**Minutes V1.0**

**337th CEOS SECRETARIAT MEETING**

Thursday, 17 July 2025

Chaired by UKSA

**Participants**

**COAST-VC:** Paul DiGiacomo, Merrie Beth Neely, Aurelien Carbonniere

**ESA:** Marie-Claire Greening

**EUMETSAT:**  Paul Counet, Robert Husband

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

**GA:** Maggie Arnold

**JAXA SIT Chair Team:** Osamu Ochiai, Yuko Nakamura, Satoshi Uenuma, Stephen Ward, Teppei Sato

**NASA:** Michelle Hanssen

**NOAA:** Mary Ann Kutny, Adria Schwarber

**OST-VC:** Estelle Obligis

**SEO:** David Borges

**UKSA CEOS Chair Team:** Niall Bradshaw, Matt Steventon, Libby Rose, Harvey Jones

**WGCapD:** Dan Matsapola

**WGCV:**  Cody Anderson

**WGClimate:** Wenying Su

**WGDisasters:**  Laura Frulla, Marcelo Uriburu Quirno

**WGISS:**  Tom Sohre

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

Niall Bradshaw (UKSA, CEOS Chair Team) welcomed participants to SEC-337 and shared apologies from Harshbir Sangha and Beth Greenaway (UKSA, CEOS Chair Team), who are attending the UK Space Conference this week and therefore unable to attend SEC. Niall reviewed the agenda and no additions or changes were requested by Secretariat members.

The following SEC action was reviewed:

*336-01: SIT Chair Team to work with NASA, SST-VC and COAST-VC to confirm the plan for the statement regarding priority coastal areas for extended observation coverage for new ultra-high-resolution thermal infrared instruments, including any plan for SIT Technical Workshop 2025.*

Yuko Nakamura (JAXA, SIT Chair Team) has communicated with SST-VC and COAST-VC leadership regarding feedback on the joint statement and the proposed way forward. The statement will be presented at CEOS Plenary (as a “request” or “recommendation” from the science community). The statement will also be presented at SIT TW 2025 for information, as a preparatory step towards CEOS Plenary.

# OST-VC White Paper on a Coordinated International Satellite Altimetry Virtual Constellation

Estelle Obligis (EUMETSAT, OST-VC Co-lead) reported:

* OST-VC coordinates a rich constellation of altimetry missions, with 11 missions currently operating. International collaboration has been key to the success of satellite altimetry.
* In 2006, CEOS published requirements for a satellite constellation in support of ocean surface topography observations. The document needed an update to include new emerging applications from historic missions, as well as new technologies implemented onboard current and future altimetry missions.
* The new white paper presents an inventory of current user needs, including those still emerging, as well as gaps in the current constellation. It highlights needs for current and future altimetry missions to consider.
* The writing team was led by EUMETSAT and CNES, with contributions from the Virtual Constellation membership and other experts from the altimetry community.
* The paper will be presented at 2025 SIT Technical Workshop, as well as CEOS Plenary if desired by CEOS Principals.

*Discussion*

* Wenying Su (NASA, WGClimate Chair) asked about the alignment of the requirements with those published by GCOS. Estelle noted the GCOS requirements are referenced for the key measurements associated with altimetry.

*Note: It was proposed after the meeting via email that the statement be presented at the CEOS Plenary as a “recommendation” from the science community, giving CEOS Principals the opportunity to acknowledge the paper and take it under advisement. The statement would also be presented at 2025 SIT Technical Workshop for information and discussion, as a preparatory step towards CEOS Plenary.*

# SIT Chair Report

Osamu Ochiai (JAXA, SIT Chair Team) reported:

* The SIT Chair Team continues to engage with the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO). The SIT Chair Team is working with the GHG Task Team to prototype a controlled release database in collaboration with IMEO.
* The GHG Task Team’s *Common Practices for Quantifying Methane Emissions from Plumes Detected by Remote Sensing* will be circulated shortly for virtual endorsement by CEOS Principals. The document will be highlighted at UNFCCC COP30.
* A follow up call with the Global Carbon Project (GCP) was held in early July and the SIT Chair Team agreed to identify a suitable interface in CEOS to sustain the discussion. Clement Albergel (ESA) has volunteered to be this point of contact.
* The CEOS AFOLU Roadmap team will now be led by Neha Hunka (ESA) and Takeo Tadono (JAXA), supported by Frank Martin Seifert (ESA) and Clement Albergel (ESA).
* CEOS Secretariat members are reminded to register for SIT Technical Workshop (9-11 September; Darmstadt, Germany) before 18 August 2025. The draft agenda will be circulated to CEOS SEC next week, and to CEOS writ large before the end of July.
* A SIT Technical Workshop session titled, “*Virtual Constellations: State of the Global Observing System”,* is planned. All Virtual Constellations will be invited to give a brief 10-15 minute report on the state of satellite missions and products relevant for their constellation. The session will conclude with a discussion on how CEOS can introduce more systematic and consistent reporting from the Virtual Constellations, to increase the visibility of gaps and opportunities and understand how these should be communicated to CEOS Agency leadership.

