**Minutes V1.0**

**338th CEOS SECRETARIAT MEETING**

Thursday, 21 August 2025

Chaired by UKSA

**Participants**

**CSIRO:** Alex Held, Amy Parker

**CSA:** Frederic Fournier, Carmen Marcu, Mark De Jong (Natural

Resources Canada)

**EUMETSAT:**  Robert Husband

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

**GA:** Jonathon Ross, Maggie Arnold

**JAXA SIT Chair Team:** Osamu Ochiai, Satoshi Uenuma, Stephen Ward

**NASA:** Julie Robinson, Sid Boukabara, Michelle Hanssen

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

**SEO:** David Borges

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

**WGCapD:** Dan Matsapola

**WGCV:**  Cody Anderson

**WGClimate:** Wenying Su

**WGDisasters:**  Marcelo Uriburu Quirno

**WGISS:**  Tom Sohre

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

Harshbir Sangha (UKSA, CEOS Chair Team) welcomed participants to SEC-338 and reviewed the agenda. No additions or changes were requested by the Secretariat.

The following SEC actions were reviewed:

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.*

Tom Sohre (USGS, WGISS Chair) shared the draft AI/ML White Paper developed within WGISS with WMO and invited them to provide comments. Lefteris Mamais (Executive Officer Team) noted that WMO has acknowledged the contribution from CEOS.

337-03: *CEOS SEC to review the proposed dates for CEOS Plenary 2026 (3-6 November 2026) and inform Alex Held, Jonathon Ross, and Maggie Arnold if there are any scheduling conflicts.*

Jonathon Ross (Geoscience Australia, 2026 CEOS Chair Team) shared that the incoming CEOS Chair Team received no feedback and will therefore proceed to plan for the 2026 CEOS Plenary on 3-6 November 2026.

# Update on Canada's WildfireSat Mission Expansion

Mark De Jong (Natural Resources Canada) was invited by the UKSA CEOS Chair Team to report to the Secretariat on recent developments regarding Canada's WildfireSat mission:

* Mark De Jong is a scientific lead for the Canadian WildfireSat mission, which has recently been expanded to cover wildfire monitoring globally, following the signing of the Kananaskis Wildfire Charter at the 2025 G7 Leader’s Summit (16-17 June 2025; Kananaskis, Canada).
* Natural Resources Canada and CSA have led the WGDisasters Wildfire Pilot over the last 4-5 years, with the aim to expand public access to global wildfire monitoring data. Core findings of the Wildfire Pilot highlighted the uncertainty of the future availability of space-based wildfire products, despite high user trust and uptake. The Pilot also found that there is a disconnect between upstream satellite producers and downstream users, as well as a need to manage emerging, non-traditional data sources from commercial and philanthropic providers.
* The G7 announcement includes funding to establish an international coordination group to address challenges identified by the WGDisasters Wildfire Pilot. This includes two interlinked aspects: stabilisation of the GOFC-GOLD Fire-IT (Global Observations of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics Fire Implementation Team), a network of fire product producers worldwide; and establishment of a group or virtual constellation to ensure better coordination between agencies generating wildfire products.
* CSA has requested a side meeting at the 2025 CEOS Plenary to gauge interest in establishing a group under CEOS to fulfil this coordination role. The findings of the WGDisasters Wildfire Pilot will provide background information for the discussion. The topic will also be presented at the 2025 SIT Technical Workshop (9-11 September; Darmstadt, Germany).

# SIT Chair Report

Osamu Ochiai (JAXA, SIT Chair Team) reported:

