

CEOS SEC-338 SIT Chair Written Report

CEOS Entity: SIT Chair Team

Prepared by: JAXA

- The SIT TW agenda will be frozen shortly (hopefully early next week). The link will remain the same [here](#).
- A reminder that presentation files as well as supporting documents (non-decisional) should be provided to the SIT Chair Team <jaxa-sit-chair-2024-25@googlegroups.com> by September 2.
- All presentations will be stored on a Google Drive folder. This has the benefit of avoiding issues related to versioning – presenters can edit their files as many times as they like right up until they are presented. A Google Slide template is available [here](#) (use the File > Make a Copy menu item to start your own presentation). A PPT copy of the template is also attached. Access the shared Google Drive presentation folder [here](#) and contact <jaxa-sit-chair-2024-25@googlegroups.com> for editing permissions as needed.
- Reminder for SEC to please chase up VC presenters to ensure a well considered Session 7: Virtual Constellations: State of the Global Observing System. As a reminder, in this session we are inviting all CEOS Virtual Constellations (VCs) to give a brief 10-15 minute presentation, with content to follow a prescribed template. We ask that all VCs use three slides only, one slide providing a visual timeline of all missions relevant to the Virtual Constellation, one slide covering key planning / coordination notes for SIT and CEOS agency awareness, and one slide focusing on thematic products and applications. The session will conclude with a discussion on how we might introduce more systematic and consistent VC reporting so that we can achieve regular overviews of gaps and opportunities. We hope this will also be an opportunity to clarify how VCs can make suggestions and reports to CEOS leadership meetings regarding such gaps and opportunities.

Biodiversity Study Team & Virtual Constellation Proposal

The SIT Chair has oversight of the VCs.

- The Biodiversity Study Team (BST) was created with a one year duration to address its mandate:
 - Conduct a stakeholder assessment;
 - Consult across CEOS entities and agencies to leverage existing activities relevant to biodiversity and implement lessons learned and recommendations;
 - Assess the options for sustainable support for biodiversity in CEOS;
 - **In collaboration with the CEOS executive officer, develop supporting documentation for the recommended option.**
- The first three items are now complete and have been captured in a draft proposal document assembled by the BST co-chairs and then shared with the full BST for comment. Based on that they are now comfortable that a **Biodiversity Virtual Constellation appears to be the best approach for an enduring role for Biodiversity within CEOS.**

- However, the CEOS Virtual Constellation Process Paper indicates that the proposal process for a new VC normally consists of an Initial Proposal that, if given the go-ahead by the SIT Chair, leads to a full proposal.
- The BST's one year duration presents some timeline challenges because the BST first had to complete steps 1-3 and then develop a proposal for internal BST review. To ensure the BST was well-informed and to facilitate their comments, the draft Proposal followed the VC Process Paper's "Full Proposal" format. In parallel and to accommodate the short timeline, they have also drafted versions of the Terms of Reference and Implementation Plan and recently shared these with the full BST for comment.

In order to follow the VC Process Paper and ensure sufficient opportunity for CEOS Principal level review, the SIT Chair team proposes that the most direct path for a Biodiversity VC is for the Initial Proposal to be presented to CEOS Plenary, and the Final Proposal to SIT-41 (April 2026).