**Coastal Observations Applications Services and Tools (COAST-VC) Report**

Paul DiGiacomo (NOAA, COAST-VC Co-lead) reported:

* COAST-VC completed training and outreach for their products. The successful training achieves the COAST-VC Annual Workplan task for 2024-25. Two events were held in June 2025, including at the Oceans Pavilion event during UNOOSC-UNOC3 (9-13 June 2025; Nice, France) and a dedicated tutorial at ESA’s Living Planet Symposium (23-27 June 2025; Vienna, Austria).
* COAST-VC continues active collaboration with GOOS CoastPredict. Paul is co-chairing a special session at AGU25 (15-19 December 2025; New Orleans, Louisiana, USA) titled *“Satellite and In Situ Observations in Support of the Prediction of Coastal Hazard Impacts for Enhancing the Resilience of Coastal Communities”*.
* Aurelien Carbonniere (CNES, COAST-VC Co-lead) met with IOCCG and presented an introduction to COAST-VC and its activities. IOCCG, OCR-VC, and COAST-VC leadership have also discussed future collaboration areas.
* COAST-VC has been engaging with other CEOS activities, including responding to the Biodiversity Study Team’s user assessment request, reviewing the CEOS Interoperability Handbook v2.0, and responding to the OCR-VC’s Aquatic Carbon Roadmap call for contributors for the development of the document.
* A COAST-VC side event is planned at SIT Technical Workshop to demonstrate satellite products for coastal regions.
1. **CEOS Chair Report**

Niall Bradshaw (UKSA, CEOS Chair Team) reported:

* UKSA has received a self-nomination from the Norwegian Space Agency (NOSA) for the role of CEOS Chair 2027. This nomination will be presented for potential endorsement at the 2025 CEOS Plenary (4-6 November, 2025; Bath, UK).
* The CEOS Chair Team participated in ESA’s Living Planet Symposium (23-27 June 2025; Vienna, Austria). Paul Bate (UKSA, CEOS Chair) spoke at the *Breaking Barriers by Working Together in Earth Science* Plenary session, alongside several other CEOS Principals.
* Event registration details and logistics information for 2025 CEOS Plenary were circulated on 4 July 2025. Participants are encouraged to book their accommodation soon to secure a discounted rate.
* For the *“CEOS In Schools”* initiative, students have developed posters on potential applications of satellites and the power of international collaboration. The CEOS Youth Event will be held on 4 November 2025, the side meeting day of this year’s CEOS Plenary.
* The “*Common Practices for Quantifying Methane Emissions from Plumes Detected by Remote Sensing”* document is undergoing final reviews before it is circulated for virtual endorsement by CEOS Principals. Unless objections are raised in response to the email, the document will be considered endorsed on 11 August 2025. In parallel, the GHG Task Team will also request virtual endorsement from CGMS.
* A dedicated side meeting is planned at SIT Technical Workshop (9-11 September 2025; Darmstadt, Germany) titled, “*Unlocking EO for Public Service”,* which aims to share common knowledge, experience, and insights, on interventions made in agencies to implement and utilise EO data. Agencies are invited to contact the CEOS Chair Team if they wish to contribute a presentation.

**CEOS Executive Officer Contract**

Paul Counet (EUMETSAT) reported:

* ESA and EUMESAT have committed to support the CEOS Executive Officer for four years, from 2024 to 2027. The initial contract was constructed as a two-year contract, with a possible extension for another two years.
* Steven Ramage (CEOS Executive Officer) has informed EUMETSAT that he will not continue with the contract at the end of this contract period, which concludes on 31 December 2025.
* Evenflow, who is currently supporting Steven Ramage, has offered to take over the contract and lead the CEOS Executive Office for 2026-2027. This would be agreeable to EUMETSAT, provided Evenflow can demonstrate they have the resources to carry out the role.
* The incoming CEOS Chair Team has already been informed of this proposal.