* The final [SIT Technical Workshop agenda](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zKbtnXshq3igb__DxrasfmEruCRFegbh1Fr3u39V1DM/edit?usp=sharing) was shared by Hironori Maejima (JAXA, SIT Chair) on 21 August 2025. Presentations and supporting documents should be provided to the SIT Chair Team by 2 September 2025 (one week before the meeting). To date, around 60 in-person registrations have been received.
* Session 7 of the SIT Technical Workshop agenda, *Virtual Constellations: State of the Global Observing System,* invites all Virtual Constellations to give a brief 10-15 minute presentation, with content following a prescribed template. Following the presentations from the Virtual Constellations, the SIT Chair Team will lead a discussion regarding refinement of the reporting of Virtual Constellations to CEOS leadership.
* The Biodiversity Study Team (BST) has shared the proposal document they were mandated to complete by CEOS Plenary. The proposal recommends the establishment of a Biodiversity Virtual Constellation (B-VC). The [CEOS Virtual Constellation Process Paper](https://ceos.org/document_management/Publications/Governing_Docs/Virtual-Constellations_Process%20Paper_rev1-2019.pdf) indicates that the process to establish a new Virtual Constellation normally consists of an Initial Proposal that, if confirmed by the SIT Chair, leads to a Full Proposal. The BST were planning to present the Initial Proposal at SIT Technical Workshop 2025 (9-11 September; Darmstadt, Germany), followed by the Full Proposal at the 2025 CEOS Plenary (4-6 November 2025; Bath, UK).
* The SIT Chair interprets the Virtual Constellation Process Paper as instructing both the Initial and Full Proposals to be presented to Principal-level meetings (i.e., two separate rounds of Principal-level review) to ensure that a Virtual Constellation has consensus. Therefore, since SIT Technical Workshop is not a Principal-level meeting, it is not an opportunity to approve the Initial Proposal. As such, the SIT Chair recommends the Initial Proposal be presented at the 2025 CEOS Plenary, and the Full Proposal be presented at SIT-41 (14-16 April 2026; Irvine, California, USA).
* A side event is scheduled for SIT Technical Workshop 2025 (9 September 2025, 10:00-11:00 CEST; Side Meeting Room #3) to review CEOS inputs for the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) 2050 Vision Update. A request was shared with the CEOS community on 4 August 2025, asking for feedback to be provided via a [survey](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyNUHyJCCARu5gprSvXjMw9-8pn_cL4md96AlC6_PYqix6fA/viewform?usp=dialog). All CEOS Agencies, Working Groups, and Virtual Constellations are encouraged to respond.

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| **338-01** | CEOS Secretariat members to respond to the [WIGOS 2050 Vision Survey](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyNUHyJCCARu5gprSvXjMw9-8pn_cL4md96AlC6_PYqix6fA/viewform?usp=dialog). Agencies should provide one consolidated response on behalf of their organisation. Working Groups and Virtual Constellations should share with their membership, welcoming individual responses. | **31 August 2025** |

*Discussion*

* It was agreed that the correct process for the Biodiversity VC proposal is for the Initial Proposal be presented at the 2025 CEOS Plenary, with a Full Proposal to follow at SIT-41 (14-16 April 2026; Irvine, California, USA).
* Julie Robinson (NASA) and Frederic Fournier (CSA) agreed with the approach, stating that two Principal-level reviews should ensure a robust foundation for the new VC.

1. **CEOS Chair Report**

Harshbir Sangha and Niall Bradshaw (UKSA, CEOS Chair Team) reported:

* The UK Government has undertaken a sweeping review of its agencies and decided that UKSA will merge with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) from 1 April 2026. While little external change is anticipated, the delivery of policy-related activities is expected to be streamlined, with strategy and policy functions brought closer together. Paul Bate, CEO of UKSA and CEOS Chair, will transition to a Director role. The UKSA branding will be retained.
* Preparation for the 2025 CEOS Plenary (4-6 November 2025; Bath, UK) continues, with forms for [registration](https://ceosdotorg.wufoo.com/forms/z1ypczsz045j4hd/) and [side meeting requests](https://ceosdotorg.wufoo.com/forms/zosg2b60bxpg52/), as well as a travel guidance document, being distributed again on 1 August 2025.
* The 2025 CEOS Plenary agenda will include the ‘*CEOS in Schools Youth Event’*, on Tuesday, 4 November 2025. An early preview of the Plenary agenda was shown during the meeting.

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| **338-02** | CEOS Executive Officer to confirm to the CEOS Chair Team if any membership applications are expected to be presented at the 2025 CEOS Plenary. | **SEC-339** |

* The ‘*Common Practices for Quantifying, Reporting, Validating, and Assessing Facility-Scale Methane Emissions’* document was endorsed by CEOS and CGMS on 18 August 2025. The focus now turns to coordinating the promotion and implementation of this document, with UNFCCC COP30 (10-21 November 2025; Belém, Brazil) serving as a key milestone.
* The UKSA CEOS Chair Team will hold a side meeting at SIT Technical Workshop 2025 (9 September 2025, 14:00-15:30 CEST; Side Meeting Room #1) dedicated to the CEOS Chair theme ‘*Unlocking EO for Public Service’.* The side meeting will focus on exchange of knowledge and experience among CEOS members on interventions to support the uptake of satellite EO data for public services. Representatives from JAXA, UKSA, the European Commission, and Geoscience Australia will present their perspectives.