CEOS SEC-338 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: CEO Team

Prepared by: CEO, August 2025

1. Ongoing work with working groups, virtual constellations and others updating the deliverables in the tracking tool.
2. Action 337-02: The CEO team has exchanged with WGISS to coordinate 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](#). The response was drafted by the CEO team and once reviewed and agreed with WGISS shared with WMO.
3. Working Group on Capacity Building and Data Democracy
The CEO team is supporting actions and next steps after the Vienna meeting. Also supporting Capacity Building inputs to the Global Stock Take (GST) Strategy.
After meeting with the African Space Agency (AfSa) at ESA Living Planet Symposium in Vienna, a phone call took place to inform AfSa about the process to join CEOS. Everyone has now gone on annual leave. No other agencies have been engaged over last weeks.
4. Working Group Climate: ongoing support to the GST strategy and TIGER team.
5. Working Group Disasters: preparing for meeting in Bariloche and next stages of the wildfire pilot also with commercial companies who have an interest in participating.
6. Working Group on Information Systems and Services: tracking interoperability handbook and supporting additional input or reviews where necessary including AI/ML white paper.
7. Working Group on Calibration and Validation: available to support the communication of the FRM Assessment Framework and its role, notably engaging commercial sector.
8. SDG Coordination Group provided updates on SDG support sheets and ESA has proposed the creation of a structured e-learning initiative in 2026 — either a MOOC (massive open online course) or a series of recorded webinars that highlight the value of Earth observation relating to the monitoring and achievement of the SDGs.
9. Review of proposed approach and input provided to Biodiversity Study Team.
10. Ongoing support for the Future CEOS-ARD Strategy

The CEO team would like to acknowledge and thank Christine Bognar at NASA for her support and guidance since the team took over in this role. Noting that CEOS contacts must be updated.

The CEOS calendar is regularly updated, and members of the CEOS Secretariat are requested to continue providing input regarding upcoming events.

Upcoming events

The following CEOS meetings take place in the coming weeks:

- **WGDisasters-24: 29 September – 5 October 2025** | Bariloche, Argentina
- **LSI-VC-18: 3 – 5 September 2025** | Ispra, Italy

The next external meetings in September 2025 include:

- **76th International Astronautical Congress: 29 September – 3 October 2025** | Sydney, Australia

Online CEOS meeting calendar

Meetings

Upcoming

CEOS

SIT

- **2025 SIT Technical Workshop** : September 9th - 11th, 2025 | Darmstadt, Germany

Plenary

- **39th CEOS Plenary** : November 4th - 6th, 2025 | Bath, UK

Working Groups

- **WGDisasters-24** : September 29th - October 5th, 2025 | Bariloche, Argentina
- **WGISS-60** : October 13th - 17th, 2025 | Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany
- **WGClimate-23** : October 24th, 2025 | Virtual
- **WGCV SAR Subgroup Meeting** : October 27th - 30th, 2025 | Vancouver, Canada

Virtual Constellations

- **LSI-VC-18** : September 3rd - 5th, 2025 | Ispra, Italy

External

- **76th International Astronautical Congress** : September 29th - October 3rd, 2025 | Sydney, Australia
 - **UNFCCC COP-30** : November 10th - 21st, 2025 | Brazil
 - **VH-RODA 2025** : November 17th - 21st, 2025 | Frascati, Italy
 - **ESA Council Meeting at Ministerial level, CM25** : November 26th - 27th, 2025 | Bremen, Germany
 - **AGU 25** : December 15th - 19th, 2025 | New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
 - **WMO CM-16** : March 1st - 31st, 2026 | -
 - **16th Session of Consultative Meetings on High-Level Policy on Satellite Matters (CM-16)** : March 3rd - 4th, 2026 | Geneva, Switzerland
 - **JACIE 2026** : April 13th - 17th, 2026 | Reston, Virginia, USA
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CEOS SEC-338 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: SEO

Prepared by: David Borges

New updates, particularly those that would benefit from CEOS SEC awareness, discussion, help and/or guidance:

- CEOS L-Soft Listserv Spam/Quarantine Issue

SEO continues to troubleshoot the Listserv issue where Microsoft flags some email traffic as spam and/or quarantine. Concurrently, SEO is doing a landscape analysis and exploring other distribution list platform options to determine if a wholesale shift would solve identified issues. Trial systems have been developed using Mailman and Groups.io platforms with evaluation ongoing and a beta recipient list providing feedback.

- New “CEOS DOI Process Paper”

Ref: SEC-336-02, SEC-337-01

<https://zenodo.org/communities/ceos>

Over the past several years, multiple CEOS groups have approached SEO and asked if CEOS has a formal process to secure DOI for appropriate CEOS documentation. SEO developed a proposal to address these requests which was presented during SEC-336/337.

SEO is working internally on first steps identified in previous proposal and requests SEC feedback regarding framing the activity as a new CEOS [Process Paper](#).