## CEOS Executive Officer Report

Irena Drakopoulou (CEOS Executive Officer Team) reported:

* The CEOS Executive Officer Team participated in ESA’s Living Planet Symposium (23-27 June 2025; Vienna, Austria), including at the CEOS Exhibition Booth and supporting sessions across the programme.
* The Hellenic Space Agency (HSA) has drafted a formal nomination letter for CEOS membership. Discussions with the African Space Agency (AfSA) and Kenya Space Agency (KSA) are ongoing.
* The Executive Officer Team continues to monitor the CEOS Work Plan deliverables and asks that all CEOS entities inform the team when progress is made on a deliverable.
* The Executive Officer Team participated in WGCapD-14 (30 June to 1 July 2025; Vienna, Austria), which was held alongside the 68th UN COPUOS session.
* The SDG Coordination Group will soon have their first meeting under the leadership of the Executive Officer.
* The Executive Officer received a [letter](https://extranet.wmo.int/edistrib_exped/grp_Semicircular/_en/08672-2025-ASG-PPE_en.pdf) from WMO asking for inputs to their draft Congress statement titled *“WMO Call to All Stakeholders to Collaborate on the Development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) Environmental Monitoring and Prediction Technologies, Tools and Applications”*. *Note: See action 337-02 below for the next steps.*

## CEOS Systems Engineering Office Report

David Borges (SEO, NASA) reported:

* The SEO continues to troubleshoot the issue with the mailing list where Microsoft flags some email traffic as spam and/or quarantine. Concurrently, SEO is undertaking a landscape analysis and exploring other distribution list options to determine if a transition would be beneficial. Trials with Mailman and Groups.io are underway.
* At SEC-336 the SEO presented a proposal to enable DOIs to be issued for CEOS documents using Zenodo. As per action SEC 336-02, approval to move forward with implementing the proposal was sought at SEC-337.

*Discussion*

* No objections to the Zenodo proposal (Ref: Action SEC 336-02) were raised. The SEO will inform the CEOS community and proceed to implementation, provided no objections are raised within a set window.

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| **337-01** | SEO to share the Zenodo proposal with the CEOS community for awareness. If no objections are raised after a short comment period, the SEO will proceed to implementation. | **7 August 2025** |

## Working Group Impacts and Key Issues for Discussion

**WGCapD**

Dan Matsapola (SANSA, WGCapD Chair) reported:

* UNOOSA hosted WGCapD-14 (30 June to 1 July 2025; Vienna, Austria) alongside the 68th Session of UN COPUOS. European agencies attended in person, with others participating remotely. The meeting benefited from the 110 countries attending UN COPUOS and the capacity building discussions from ESA’s Living Planet Symposium the week prior. The meeting discussed strategic elements of the future of capacity building.
* The WGCapD Vice Chair position remains vacant until ESA potentially takes on the role at CEOS Plenary 2025 (nomination pending endorsement by Principals at the 2025 CEOS Plenary).

**WGClimate**

Wenying Su (NASA, WGClimate Chair) reported:

* The WGClimate Chair participated in the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Steering Committee meeting (7-10 July 2025; São José dos Campos, Brazil), where GCOS decided that their next Status Report and Implementation Plan will be developed and published concurrently, with a target release date of Q1 2027. This timing is intended to align with the second Global Stocktake in 2028.
* GCOS is also working on a new set of Essential Climate Variable (ECV) requirements, which will be published separately in Q4 2028.
* The 62nd session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) (16-26 June 2025; Bonn, Germany) reaffirmed the importance of sustained, systematic observations of the climate system as a foundation for scientific research and welcomed progress in the IPCC’s Seventh Assessment Cycle.
* The WGClimate UNFCCC Tiger Team is preparing key messages for Earth Information Day at UNFCCC COP30 (10-21 November 2025; Belem, Brazil).
* WGClimate is drafting the *CEOS-CGMS Statement on Progress in Supporting UNFCCC Needs for Global Observations* for the 63rd SBSTA session to be held during the November 2025 UNFCCC COP30 in Belem, Brazil. The 2025 statement will cover Earth’s energy imbalance, land cover change and ecosystem dynamics, ice loss and glacier retreat, sea level rise monitoring and projection, and early warning and disaster response. WGClimate is also seeking recent examples of how space-based observations are supporting national inventory reporting (e.g., Biennial Transparency Reports) and adaptation planning.

