

GCOS Developments and Future

GCOS Steering Committee 28
Item 3.1



Supported by the European Union



WMO Strategic Plan Goals

1: **Better serve societal needs:** delivering, authoritative, accessible, user-oriented and fit-for-purpose information and services

2: **Enhance Earth system observations and predictions:** Strengthening the technical foundation for the future

3: **Advance targeted research:** Leveraging leadership in science to improve understanding of the Earth system for enhanced services

4: **Close the capacity gap on weather, climate, hydrological and related environmental services:** Enhancing service delivery capacity of developing countries to ensure availability of essential information and services needed by governments, economic sectors and citizens

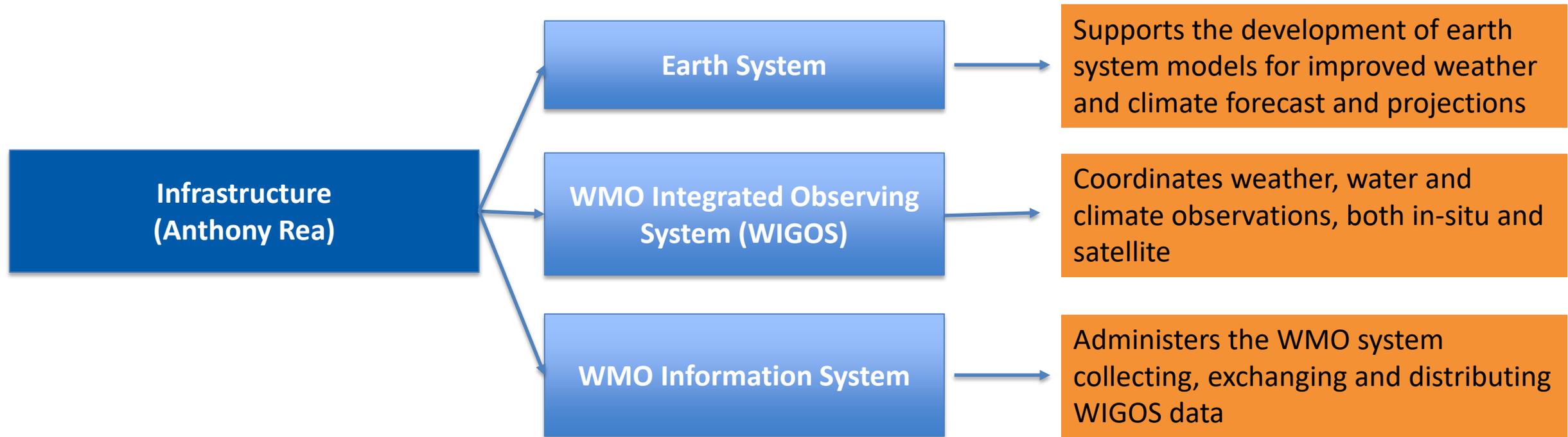
5: **Strategic realignment of WMO** structure and programmes for effective policy- and decision-making and implementation

WMO commissions reduced to two:

- Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (**Infrastructure Commission**)
- Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services & Applications (**Services Commission**)
- ALSO
 - Research Board on Weather, Climate, Water and the Environment (Research Board)
 - Scientific Advisory Panel
 - Joint WMO-IOC Consultation Group on the Reform of JCOMM (Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology)

WMO Secretariat:

- Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems Department (Infrastructures Department)
- Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services and Applications (Services Department)
- Research
- Support



- The GCOS secretariat will be based in the WMO Infrastructure Department - closer to the WMO observations activities
 - Director: Anthony Rea
 - Chair of Steering Committee: Professor Han Dolman

GCOS Steering Committee:

GCOS is led by a steering committee guided by its four sponsors (WMO, IOC of UNESCO, UNEP and ISC). The Steering Committee formulates the overall concept and scope of GCOS, including:

- Identifying observational requirements, defining design objectives and recommending coordinated actions by sponsoring and participating organizations and agencies, in order to optimize the system's performance and coherence.
- Reviewing and assessing the development and implementation of the components of GCOS, and reporting to the UNFCCC and sponsoring organizations and participating agencies as required.
- Facilitating the exchange of information among sponsoring and participating organizations and agencies.
- Making the objectives, resource requirements capabilities and outputs of GCOS known to relevant national and international bodies.

Joint Study Group on GCOS:

- Jointly by the four co-sponsors of GCOS
- The aim of the joint study group is to review the governance, structure and outputs of GCOS and make proposals in 2021 for approval by the co-sponsor's governing bodies.

- No meetings this year in person
- Assuming no meetings in 1st half of 2021
- Decision on GCOS Observation Conference in May 2021
- Many virtual meetings
- Assessment of *GCOS goes green* postponed as no travel this year
- UNFCCC meetings postponed until 2021

Thank you



**GLOBAL CLIMATE
OBSERVING SYSTEM**

KEEPING WATCH OVER OUR CLIMATE



WMO



IOC

International
Science Council



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Copernicus
Europe's eyes on Earth