obligis	USGS	Sally Roberts
GEOGLAM	Alyssa Whitcraft	USGS	Tim Stryker
GA	Medhavy Thankappan	USGS	Dan Opstal
GAC	Tony Parr	USGS	Evan Neuwirth
ISRO	Nitant Dube	USGS	Roger Sayre
JAXA	Ake Rosenqvist	WMO	Albert Fischer

APPENDIX B: Actions Record

CEOS-39-01	CEOS Chair and SIT Chair teams will work with the Executive Officer team to ensure that representatives of the new Member and Associate agencies welcomed into CEOS are connected with the leads of relevant CEOS Working Groups, Virtual Constellations, and other entities, and included on the appropriate communication channels. <i>Notes: These agencies identified interest in contributing to various CEOS activities in their respective nomination letters and presentations at the 2025 CEOS Plenary.</i>	November 2025
CEOS-39-02	CEOS Chair will shepherd the CEOS Decision Types document to completion and potential presentation for endorsement as an addition to the permanent CEOS Governance and Processes document at the 2026 CEOS Plenary. <i>Notes: The incoming SIT Chair and CEOS Chair will test the definitions in their construction of meeting agendas throughout 2026 and engage the CEOS Secretariat, CEOS Systems Engineering Office, and Executive Officer in the process of refining the definitions. An updated draft will be submitted for SIT-41.</i>	CEOS Plenary 2026
CEOS-39-03	CEOS Agencies are encouraged to submit contributions to the CEOS Youth Hub (ceos.org/youth). <i>Notes: The UKSA 2025 CEOS Chair Team has created the CEOS Youth Hub as a place to collate high-quality educational material designed to spark curiosity and foster understanding of our planet through satellite Earth observation. The 2025 CEOS Chair team invites interested CEOS Members and Associates to submit relevant educational materials, initiatives, or outreach activities from all CEOS agencies and their partners.</i>	SIT-41
CEOS-39-04	CEOS Agencies to consider nominations for WGCapD Vice Chair for 2027-2028. <i>Notes: Nominations are invited from CEOS Agencies that already actively contribute to and are familiar with the cross-cutting work of WGCapD. The nomination process must first occur within WGCapD, which will then put forward one nominee for endorsement by the 2026 CEOS Plenary.</i>	CEOS Plenary 2026

	<i>Nominations should be sent to current WGCapD Chair Dan Matsapola of SANSA <dmatsapola@sansa.org.za></i>	
CEOS-39-05	SIT Chair to ensure a CEOS Chair-led Plenary session features on the agenda for SIT-41 so that the new WGClimate Terms of Reference can be discussed and potentially endorsed. <i>Notes: CEOS governance documents have a provision for a Plenary session to be organised within SIT meetings. The CEOS Chair as overseer of the Working Groups will convene the session. The session should cover the cross-linkages between WGClimate work and that of other CEOS groups.</i>	CLOSED <i>WGClimate has since decided to postpone the update of their Terms of Reference.</i>
CEOS-39-06	CEOS Agencies operating SAR calibration infrastructure are asked to review the SARCalNet database and submit site information via info@sarcalnet.org. <i>Notes: To promote standardised SAR calibration and facilitate the harmonised implementation of cal/val tasks by a broad SAR community, it is crucial to have a network of curated calibration sites for SAR as well as established cal/val procedures.</i>	WGCV-56
CEOS-39-07	CEOS Agencies are invited to review the WGCV Land Product Validation (LPV) Subgroup Land Cover and Change Map Accuracy Assessment and Area Estimation Good Practices Protocol ahead of its presentation for potential endorsement at SIT-41 (April 2026). Feedback should be sent to WGCV LPV Subgroup Chair Fabrizio Niro <fabrizio.niro@esa.int>. <i>Notes: The document has already been endorsed by the Working Group on Calibration and Validation (WGCV) and its Land Product Validation (LPV) Subgroup. However, consistent with past practice (e.g., the Aboveground Woody Biomass Product Validation Good Practices Protocol at SIT-36) the WGCV team sees value in a Principal-level endorsement.</i>	SIT-41
CEOS-39-08	CEOS Agencies are requested to identify points of contact for contributions to the CEOS Product Validation Platform (PVP) to Samantha Malone at the U.K. National Physical Laboratory <Samantha.Malone@npl.co.uk>.	WGCV-56