## 2026 CEOS Chair Themes

Alex Held (CSIRO, 2026 CEOS Chair) reported:

* The intention is for a ‘Team Australia’ CEOS Chair period that focuses on continuity of the critical work underway across CEOS while also supporting CEOS to engage with key issues of importance to the future of the organisation. The team is conscious of the need to be mindful of resourcing constraints and priorities and have endeavoured to fully factor this into planning.
* Team Australia is proposing to support two main activities as CEOS Chair, with a common thread to unite them: giving CEOS Principals information that helps them discuss and determine the future direction CEOS should take in key areas.
* Firstly, Team Australia proposes to support and prioritise the review of the CEOS-ARD Strategy that is already being driven by the CEOS-ARD Oversight Group in accordance with the CEOS-ARD Framework. Secondly, Team Australia proposes to develop a high-level report that facilitates a discussion on CEOS support for adaptation and resilience to environmental change.
* The 2026 CEOS Chair Team is also planning some additional activities, such as a CEOS Plenary side event on Antarctica and a workshop on water quality applications of EO data.
* The 2026 CEOS Chair Team looks forward to the opportunity to discuss their themes and activities in more detail at the dedicated side meeting planned at SIT Technical Workshop (9 September 2025, 11:00-12:00 CEST; Side Meeting Room #1). A short concept note will be shared in advance.
* The 2026 CEOS Plenary will be held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 3-6 November 2026.

## CEOS Executive Officer Report

Lefteris Mamais (CEOS Executive Officer Team) reported:

* The CEOS Executive Officer Team continues to work with the CEOS Working Groups, Virtual Constellations, and others to update the [CEOS Work Plan Deliverables Tracking Tool](http://deliverables.ceos.org/).
* The CEOS Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Group (SDG CG) met online in July 2025; however, participation was limited. ESA proposed the creation of a structured e-learning initiative in 2026 to highlight the value of Earth observation relating to the monitoring and achievement of the SDGs.
* Regarding prospective new CEOS Members and Associates, the CEOS Executive Officer Team are currently working with the Catalan Space Institute (IEEC), the Hellenic Space Agency (GSA), the Kenyan Space Agency (KSA), the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), the Saudi Space Agency (SSA), and the African space agency (AfSA).
* The Executive Officer Team would like to acknowledge and thank Christine Bognar for her support and guidance over the past two years.

## CEOS Systems Engineering Office Report

David Borges (SEO, NASA) reported:

* Regarding SEC Action 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.*
  + Following initial implementation tests, the SEO proposes that a new CEOS Process Paper be established to detail the requirements regarding what CEOS documentation can obtain a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) via Zenodo.
  + This proposal will be raised at SIT Technical Workshop (9-11 September 2025; Darmstadt, Germany), and, if agreed, the SEO will then draft the CEOS DOI Process Paper for review and feedback by the CEOS community at CEOS Plenary (4-6 November 2025; Bath, UK).
* The CEOS Communications Team, in collaboration with the Executive Officer Team and Radiant Earth Foundation, is exploring opportunities to contribute CEOS perspectives in the Future 2026 World Economic Forum (WEF) papers, such as the following two papers produced in 2024:
  + [Amplifying the Global Value of Earth Observations](https://www.weforum.org/publications/amplifying-the-global-value-of-earth-observation/)
  + [Charting the Future of Earth Observations](https://www.weforum.org/publications/charting-the-future-of-earth-observation/)

*Discussion*

* The Secretariat concurred with the SEO’s proposed approach for the CEOS DOI Process Paper and welcomed a discussion at SIT Technical Workshop on this matter.