**WGCV**

Cody Anderson (USGS, WGCV Chair) reported:

* WGCV-55 (8-11 July 2025; Hyderabad, India) included lively and productive discussions on topics including the CEOS Fiducial Reference Measurement (FRM) Assessment Framework, CEOS-ARD, data quality, the CEOS Product Validation Platform, the WGISS Interoperability Handbook, and WMO GSICS.
* A commercial engagement session on Thursday, 10 July 2025 was attended by representatives of six Indian companies, who shared their current cal/val activities and challenges, as well as their experiences using CEOS tools / capabilities including RadCalNet and CEOS-ARD.
* WGCV endorsed Version 2 of the “*Roadmap Towards an Assessment Framework for CEOS Fiducial Reference Measurements (FRMs)”*, as well as the “*Land Cover and Change Map Accuracy Assessment and Area Estimation Good Practices Protocol”*.
* WGCV-56 will be held at USGS EROS in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA, in April 2026. The prospect of holding this meeting jointly with LSI-VC-19 is being considered.

**WGISS**

Tom Sohre (USGS, WGISS Chair) reported:

* There were fruitful discussions at WGCV-55 on the Quality Factor of the draft Interoperability Handbook v2.0.
* WGDisasters and WGISS are discussing the potential for a joint meeting in March 2026.
* With the CEOS Communications Team, WGISS has published CEOS news articles on [WGISS Connected Assets](https://ceos.org/news/wgiss-cda-2025/) and [AVHRR Recovery Efforts](https://ceos.org/news/avhrr-data-recovery/). A new table of [agency data available through FedEO and IDN](https://ceos.org/ourwork/workinggroups/wgiss/access/connected-data-assets/cda-datasets/) has also recently been published on the CEOS website.
* Regarding the WMO [letter](https://extranet.wmo.int/edistrib_exped/grp_Semicircular/_en/08672-2025-ASG-PPE_en.pdf) asking for inputs on AI/ML applications, WGISS can provide a link to the draft [AI/ML White Paper](https://github.com/ceos-org/aiml-white-paper).

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| **337-02** | WGISS Chair to coordinate with the CEOS Executive Officer regarding a response to the [*WMO Call to All Stakeholders to Collaborate on the Development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) Environmental Monitoring and Prediction Technologies, Tools and Applications*](https://extranet.wmo.int/edistrib_exped/grp_Semicircular/_en/08672-2025-ASG-PPE_en.pdf). | **25 July 2025** |

**WGDisasters**

Laura Frulla (CONAE, WGDisasters Chair) reported:

* The WGISS and WGDisasters Chair teams met on 18 June 2025 and discussed the possibility of holding a joint meeting in March 2026. A common theme for the meeting could be the concept of ‘Decision-Ready’ products, which combine a variety of datasets to provide information to decision makers.
* Two individuals from Kenya have recently joined WGDisasters from the Disaster Risk Reduction Section of the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD).
* WGDisasters gave two presentations at ESA’s Living Planet Symposium on *Capacity Building and Technology Transfer in Earth Observation* and *Using Satellite EO in Global Capabilities for Disaster Response*.
* WGDisasters-24 will be held 19 September to 3 October 2025 in San Carlos de Bariloche, Río Negro province, Argentina.
* Laura will retire from CONAE at the end of July 2025. Marcelo Uriburu Quirno (CONAE) will replace Laura as the WGDisasters Chair.

*Discussion*

* The CEOS Secretariat thanked Laura for her extensive and valuable contributions to CEOS and WGDisasters and wished her all the best for the future.

## AOB

**2026 CEOS Plenary Dates**

Maggie Arnold (Geoscience Australia, 2026 CEOS Chair Team) reported:

* The Australian CEOS Chair team was trying to align the dates for CEOS Plenary 2026 with UNFCCC COP31, however hosting for UNFCCC COP31 hasn’t yet been decided.
* In the interest of planning certainty, the 2026 CEOS Chair Team would like to propose that CEOS Plenary 2026 be held on 3-6 November 2026. Due to other events and the availability of venues, there are limited other options.

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| **337-03** | CEOS SEC to review the proposed dates for CEOS Plenary 2026 (3-6 November 2026) and inform Alex Held <Alex.Held@csiro.au>, Jonathon Ross <Jonathon.Ross@ga.gov.au>, and Maggie Arnold <Maggie.Arnold@ga.gov.au> if there are any scheduling conflicts. | **SEC-338** |

## Adjournment

Niall Brashaw (UKSA, CEOS Chair Team) thanked the participants of SEC-337. The next CEOS Secretariat meeting will be SEC-338, which will be held on 21 August 2025. The plan for SEC teleconferences/meetings leading up to the 2025 CEOS Plenary is as follows (typically Thursday):

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| SEC-338: 21 August 2025SEC-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.