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To: Dr Wenying Su
CEOS/CGMS WG on Climate Chair
NASA Headquarters
Washington DC 20546-0001
United States of America

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Frascati, 4 May 2026

Subject: CEOS/CGMS Working Group on Climate

Dear Dr Su

The European Space Agency (ESA) is pleased to nominate Susanne Mecklenburg for leadership of the joint Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) / Coordination Group on Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) Working Group on Climate (WGClimate), effective from the close of the 2026 CEOS plenary in November.

ESA recognises the important and cross-cutting role that WGClimate plays within CEOS and CGMS, and the important contribution that WGClimate makes to the satellite EO community. We understand that this nomination comprises a four-year commitment to support Dr Mecklenburg as WGClimate Vice-Chair for two years (2027-2028), followed by a further two

years as WGClimate Chair (concluding at the 2030 CEOS Plenary). We also note that, as well as supporting Dr Mecklenburg's contribution at WGClimate meetings throughout her leadership tenure, during her two-year term as WGClimate chair (2029-2030), ESA commits to her participation at the three major annual CEOS meetings (Strategic Implementation Team (SIT), SIT Technical Workshop, and the Plenary) and to the provision of the WGClimate secretariat functions to support the working group. As the WGClimate is a joint working group with CGMS, ESA further commits to Dr Mecklenberg's participation at CGMS plenary and at any relevant CGMS working group meetings during her tenure as chair.

Dr Susanne Mecklenburg has more than 20 years of experience of working in the space sector. She leads ESA's division on Climate and Long-Term Action, which is charged with promoting and increasing the use of EO data to strengthen climate science, applications and policy, including the response to the UNFCCC Paris Agreement. Her team manages ESA's Climate Change Initiative (www.climate.esa.int; a major Europe-wide research effort that develops the satellite evidence records required to monitor the state of the Earth system, policy and decision-making and guiding climate action) and also manages the Global Development Assistance programme (www.gda.esa.int; aims to accelerate impact by fully capitalising on the power of satellite EO in international development assistance operations). The division of Climate and Long-Term Action operates internationally alongside the scientific (WCRP, GCOS) and policy bodies (UNFCCC, IPCC) responsible for the climate process, and works closely with the European Union, other space agencies and national institutions and the finance sector.

Dr Mecklenburg has a background in hydrology and atmospheric science from the University of Dresden and the Swiss Institute of Technology in Zurich. Her previous roles include management of the EO programme at the UK Natural Environment Research Council and serving as the UK Space Agency delegate to ESA. Previous to her current appointment in ESA she was the ESA mission manager for the SMOS, Sentinel-3 and FLEX missions. Dr Mecklenburg has extensive experience in leading, chairing and being a member of international organisations' boards and working groups. She has a longstanding commitment to the WGClimate and has actively participated within many international collaborative activities for ESA, making her a highly suitable choice to maintain the established open and constructive attitude within this important CEOS working group.

It is understood that this nomination will be presented first to the WGClimate membership for approval and then, if approved, to CGMS Principals for decision at the 54th CGMS Plenary in June 2026, and CEOS Principals for decision at the 40th CEOS Plenary in November 2026.

Finally, I would like to extend ESA's thanks for your steadfast guidance and leadership of the WGClimate over the past few years. We look forward to continuing engagement with you, with NASA, and with our WGClimate colleagues. ESA reaffirms that we fully support Dr Mecklenburg as nominee for WGClimate Vice Chair and subsequent Chair for the next period.

Yours sincerely

Simonetta Cheli
Director of Earth Observation Programmes