**Minutes V1.0**

**335th CEOS SECRETARIAT MEETING**

Thursday, 15 May 2025

Chaired by UKSA

**Participants**

**CSA:** Frédéric Fournier, Carmen Marcu

**ESA:** Marie-Claire Greening

**EUMETSAT:**  Robert Husband

**Executive Officer Team:** Irena Drakopoulou, Lefteris Mamais

**GA:** Jonathon Ross, Maggie Arnold

**JAXA SIT Chair Team:** Mariko Harada, Yuko Nakamura, Satoshi Uenuma, Teppei Sato, Stephen Ward

**NASA:** Christine Bognar, Sid Boukabara

**NOAA:** Elliott Matthews, Mary Ann Kutny

**LSI-VC:** Takeo Tadono, Ake Rosenqvist

**SEO:** Dave Borges

**UKSA CEOS Chair Team:** Beth Greenaway, Niall Bradshaw, Shaneigh Turner, Matt Steventon, Libby Rose, Harvey Jones

**WGCapD:** Dan Matsapola

**WGCV:**  Cody Anderson

**WGClimate:** Wenying Su

**WGDisasters:**  —

**WGISS:**  Tom Sohre

1. **UKSA CEOS Chair Welcome and Action Review**

Beth Greenaway (UKSA, CEOS Chair Team) welcomed participants to SEC-335. Beth reviewed the agenda and no additions or changes were requested by SEC members.

Matt Steventon (CEOS Chair Team) noted all previous Secretariat actions have been closed. Written status updates can be found in the agenda.

1. **CEOS Chair Report**

Beth Greenaway and Niall Bradshaw (UKSA, CEOS Chair Team) reported:

2027 CEOS Chair

* No nominations for the role of CEOS Chair for 2027 have been received. The CEOS Chair Team is not aware of any agencies having expressed interest.
* The CEOS Chair, Paul Bate, will reach out to his counterparts in other CEOS agencies to understand whether there is any appetite for taking on the role.
* The CEOS Chair Team is looking to the permanent regional CEOS Secretariat agencies for guidance.

*Discussion*

* Marie-Claire Greening (ESA) recommended that agencies from the target region be contacted individually by the Executive Office Team to gauge any potential interest.
* Christine Bognar (NASA) noted the region in question is the Americas. However, the options are limited. If an agency from the Americas region cannot take on the role, Christine recommended that the Europe/Africa region be explored since it is next on the CEOS Chair rotation. *NOTE: For SEC awareness, the CEOS Terms of Reference mandate regional rotation for the CEOS Chair role, but not for the SIT Chair role. There is an erroneous statement in the CEOS 2025-2027 Work Plan (Page 4; Paragraph 3), and it is relevant to bring attention to this distinction with the view to make the correction in the next work plan.*
* Marie-Claire Greening (ESA) recalled SANSA expressed interest at CEOS Plenary 2023 in taking on the Chair role in the near future.

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| **335-01** | Following the lack of response to the call for nominations for CEOS Chair 2027, the CEOS Chair Team, with support from the Executive Office, will consult with CEOS members individually, including regarding the possibility of an agency from a different region taking on the role of CEOS Chair for 2027. | **SEC-336** |

CEOS-GEO Relationship

* The GEO Secretariat Director has proposed a high-level meeting with the CEOS Chair to discuss enhancing collaboration and cohesiveness between CEOS and GEO. This will likely happen at the ESA Living Planet Symposium (Vienna, Austria; 23-27 June, 2025). This meeting can then be followed by further discussion in the CEOS Sec and Plenary if needed.
* The CEOS Chair requests that CEOS Secretariat members offer talking points which should be raised in the discussion with the GEO Secretariat Director at this occasion.

*Discussion*

* Frédéric Fournier (CSA) recalled discussions between the UNCBD Secretariat, GEO Secretariat, and CEOS during CSA’s CEOS Chair Term in 2024. The topic of biodiversity could be raised.
* Christine Bognar (NASA) noted it is premature to bring up biodiversity since CEOS does not yet have a permanent mechanism in place.
* Beth Greenaway (UKSA) noted the CEOS Chair will mostly be in listening mode, to understand requests from the GEO Secretariat. No commitments will be made during the meeting.
* Jonathon Ross (Geoscience Australia) suggested the topic of continuity, quality and integrity of data be discussed with the GEO Secretariat. He also noted that during the recent GEO Plenary it was clear that CEOS remains a major contributor to the GEO Work Programme.
* Marie-Claire Greening (ESA) suggested that the CEOS Secretariat jointly develop high-level talking points for the CEOS Chair to raise with the GEO Secretariat Director and avoid specific technical topics.