	<i><u>Notes:</u> The CEOS Product Validation Platform will allow satellite data providers, CEOS agencies and others, to assess the quality of their data in a consistent manner through comparison with community agreed references.</i>	
CEOS-39-09	CEOS Agencies are asked to review the database of controlled release experiments on the CEOS GHG Portal. GHG mission managers and other relevant individuals are asked to sign up to controlled release notifications by sending an email to: controlled-release-database+subscribe@googlegroups.com and to submit details of controlled release experiments here: https://airtable.com/apphCiY4iwGxjHS4A/pagIzCSssHxohyhMx/form. <i><u>Notes:</u> With the objective of maximising the value of controlled release experiments, CEOS agencies are asked to: 1) share details of controlled release experiments and 2) sign up to receive notifications of others' events.</i>	SIT-41
CEOS-39-10	The CEOS/CGMS Working Group on Climate (WGClimate) is tasked with developing a proposal for continuity of the UNFCCC Tiger Team activities at the WGClimate-24 meeting (9-13 February 2026, hosted by ESA in Harwell, UK). The proposal will subsequently be presented at SIT-41 (April 2026). <i><u>Notes:</u> The activities of the Tiger Team have been part of the core functions of WGClimate. It was suggested that an annual plan of engagement with UNFCCC be developed and maintained. On top of the already existing tasks and activities, the plan should foresee preparation of common talking points for sharing with country delegates ahead of COP.</i>	SIT-41
CEOS-39-11	The CEOS Chair will circulate the GCOS presentation from the 2025 CEOS Plenary to CEOS agencies to draw attention to the GCOS funding challenges and to encourage interested agencies to get in touch directly with GCOS leadership.	November 2025

CEOS-39-12	The Biodiversity Study Team will develop a Full Proposal and final Implementation Plan for the Biodiversity Virtual Constellation for consideration at SIT-41 (April 2026). <i>Notes: As directed in the Virtual Constellations Process Paper.</i>	SIT-41
CEOS-39-13	CEOS Principals are asked to consider where their capabilities align with the objectives and activities of a potential Biodiversity Virtual Constellation and assess possible nominations to the team. <i>Notes: As a broad and cross-cutting topic, agencies are encouraged to consider connections with the activities of other Virtual Constellations and Working Groups.</i>	SIT-41
CEOS-39-14	Lóránt Czárán will share information on the EO Booklet for SDGs being developed under UNOOSA with the Executive Officer and CEOS Chair Team. <i>Notes: CEOS input to the booklet is welcomed, and the Executive Officer will ensure the opportunity is shared with the SDG Coordination Group.</i>	November 2025
CEOS-39-15	The CEOS Analysis Ready Data (CEOS-ARD) Oversight Group will develop the 2026 CEOS-ARD Strategy for presentation to the 2026 CEOS Plenary. <i>Notes: The Strategy will define the actions, resources, and commitments required to deliver the next level of ambition for CEOS-ARD.</i>	2026 CEOS Plenary
CEOS-39-16	CEOS Principals are asked to consider nominations of agency experts to the CEOS-ARD Strategy 2026 writing team, with particular consideration to the 'CEOS Dependencies' noted in the supplied Consultation Paper and Concept Note.	December 2025
CEOS-39-17	CEOS Agencies are asked to identify their national organisations within ISO and inform CEOS-ARD Oversight Group of any willingness to convey priorities to inform formal voting procedures. <i>Notes: Maintaining awareness and leadership of CEOS-ARD progress in global standards bodies (e.g. ISO, OGC) requires</i>	December 2025

