

# GCOS Implementation Plan

*GCOS Steering Committee 28*  
Item 6.3



**GLOBAL CLIMATE  
OBSERVING SYSTEM**

KEEPING WATCH OVER OUR CLIMATE



WMO



IOC

International  
Science Council



Supported by the European Union



- GCOS decided to produce an update to the 2016 GCOS Implementation.
- Inputs into this report will include
  - the GCOS Status Report,
  - the GCOS Climate Observations Conference,
  - the IPCC findings and
  - the outcomes of the revisions of the ECV requirements
- The draft outline has been prepared in consultation with the Steering Committee Chair.
  - It aims to focus on more on key actions needed by the various actors active in climate observations
  - Actions in this plan will be broader than before, encompassing a number of separate activities.
  - The revised ECV requirements will be included in an annex as in the last IP.

# Timeline (aligned for input to UNFCCC and its GST)

Writing Team formed. Agree Outline.

Jan 2021

GCOS Science Conference

October 2021

Internal Review

November 2021

Public Review January/February 2022

Agreement by panels and SC

April/May 2022

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
3. ECV
  - Describe ECV, Significant changes (if any), stewardship, satellite & in situ, accuracy...
4. Main findings on Status of the Global Climate Observing System
  - Brief summary based on: GCOS Status Report, GCOS Science Conference, IPCC Assessments, Consideration of the climate cycles
5. Improving the Global Climate Observing System
  - Observations made by/for NMHS (NWP, Cryosphere and Hydrology)
  - Other ocean physics and geochemistry observations
  - Observations of the Biosphere
  - Observations of Anthropogenic ECV
  - Satellite Observations
  - Global Climate Data Centres
  - How GCOS will support these improvements
6. Summary
7. Annex: ECV Requirements

- The Steering Committee decides that:
  - A writing team be established to draft the updated Implementation Plan. Its first meeting should be in January 2021. The Steering Committee Chair, in consultation with the Steering Committee members, should select members of the writing team.
  - The writing team should have about 10 members. The selection of the members shall consider geographical and gender balance as well as experience in the different domains and user communities.
  - The writing team shall include the SC Chair and one chair from each panel.
  - The SC agrees that the attached outline shall be used as a starting point for the Plan. Steering Committee members should make specific comments and proposals for the first meeting of the writing team.
  - The writing team is asked to report a revised outline to the first Steering Committee teleconference after to their initial meeting and to report progress to subsequent Steering Committee meetings.
  - The timeline for this plan is for an initial internal review in November/December 2020; a public review of at least 6 weeks in January/February 2022; followed by publication in mid-2022. (This timeline was agreed previously.)

thank you

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