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| **335-02** | CEOS Chair Team to share an online document in which the CEOS Secretariat can input talking points to be raised by the CEOS Chair in the meeting with the GEO Secretariat Director. | **23 May 2025**Online document available [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18SolYYW-V-QkcCfPi6e9dqoGP-qFKlhxryNCQ2yjMZY/edit?tab=t.0) |

Other Topics

* UKSA CEOS Chair Team will be attending the ESA Living Planet Symposium, including the CEOS Chair, Paul Bate. The two abstracts submitted by the CEOS Chair Team were accepted as posters. However, this opportunity has since been declined because it was deemed that the content would not have the same impact as a poster.
* The CEOS in Schools workshops have now been completed, and the poster project is underway. Participants are asking that the programme be continued next year. A virtual meeting is planned for 15 July 2025, to discuss the future of the programme, and all are encouraged to attend.
* The CEOS Chair will organise a two-hour side meeting at SIT Technical Workshop (Darmstadt, Germany; 9-11 September 2025) focused on their theme of *‘Unlocking EO for Public Services’*. CEOS Agencies are invited to contribute their perspectives and insights on interventions implemented within their organisation to encourage the use of EO data.
* The document *Common Practices for Quantifying Methane Emissions from Plumes Detected by Remote Sensing* is progressing well and will be shared for virtual Principal endorsement in July. UKSA is working to socialise this document with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and Global Methane Pledge (GMP) Champion nations.

*Discussion*

* Jonathon Ross noted Geoscience Australia would like to contribute to the *‘Unlocking EO for Public Services’* event. Maggie Arnold (Geoscience Australia) will serve as the point of contact.

# SIT Chair Report

Yuko Nakamura (JAXA, SIT Chair Team) and Stephen Ward (SIT Chair Team) reported:

* The SIT Chair thanked all participants for helping ensure SIT-40 (Fukuoka, Japan; 8-10 April, 2025) was a success.
* Various SEC agencies noted in the chat that SIT-40 was a highly productive meeting and thanked the JAXA SIT Chair team.
* The first draft of the actions and decisions recorded during SIT-40 was shared shortly after the meeting concluded. Edits made to date have now been incorporated, and there will be an additional opportunity to review the actions and decisions alongside the draft minutes, which are expected to be distributed shortly.
* Regular teleconferences between the team developing Issue 2 of the CEOS Global Stocktake Strategy have commenced. They are working to prepare a draft for review at SIT Technical Workshop 2025 (Darmstadt, Germany; 9-11 September, 2025).

**Land Surface Imaging Virtual Constellation (LSI-VC) Report**

Takeo Tadono (JAXA, LSI-VC Co-Lead) reported:

* LSI-VC-17 (Tsukuba Space Centre, Japan; 14-16 April, 2025) was hosted by JAXA, and included participation from the Japanese private sector. Presentations and meeting materials are available on the [meeting webpage](https://ceos.org/meetings/lsi-vc-17/).
* Representatives from the ESA Earthnet Data Assessment Pilot (EDAP) and NASA Commercial Satellite Data Acquisition (CSDA) Programme teams joined LSI-VC-17 virtually to explore synergies between the *Joint Earth Observation Mission Quality Assessment Framework* and CEOS-ARD.
* Ben Poulter has recently left NASA and hence stepped down as co-lead of the LSI-VC Forests and Biomass subgroup. LSI-VC is now seeking another lead for the subgroup, alongside Clement Albergel (ESA), Takeo Tadono (JAXA), and Inge Jonckheere (ESA), to support the implementation of the CEOS AFOLU Roadmap.
* The GEOGLAM EAV Workshop (Ispra, Italy; 13-15 May, 2025) is currently underway.
* LSI-VC members will be present at a number of upcoming community events, with a focus on gathering user feedback to help shape the future of CEOS-ARD. This includes ESA’s Living Planet Symposium (Vienna, Austria; 23-27 June), IEEE IGARSS 2025 (Brisbane, Australia; 2-8 August, 2025) and the International Astronautical Congress (Sydney, Australia; 29 September - 3 October, 2025).
* LSI-VC-18 (Ispra, Italy; 3-5 September, 2025) will be hosted by the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre and will feature a comprehensive session on wetlands and the Ramsar Convention, CEOS-ARD updates, and a European-focused commercial engagement session.

## CEOS Executive Officer (CEO) Report

CEOS Work Plan

Irena Drakopoulou (CEOS Executive Officer Team) reported:

* The final revised version of the CEOS Work Plan was shared for Principal review on Tuesday 6 May, 2025. If no substantive comments or non-concurrence are received by Tuesday 20 May, 2025, the Work Plan will be considered virtually endorsed and it will be published on the CEOS website.
* The Executive Officer Team will continually monitor and update Agency points of contact, following the review conducted in response to SEC action 329-03.
* A response to UNCCD has been drafted considering the analysis and responses gathered by the SIT Chair Team through the External Request Process. The draft letter will be shared shortly with the CEOS Secretariat, following review by the CEOS Chair and SIT Chair.