Additional points (for written reference only):

- CEOS Communications Team, in collaboration with the CEO Team and Radiant Earth Foundation, is exploring opportunities to contribute CEOS perspectives in future 2026 World Economic Forum (WEF) papers, like two papers produced in 2024:
 - [Amplifying the Global Value of Earth Observations](#)
 - [Charting the Future of Earth Observations](#)

Upcoming meetings and events (for written reference only):

- VH-RODA 2025, Frascati Italy, 17-21 November 2025
- FOSS4G 2025, Auckland New Zealand, 17-23 November 2025
- JACIE 2026, Virginia USA, 13-17 April 2026

CEOS SEC-338 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: WGCapD

Prepared by: Daniel A. Matsapola

New updates, particularly those that would benefit from CEOS SEC awareness, discussion, help and/or guidance

- *WGCapD held its August 2025 monthly meeting on 14 August 2025, with key agenda item being the SIT TW preparation that will continue until the next September 2025 monthly meeting.*
- *CEOS Work Plan 2025 – 2027 activities progressing well, with the responsible lead agencies giving regular updates.*
- *WGCapD Chair workload is heavy without Vice Chair and can benefit from an interim intervention before CEOS Plenary 2025.*

Additional points (for written reference only):

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Upcoming meetings and events (for written reference only):

- *South Africa's National Space Conference will be held at CSIR International Convention Centre on **20 – 22 August 2025** under the theme "**Space for Societal Resilience, Transformation and Intelligence**"*
- *WGCapD monthly meeting scheduled for 04 September 2025 and 02 October 2025 leading to CEOS Plenary 2025.*
- *The 9th edition of the AfriGEO Symposium will take place in Dakar, Senegal, from **7 to 9 October 2025** and is being co-hosted by Centre de Suivi Écologique in Senegal. The theme for this year's Symposium is **From Data to Impact***

CEOS SEC-338 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: WGClimate

Prepared by: Wenying Su, Vincent-Henri Peuch

New updates, particularly those that would benefit from CEOS SEC awareness, discussion, help and/or guidance:

1. CEOS-CGMS Statement to SBSTA 63

WGClimate shared the CEOS-CGMS Statement on Progress in Supporting UNFCCC Needs for Global Observations for the 63rd SBSTA session with CEOS and CGMS community on August 20. Please provide feedback by **October 3rd**. The 2025 statement will emphasize knowledge gained from sustained Earth observation in the following key thematic areas:

- Earth's energy imbalance
- Land cover change and ecosystem dynamics
- Ice loss and glacier retreat
- Sea level rise monitoring and projection
- Atmospheric composition measurement
- Early warning and disaster response

2. UNFCCC Engagement Activities

The Tiger Team met on 17 July to discuss the proposed contribution to the Earth Information Day (EID) in Belém, Brazil. The proposed themes must be submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat by **29 August**.

The agreed way forward is to provide suggestions from our community that align with the established structure of recent EIDs (as significant changes are unlikely), thereby maximizing the chances of uptake. The proposal will include:

- **Introductory segment:** A CEOS/CGMS high-level speaker will highlight the importance of maintaining long-term, sustained satellite observation programs to monitor the Earth system.
- **State of the climate:** Contributions will be offered on key climate events of 2024 and the first half of 2025, using satellite Earth observations. These inputs will be based on resources such as the joint WMO/Copernicus report on 2024 in coordination with WMO and GCOS.
- **Topical sessions (plenary, split sessions, or world cafés):** Proposals will feature Earth observation use cases, pairing data providers with users/recipients. These cases will aim to demonstrate support for the Global Goals on Adaptation (GGAs) and highlight the readiness of our community to monitor several key GGA indicators (as they continue to be defined). Proposed ideas under consideration include:
 - Advances in the reach and trust of satellite-derived methane data (UK)
 - Earth observations and tipping points (ESA/Europe)
 - CO₂ emissions derived from GOSAT supporting Mongolia and India (Japan)

3. Update to WGClimate Terms of Reference

WGClimate is currently reviewing and updating its Terms of Reference to reflect evolving priorities and activities.