	<i>increased coordination between CEOS agencies and national standards bodies to influence national representation and voting results.</i>	
CEOS-39-18	Ocean Surface Topography Virtual Constellation (OST-VC) Co-Leads will work with the CEOS Secretariat to ensure the <i>White Paper on a Coordinated International Satellite Altimetry Virtual Constellation</i> is appropriately formatted and contextualised prior to its publication on ceos.org/observations and ceos.org/publications-key-documents/ .	Follow up at SEC-343
CEOS-39-19	Individuals interested in contributing to the definition of CEOS GitHub Governance are encouraged to contact David Borges <david.borges@nasa.gov>.	November 2025
CEOS-39-20	CEOS Agencies, Working Groups, Virtual Constellations, and other teams are invited to review the proposed target audiences and 2026 campaigns, to be included in the 2026-2027 CEOS Communications Strategy. Feedback should be sent to Libby Rose <libby@symbioscomms.com> and David Borges <david.borges@nasa.gov>.	December 2025
CEOS-39-21	CEOS Agencies are asked to nominate additional points of contact to contribute to the stocktake of the first five Essential Agriculture Variables (EAVs) being undertaken in the LSI-VC GEOGLAM Subgroup. <i>Notes: The LSI-GEOGLAM team is aware that there are many more efforts already undertaken by CEOS agencies related to observations and EAV development that should be included in the stocktake. Additional CEOS agencies need to be involved in the LSI-GEOGLAM Subgroup. The CEOS MIM Database and LSI-GEOGLAM team will scope an agriculture portal to present findings of the stocktake.</i>	November 2025
CEOS-39-22	CEOS Agencies are asked to identify contributors to the NASA SIT Chair priorities. Please reach out to the SIT Chair team: nasa-sit-chair-2026-27@googlegroups.com	SIT-41
CEOS-39-23	CEOS Agencies to consider nominations for the role of CEOS Chair for 2028.	2026 CEOS Plenary

CEOS-39-24	CEOS Agencies are asked to identify contributions to the CEOS Chair-led effort to develop Adaptation and Resilience Information Products. Information is to be provided to the Co-Leads Alex Held (CSIRO) and Mark Dowell (EC) via the activity secretariat team@symbios.space. <i>Notes: Contributions may be in the form of case studies, identification of other resources (such as code, online tools or articles), or referrals to other contacts, initiatives, or sources of information.</i>	14 December 2025
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APPENDIX C: Decisions Record

Decision 39-01	CEOS Plenary endorsed and welcomed the African Space Agency (AfSA) as a CEOS Associate.
Decision 39-02	CEOS Plenary endorsed and welcomed the Hellenic Space Center (HSC) as a CEOS Associate.
Decision 39-03	CEOS Plenary endorsed and welcomed the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) as a CEOS Member.
Decision 39-04	CEOS Plenary acknowledged the prolongation of the WGCapD Chair term of Dan Matsapola (SANSa) for an additional year (2026) and endorsed the nomination of Christoph Aubrecht (ESA) as WGCapD Vice Chair for 2026, followed by WGCapD Chair for 2027-2028.
Decision 39-05	CEOS Plenary endorsed the nomination of Antonio Montuori (ASI) as WGDisasters Vice Chair 2026-2027, followed by WGDisasters Chair for 2028-2029.
Decision 39-06	CEOS Plenary endorsed the Interoperability Handbook v2.0 developed by WGISS.
Decision 39-07	CEOS Plenary endorsed the nomination of Damiano Guerrucci (ESA) as WGISS Vice Chair 2026-2027, followed by WGISS Chair for 2028-2029.
Decision 39-08	CEOS Plenary acknowledged that the Biodiversity Study Team has fulfilled its originally assigned tasks, agreed with the initial proposal for a Biodiversity Virtual Constellation, and to proceed with development of a Full Proposal for consideration at SIT-41 (April 2026).
Decision 39-09	CEOS Plenary extended the term of the Biodiversity Study Team through to SIT-41 in order to complete the Full Proposal and develop inputs for the CEOS Work Plan.

Decision 39-10	CEOS Plenary approved the development of the 2026 CEOS-ARD Strategy.
Decision 39-11	The 2025 CEOS Plenary acknowledged the <i>White Paper on a Coordinated International Satellite Altimetry Virtual Constellation</i> prepared by Ocean Surface Topography Virtual Constellation (OST-VC), thanking members for their effort. Plenary agreed to the closure of the associated CEOS Work Plan Deliverable.
Decision 39-12	The 2025 CEOS Plenary thanked the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) for its leadership and contributions as SIT Chair during the last two years and welcomed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as SIT Chair for the two-year term of 2026 and 2027.
Decision 39-13	CEOS Plenary endorsed the nomination of the Norwegian Space Agency (NOSA) to be 2027 CEOS Chair.
Decision 39-14	The 2025 CEOS Plenary thanked the U.K. Space Agency for its leadership and contributions as 2025 CEOS Chair and welcomed the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) as 2026 CEOS Chair, formally recognising the broader Chair Team including Geoscience Australia (GA) and the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM).