WGIV key recommendations to CGMS plenary

Presented to CGMS-54 Plenary

Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites

EUMETSAT CGMS

Executive summary of the WP

CGMS-54 WGIV meeting took place on 14 April 2026

Highlights:

- Several activities relating to the UN Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative were discussed. These included work on regional gap analysis, disaster support, and support for developing countries
- Discussions about CMA's proposal to establish Meteorological Satellite Application Facilities, and the way forward with this for CGMS
- EUMETSAT and RAIDEG described ongoing work related to the support of users in RA -I and RA-VI
- Promotion of data access with the ocean user community, Arctic observation community, and hyperspectral data providers
- Status and plans for VLab were updated

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Background

Working Group IV – DATA ACCESS & END USER SUPPORT

- Co-chairs: Kotaro Bessho (JMA) and Natalia Donoho (WMO)
- Co-rapporteurs: Simon Elliott (EUMETSAT)

Objectives of WGIV

- To support the user-provider dialogue on regional/global scales;
- To support the implementation and evolution of sustained and coordinated communication satellite broadcast systems (e.g. GEONETCAST related);
- To address global or inter-regional data circulation and access (e.g. WIS 2.0/GTS, academic networks, other terrestrial networks, etc.) in coordination with WMO dedicated expert teams;
- To promote the widening of data access, to new missions/providers as well as for other user communities, considering cloud access, small satellite networks, and additional data sharing technologies;
- To support the coordination of metadata for satellites and instruments;
- To address the user readiness for new satellite systems and the WMO-CGMS Virtual Laboratory (VLab);
- To address the notification of changes (and alerts) in satellite data and/or products impacting users, with the aim of defining best practices;
- To address long term data preservation issues related to data access and interoperability;
- To consider research to operations (R2O) with a view to secure the continuation of high-value observations demonstrated with research satellites in a sustainable way, and to maximise research benefits from operational satellites;
- To address the use of satellite systems to mitigate emergency situations;
- To discuss relevant aspects on the implementation of the global contingency plan (as proposed by WGIII) from Plenary, and
- To address topics from the CGMS High Level Priority Plan within the scope of WG IV.

WGIV Task Groups:

- Expert Group on Cloud Services
- Task Group on Data Access/Exchange
- Task Group on Metadata
- Task Group on User Readiness

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WGIV main outcomes and future work (1)

UN Early Warnings for All (EW4All)

For EW4All, WMO has established a set of priorities including cataloguing and analysing existing gaps in satellite-based products and applications and supporting Members in improving access to satellite data and products, alongside capacity development through regional “train-the-trainer” initiatives. Regional associations were encouraged to develop appropriate actions and CGMS Members were encouraged to support this work and support regional groups with their gap analysis

AOMSUC-15 was held in Qingdao, China, in October 2025. It was hosted by CMA. In total, 50+ countries were represented. The conference was held jointly with 2025 FengYun Meteorological Satellite User Conference, and enjoyed the largest geographic participation in in Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users Conference (AOMSUC) history. Members from RA-II and RA-V strongly support EW4All through this forum

Satellite operators support emergency management with data transmission services, focussed observations and dedicated tools

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WGIV main outcomes and future work (2)

Proposed establishment of Meteorological Satellite Application Facilities

CMA delivered a report on bridging the gap in satellite data application, in which it proposed the establishment of Meteorological Satellite Application Centers. This report was formulated based on feedback from WMO Regional Associations (RA II and RA V) and an extensive survey of 239 users across 87 countries.

Meteorological satellites can play a vital role in achieving the EW4All by 2027. However, a critical gap exists between vast satellite data and their operational use in disaster resilience, especially for resource -limited countries where the bottleneck is no longer data access but data application capacity
The Group welcomed the initiative and discussed at some length the need to make sure that existing activities are taken in to account in order to ensure no duplication or overlaps.

CMA will continue to refine the concept of the Meteorological Satellite Application Facilities and will share their updated proposal with WGIV prior to seeking endorsement from WMO

WGIV main outcomes and future work (3)

Support of users in RA-I and RA-VI

EUMETSAT is providing the DAWBEE community, NMHSs within Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Caucasus countries, with basic EUMETCast Europe reception equipment and MTG FCI visualisation software. The equipment and software will be rolled out in Q2/3 2026. Working with the European Union and the African Union Commission, EUMETSAT has supported the roll out of new reception stations, PUMA 2025. Providing access and the visualisation of the MTG Africa data sent via the EUMETCast Africa service. The cooperation with EU, AUC, and ECMWF has allowed EUMETSAT to contribute to the “Strengthening Early Warning in Africa” (SEWA) project and the “African Meteorological Satellite Application Facility” (AMSAF)

Africa’s ability to improve its monitoring of weather and climate, capitalising of PUMA 2025 and AMSAF was highlighted by the RAIDGE chain. The Working Group noted the lead time of several years which had proved necessary to support the transition

WGIV main outcomes and future work (4)

Ocean user community, Arctic observation community, and hyperspectral data providers

Engagement with the diverse marine user community was addressed, in terms of delivery of data and products, provision of dedicated training, and engagement in the development of community standards and support tools. Efforts were also reported in establishing an observational requirements set the basis for a gap analysis of the current observing system capacities, and the development of recommendations to fill in those gaps. WMO presented a synthesis of the main findings in terms of gaps which could be considered by the space agencies

WMO highlighted sustained monitoring and improved data sharing as essential, especially in polar and high-mountain areas where observing networks are limited. CGMS will provide guidance to the Task Team on Cryosphere and Polar Observation from Space in delivering its mandates through expert engagement from WG II

JMA and EUMETSAT provided updates on their hyperspectral sounding instruments, GHMS and ISAI-NG respectively

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WGIV main outcomes and future work (5)

Status and plans for VLab

VLab members have delivered a wide range of training, with emphasis on capacity development related to new generations of satellite systems, identified by members as a major training priority. In addition, training initiatives have supported the implementation of EW4All.
The Vlab funding difficulties were addressed, noting that funding levels are critical, especially due to the recent decline in contributions. CGMS Members were reminded of the importance of voluntary contributions to the continuation of Vlab.
A draft strategy for the period 2028 to 2031 has been developed and will be presented to CGMS 54 Plenary

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To be considered by CGMS:

CGMS is invited to note the outcome of WGIV activities since last plenary

- Actions raised by WGIV for attention of plenary:
  - CGMS members to contribute to the WMO VLab Trust Fund to ensure continued technical support (via the VLab Technical Support Officer)
  - CGMS Members active in VLab to advertise their training events via the VLab Training Calendar
  - CGMS Members active in VLab are invited to a representative for the 12th VLab Management Group (VLMG-12) meeting