Upcoming meetings and events *(for written reference only)*:

- WGClimate-23 will be held as a virtual meeting on Friday October 24, 2025.
- WGClimate-24 will be held jointly with the GCOS Panels the week of February 9, 2026, in Harwell, UK.

CEOS SEC-338 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: Working Group on Calibration and Validation (WGCV)

Prepared by: Cody Anderson, WGCV Chair, USGS

New updates, particularly those that would benefit from CEOS SEC awareness, discussion, help and/or guidance:

- The CEOS Product Validation Platform (CEOS-PVP) has been released at ceos.org/pvp, which consists of a repository for satellite operators to provide regularly collected imagery over a set of CEOS calibration sites. The platform also hosts the Radiometric Validation Analytics (RadVAL) Tool, which enables visualisation of sensor performance over select site references. The platform was developed by NPL and is hosted on the UK's EO Data Hub. CEOS-PVP aims to evidence self-consistency and relative bias, build interoperable ARD, and provide a source of robust independent assessment for the public and private sector. Agencies are encouraged to collect and provide imagery over the [sites identified in CEOS-PVP](#).
- USGS has confirmed an agreement to host WGCV-56 and LSI-VC-19 at USGS EROS, South Dakota, Sioux Falls, in April 2026, and welcome joint sessions on interoperability, data quality, and more related topics.

Upcoming meetings and events (for written reference only):

- The 32nd Workshop of the WGCV SAR Subgroup will be held at the Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Vancouver Canada, from 27-30 October 2025. The meeting will be hosted by SARlab of SFU and sponsored by MDA Space Canada.

CEOS SEC-338 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: WG on Disasters

Prepared by: Marcelo Uriburu Quirno, Lorant Czarán, Andrew Eddy

New updates, particularly those that would benefit from CEOS SEC awareness, discussion, help and/or guidance

- *As reported for SEC-337, the WGISS and WG Disasters joint meeting is been discussed. According to a recent poll, the week 16-20 March 2025 seems to be the preferred one by majority. Nitant Dube, WGISS chair, proposes to discuss definite dates and venue so that they can be informed in the respective WG's meetings: WGISS-60 and WGD-24.*
- *As anticipated at SEC-337, a meeting was held with representatives of the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD, in Nairobi, Kenya): Paul Mwangi, Geospatial Analyst at the Disaster Risk Reduction Section, and James Wanjohi Nyaga, Project Lead of the Early Warning, Anticipatory Actions and DRR Activities. They confirmed they would participate remotely in WGD-24, and expressed interest in exploring potential collaborations with WG Disasters, especially in wildfires, floods, droughts, biodiversity, and EW4All.*
- *Internal preparation meetings (agenda, logistics, invitation letters) are being held for the WG Disasters-24 meeting, informed below.*

Additional points (for written reference only):

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Upcoming meetings and events (for written reference only):

- *The WG Disasters 24 meeting will be held in Argentina in 30 September-03 October 2025, at the invitation of CONAE, in the city of San Carlos de Bariloche, Río Negro province in Patagonia Region in Argentina.*

CEOS SEC-338 Meeting Written Report

CEOS Entity: WGISS

Prepared by: Tom Sohre, Chair

New updates, particularly those that would benefit from CEOS SEC awareness, discussion, help and/or guidance:

- Nothing Significant to Report

Additional points (for written reference only):

- WGISS Chair Team met with the WGClimat on July 15, 2025:
 - WGClimat to provide demonstration of CDR inventory at WGISS-60
 - WGClimat to contribute a use case to AI/ML white paper
 - Discussion re: possibility for future Interoperability demonstrator
- WGISS Chair Team will attend SIT-TW virtually to present on status of Interoperability Handbook in preparation for endorsement at Plenary
 - Part of Session 5: Interoperability and Data Quality
- Reviewing / providing comments on the following documents in advance of SIT-TW:
 - FutureARD concept
 - WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) 2050 Vision

Upcoming meetings and events (for written reference only):

- WGISS-60, October 13-17, 2025, Oberpfaffenhofen Germany
 - Agenda to be finalized September 3
 - Approx. 20 in-person registrations as of August 19