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**GCOS STEERING COMMITTEE**

**TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION**

GCOS SC-28, 24–26 November 2020

Virtual Session

**Implementation Plan 2022**

**Implementation Plan 2022**

The Steering Committee is asked to agree the establishment of a writing team to draft this update to the Implementation Plan. The Steering Committee is also asked to comment on the proposed draft outline in time for the first meeting of this writing team. Detailed comments on the outline and proposals can be forwarded to the initial meeting of the writing team where the outline will be agreed and forwarded to the Steering Committee.

**DRAFT DECISION (4)**

The Steering Committee decides that:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) The writing team shall include the SC Chair and one chair from each panel.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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.
- 6) The timeline for this plan is for an initial internal review in November/December 2021; a public review of at least 6 weeks in January/February 2022; followed by publication in mid-2022. (This timeline was agreed previously.)

## **Background**

1. GCOS has decided to produce an update to the 2016 GCOS Implementation plan for publication in mid- 2022 in time for consideration by the UNFCCC and its Global Stocktake.
  2. 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
  3. The draft outline (contained in the Annex) has been prepared based on comments received on the previous Implementation Plan 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 rather than a long list of individual actions by ECV. 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.
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**DRAFT OUTLINE FOR GCOS Implementation Plan 2022**

*(Note: items "e.g. ..." are examples only and not final proposals for inclusion)*

**Outline**

1. Executive Summary
  2. Introduction
  3. ECVs
    - Differences between observations for climate and NWP: Access to historic data, Accuracy etc.
    - Data Archives
    - Scope of definition of ECV requirements and how this has changed
    - Significant changes to ECV requirements (if any)
    - Combining satellite and in situ observations
  4. Main findings on Status of the Global Climate Observing System
    - 4.1. Brief summary based on: GCOS Status Report, GCOS Science Conference, IPCC Assessments, Consideration of the climate cycles
  5. Improving the Global Climate Observing System
    - 5.1. Observations made by/for NMHS (NWP, Cryosphere and Hydrology)
      - 5.1.1. Main Actions needed to improve the observing system (suitable for WMO congress resolution)
        - 5.1.1.1. *E.g. Access to historic data, Maintaining archives and global data centres, GBON and SOFF, reference networks etc*
    - 5.2. Other ocean physics and geochemistry observations
      - 5.2.1. Main Actions needs to improve the observing system
        - 5.2.1.1. *E.g. ...*
    - 5.3. Observations of the Biosphere
      - 5.3.1. Main Actions needed to improve the observing system
        - 5.3.1.1. *E.g. In situ observations, Calibration sites, Data centres etc.*
    - 5.4. Observations of Anthropogenic ECV
      - 5.4.1. Main Actions needed to improve the observing system
        - 5.4.1.1. *E.g. GHG Fluxes etc.*
    - 5.5. Satellite Observations
      - 5.5.1. How satellite observations contribute across the climate system and work with in-situ observations
      - 5.5.2. Main Actions needed to improve the observing system
        - 5.5.2.1. *E.g. GHG Fluxes etc.*
    - 5.6. Global Climate Data Centres
      - 5.6.1. Main Actions needed to improve the system of data centres
    - 5.7. How GCOS will support these improvements
      - 5.7.1. Main Actions needed by the Secretariat and Panels
  6. Summary
  7. Annex: ECV Requirements
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