## CEOS Systems Engineering Office (SEO) Report

Dave Borges (SEO, NASA) reported:

* The SEO is aware of issues with the CEOS mailing lists, and the team is working to find a solution. Emails should still be received but may be found in spam or quarantine folders instead of primary inboxes. Until a permanent solution is found, the SEO asks that individuals make an effort to check their spam inboxes regularly – particularly those using Microsoft Office 365.
* SEO is not able to remain in the role of Implementation Lead for the CEOS SDG Coordination Group. Following discussions with other agencies and CEOS leadership, the group is proposing to transition this leadership to the Executive Officer. Conscious of current resources and workload, the SDG Coordination Group would hold less frequent meetings (quarterly cadence is proposed, rather than monthly). This arrangement would remain in place until another proposal is approved by the CEOS Secretariat or Plenary.
* The SEO is working with ESA to host a CEOS exhibition booth at the Living Planet Symposium (Vienna, Austria; 23-27 June, 2025). Content and material to be presented at the booth is welcomed from all CEOS entities.

*Discussion*

* NASA, ESA, JAXA and CSA indicated their support for the SEO’s proposal to transition the implementation leadership of the SDG Coordination Group to the CEOS Executive Officer.
* Beth Greenaway (UKSA, CEOS Chair Team) added that while, in principle, the CEOS Chair agrees with the proposal to transfer SDG Coordination Group implementation leadership to the Executive Officer, there are some minor contractual issues to be resolved before the proposal can be formally approved.

## Working Group Impacts and Key Issues for Discussion

**WGCV**

Cody Anderson (USGS, WGCV Chair) reported:

* WGCV-55 (Hyderabad, India; 8-11 July, 2025) will be hosted by ISRO, and planning is underway.
* WGCV welcomed the new Chair of its Land Product Validation Subgroup, Fabrizio Niro (ESA), who succeeded Michael Cosh (USDA). The subgroup is now looking for a Vice Chair to support Fabrizio.
* The WGCV Chair and Vice Chair attended the Joint Agencies Commercial Imagery Evaluation (JACIE) 2025 Workshop (Reston, Virginia, USA; 7-11 April, 2025), which included over 400 attendees representing over 100 organisations, including commercial data providers and satellite operators.

**WGCapD**

Dan Matsapola (SANSA, WGCapD Chair) reported:

* AEM sent a letter to the WGCapD Chair on 7 May, 2025 to advise that Dr. Julio César Castillo Urdapilleta is no longer able to continue as WGCapD Vice Chair and to assume the role of WGCapD Chair after the 2025 CEOS Plenary due to an organisational restructuring. This letter was subsequently shared with the Executive Officer and CEOS Secretariat.
* While SANSA’s term as WGCapD Chair was planned to conclude at CEOS Plenary 2025, SANSA has agreed to continue in the role for an additional year (until the 2026 CEOS Plenary), to ensure continuity in leadership for the Working Group.
* Support from the Secretariat is requested to secure a new Vice Chair for WGCapD, to serve as Vice Chair until CEOS Plenary 2026, and subsequently WGCapD Chair from CEOS Plenary 2026 to CEOS Plenary 2028.
* The WGCapD annual meeting will take place in Vienna, Austria on 30 June - 1 July, 2025, alongside the UN COPUOS 68th Session (Vienna, Austria; 25 June - 4 July, 2025) and following ESA’s Living Planet Symposium (Vienna, Austria; 23-27 June).
* SANSA contributed to the *"Keeping Our Promises to the Young People"* session held during the GEO Global Forum (Rome, Italy; 5-9 May, 2025), which has relevance to the CEOS in Schools programme of UKSA.
* WGCapD recognised the immense contribution of Nancy Searby (NASA) to WGCapD and EO capacity building more broadly and wished her well for her retirement.

*Discussion*

* Christine Bognar (NASA) noted a [Kudoboard](https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/1tv4PYgx) has been established to share comments with Nancy Searby. CEOS Secretariat and WGCapD members are invited to contribute.

**WGClimate**

Wenying Su (NASA, WGClimate Chair) reported:

* Following their presentation at SIT-40 and endorsement by CEOS, CGMS has also endorsed both the [Lessons Learned and Recommendations for Space Agencies’ Support of the First Global Stocktake](https://ceos.org/document_management/Working_Groups/WGClimate/Documents/LessonsLearned_v1.0.pdf), and the [Space Agency Response to the 2022 GCOS Implementation Plan](https://ceos.org/document_management/Working_Groups/WGClimate/Documents/Space_Agency_Response_GCOS-IP_2024_v1.0.pdf). Both documents are now published on the CEOS website.
* A joint UNFCCC and WGClimate engagement workshop was held on 30 April, 2025. UNFCCC Secretariat members presented on six workstreams, alongside areas for space data to support. WGClimate will nominate leads for each workstream to facilitate further discussions, and annual meetings will be established to review progress and developments across the various workstreams.
* WGClimate provided initial inputs to the WIGOS 2050 Vision, encouraging a focus on Earth system approach, addressing user and application requirements.