## Working Group Impacts and Key Issues for Discussion

**WGClimate**

Wenying Su (NASA, WGClimate Chair) reported:

* WGClimate shared the ‘*CEOS-CGMS Statement on Progress in Supporting UNFCCC Needs for Global Observations for the 63rd SBSTA Session’* with the CEOS and CGMS communities on 20 August 2025. Feedback is requested by 3 October 2025. The draft statement emphasises knowledge gained from sustained Earth observation in six key thematic areas.
* The UNFCCC Tiger Team met on 17 July 2025 to discuss the CEOS-CGMS contributions to Earth Information Day (EID) at UNFCCC COP30 (10-21 November 2025; Belém, Brazil). The proposed themes must be submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat by 29 August 2025. The group agreed to align the suggestions with the established structure of recent Earth Information Days to maximise the chances of uptake.
* Proposed themes for Earth Information Day under consideration include: advances in the reach and trust of satellite-derived methane data; Earth observations and tipping points; and CO₂ emissions derived from GOSAT supporting Mongolia and India.

**WGCapD**

Dan Matsapola (SANSA, WGCapD Chair) reported:

* South Africa’s National Space Conference is currently ongoing, with the theme: ‘*Space for Societal Resilience, Transformation and Intelligence’*.
* WGCapD held its monthly meeting on 14 August 2025, which included preparations for SIT Technical Workshop (9-11 September 2025; Darmstadt, Germany).
* WGCapD continues to operate without a Vice Chair, after AEM stepped down from the position. A new Vice Chair is expected to be confirmed at 2025 CEOS Plenary (4-6 November 2025; Bath, UK).

**WGCV**

Cody Anderson (USGS, WGCV Chair) reported:

* The CEOS Product Validation Platform (CEOS-PVP) has been published at [ceos.org/pvp](http://ceos.org/pvp). The platform, built on the UK EO Data Hub, consists of a repository for both public and private satellite operators to provide regular imagery over a set of endorsed calibration sites, with the goal to provide evidence of data quality via a robust independent assessment. Agencies are encouraged to collect and provide imagery over the sites identified in CEOS-PVP.
* USGS will host a joint meeting of WGCV-56 and LSI-VC-19 at USGS EROS, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA, in April 2026.

*Discussion*

* Harshbir Sangha (UKSA, CEOS Chair Team) noted that the UK Government is keen to establish a robust EO data architecture, with the UK EO Data Hub playing a central role.
* Jonathon Ross (Geoscience Australia) highlighted the importance of trust in data across the commercial EO sector, noting that CEOS-PVP can play a key role in this.

**WGDisasters**

Marcelo Uriburu Quirno (CONAE, WGDisasters Chair) reported:

* Marcelo succeeds Laura Frulla as the Chair of WGDisasters, following her recent retirement from CONAE. The WGDisasters Chair role will pass to UNOOSA at the 2025 CEOS Plenary (4-6 November 2025; Bath, UK).
* WGDisasters-24 will be held 19 September to 3 October 2025 in San Carlos de Bariloche, Río Negro province, Argentina.
* WGISS and WGDisasters have agreed to hold a joint meeting in the week of 16-20 March 2026.
* A meeting was held with representatives of the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD, in Nairobi, Kenya), who expressed interest in exploring potential collaborations with WGDisasters, especially regarding wildfires, floods, droughts, biodiversity, and Early Warnings for All (EW4All).

**WGISS**

Tom Sohre (USGS, WGISS Chair) reported:

* WGISS is collaborating with WGDisasters, WGClimate and the Biodiversity Study Team to showcase interoperability demonstrators from a wide range of application areas.
* Preparations continue for WGISS-60, with the draft agenda to be shared shortly. Approximately 20 in-person participants are expected.
* The WGISS Chair and Vice Chair will attend SIT Technical Workshop 2025 (9-11 September 2025; Darmstadt, Germany) online to present the status of the Interoperability Handbook in preparation for potential endorsement at CEOS Plenary.

## AOB

No additional topics were raised.

## Adjournment

Harshbir Sangha (UKSA, CEOS Chair Team) thanked the participants of SEC-338. The next CEOS Secretariat meeting will be SEC-339, which will be held on the side meeting day of SIT Technical Workshop (9 September 2025, 09:00 – 10:00, Side Meeting Room #1). The plan for CEOS SEC teleconferences/meetings leading up to the 2025 CEOS Plenary is as follows (typically Thursday):

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| SEC-339: 9 September 2025 *(at 2025 SIT TW)*  SEC-340: 9 October 2025  SEC-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.