**CEOS SIT-27**

**SESSION 4: Virtual Constellations and Working Groups**

**Summary and Rationale**

The Virtual Constellations and Working Groups are the main mechanisms available to CEOS as an organisation in support of delivery of its objectives. The CEOS Self Study (CSS) raised many issues in relation to the management and operation of the VCs and WGs and their interaction with SIT. In particular, the expectation was raised that the VCs and WGs could be aligned in support of the increasing emphasis within CEOS on physical outputs. The SIT-27 session, and the workshop that precedes SIT (for VC Leads and WG Chairs) will progress the dialogue around the CSS recommendations and explore the implications for each VC and WG.

**VC-WG Workshop Topics**

1. Recall CSS outcomes in relation to VCs & WGs
2. Update on the CEOS effort on CSS recommendations since Lucca:
   1. Overall, including in relation to planning documents
   2. In relation to VCs & WGs
3. Discussion of VC & WG support for CEOS implementation priorities:
   1. CEOS directions
   2. The priorities
   3. Opportunities for the VCs & WGs
   4. Experience and lessons from SST & OCR VC
   5. Personnel & expertise requirements
   6. Linkage & resource requirements
4. Targets & actions for each VC & WG – discussion of each.
5. SIT-27 session - and beyond.

**SIT-27 Session Topics**

The SIT-27 session will replay many of the issues aired in the Monday workshop for the benefit of Principals. The emphasis, however, will be on reporting to Principals on the progress towards consensus around the role of VCs and WGs in support of CEOS implementation targets, and in discussing the specific needs and challenges associated with each VC/WG – and how Principals can help in making explicit linkages and support with their relevant programmes.

1. Recall relevant CSS outcomes and process since Lucca
   1. Planning documents
2. Procedures for SIT and VC/WG interaction
3. Implementation support mechanisms
   1. Headline targets
   2. SST & OCR experience and lessons
   3. Individual VC/WG targets
   4. Opportunities and obstacles
4. Actions in support of VC & WG targets

**Documents and Materials**

The following documents and materials will be posted on the CEOS web site.

* VC & WG discussion paper (updated)
* Slides for the VC/WG workshop – including outcomes of individual discussions
* Slides for the SIT-27 session