**WGDisasters**

WGDisasters was not represented at the SEC-335 meeting. Laura Frulla (CONAE, WGDisasters Chair) sent apologies for her absence and provided a written report prior to the meeting.

**WGISS**

Tom Sohre (USGS, WGISS Chair) reported:

* WGISS have asked the CEOS community for feedback on the draft [CEOS Interoperability Handbook](https://github.com/ceos-org/interoperability-handbook). This request was also shared with other geospatial community groups, to encourage feedback from the broader community. Feedback is due by the end of May.
* WGISS facilitated a discussion with WGCV, SEO and LSI-VC to discuss next steps to implement a CEOS Common Dictionary using the glossary established by the European Commission Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC) Knowledge Centre on Earth Observation (KCEO).
* The WGISS Chair has received a letter from ESA to formally nominate Damiano Guerrucci as the WGISS Vice Chair for 2026-2027, and Chair for 2028-2029.
* WGISS-59 minutes, actions, and presentation materials are now available on the [WGISS-59 webpage](http://ceos.org/meetings/wgiss-59).
* Preparations for WGISS-60 (Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany; 13-17 October, 2025) have commenced. The meeting will be hosted by DLR.

## AOB

**NASA Proposed Dates and Locations for SIT-41 and SIT Technical Workshop 2026**

Christine Bognar (NASA) reported:

* NASA met with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), who have agreed to host both the CEOS SIT-41 and SIT Technical Workshop 2026.
* The proposal is for SIT-41 to be hosted on 14-16 April 2026, at the NASEM Beckman Center in Irvine, California, USA. The nearest airport is John Wayne International Airport.
* The proposal for the SIT Technical Workshop is for it to be held on 8-10 September, 2026, at the NASEM Center in Washington, D.C., USA.

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| **335-03** | CEOS Secretariat to raise any scheduling conflicts for the proposed SIT-41 and SIT Technical Workshop 2026 dates:* SIT-41: 14-16 April, 2026, in Irvine, California, USA.
* SIT Technical Workshop 2026: 8-10 September, 2026, in Washington, D.C., USA.

Please contact Christine Bognar by May 29 at Christine.McMahonBognar@nasa.gov if there are scheduling conflicts. | **29 May 2025** |

*Discussion*

* Jonathon Ross (Geoscience Australia) noted the 2026 CEOS Chair Team are working to also confirm dates for the 2026 CEOS Plenary. Following the outcome from the recent Australian Federal election, Australia will continue with their bid to host UNFCCC COP31. The 2026 CEOS Chair Team would like to align the Plenary with COP31 if possible, so will wait to confirm plans until the outcome of the bid is announced. The location for CEOS Plenary 2026 is confirmed as Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

**2027 CEOS Chair Nominations (revisited)**

*Discussion*

* Christine Bognar (NASA) suggested that direct confirmation from NOAA and USGS be sought regarding their intention or not to nominate for 2027 CEOS Chair.
* Mary Ann Kutny (NOAA) confirmed that NOAA will not be nominating for the role of 2027 CEOS Chair.
* Tom Sohre (USGS, WGISS Chair) will follow up with Tim Stryker (USGS) to confirm the USGS position.

## Adjournment

Beth Greenaway (UKSA, CEOS Chair Team) thanked the participants of SEC-335.

The next CEOS Secretariat meeting will be SEC-336, which will be held on **Tuesday** 17 June, 2025. Due to the ESA Council meeting (12 June) and Juneteenth (U.S. public holiday, 19 June), it was previously agreed that SEC-336 will be exceptionally held on a Tuesday. This will be the week prior to the ESA Living Planet Symposium, which should be addressed on the agenda.

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| **335-04** | CEOS Chair Team to include final preparation for CEOS presence at the ESA Living Planet Symposium on the agenda for SEC-336.  | **SEC-336** |

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| SEC-336: **Tuesday**, 17 June 2025SEC-337: 17 July 2025SEC-338: 21 August 2025 | SEC-339: 9 September 2025 *(at 2025 SIT TW)*SEC-340: 9 October 2025SEC-341: 4 November 2025 *(at CEOS Plenary 2025)* |

The start time for all teleconferences will be 7 AM U.S. Eastern. If there are face-to-face meetings, the times will be communicated closer to the dates.