CGMS ADDRESS - WMO Executive Council 79, 16 June 2025

Item P3 – Strategic priorities

3.1 Early Warnings for All Initiative (EW4All)[1]

16 June 2025 14:00-17:00

Thank you for the opportunity to address the WMO Executive Council on behalf of the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites – CGMS – a group consisting of institutional space agencies together with WMO representing the global user community, that focuses on securing operational observational satellite data for weather, climate and early warning applications.

CGMS Plenary met in Evian, France, on 3-5 June. This was an opportunity for CGMS members to reaffirm their commitment to support the space-based component of the global observing system of WMO. Satellite data are today the main input into numerical weather prediction models, resulting in more accurate forecasts and a better understanding of our Earth system.

According to the WMO OSCAR database, the space-based component of the WMO global observing system is composed of 200 satellites operated by CGMS members and, since the last WMO Executive Council in 2024,17 new satellites have been or are about to be launched. CGMS contributions are therefore solid and continuously improved.

These observations contribute to monitoring the Earth system including the atmosphere (temperature, moisture, atmospheric composition, greenhouse gases, space weather etc.) and contribute to the objectives of most of the WMO initiatives such as the expanded World Weather Watch, Global Cryosphere Watch and Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL). During the CGMS plenary, we reviewed the gaps in observations and CGMS discussed how to ensure that the wealth of data delivered through satellites could be made accessible to the widest possible global community, and to all WMO members including the Global South, and support the implementation of WMO initiatives.

[1] The statement encompasses WMO EC-79 agenda items 3.2 Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W) and 3.3 Cryosphere high-level ambitions but will be provided under agenda item 3.1

Another important topic discussed at the meeting was the evolution of the global observing system. With the revolution of AI/ML, the way we model the Earth System is changing rapidly and the modelling community is expecting to access more diverse observations of good quality. This presents a key opportunity to exploit synergies between CGMS and WMO infrastructure initiatives.

A challenge of the evolution of the global observing system, currently being discussed with WMO as part of the future WIGOS Vision 2050, will be to provide an architecture that is solid but flexible enough to respond to these rapidly evolving user needs. If CGMS members manage to address this challenge in a globally coordinated way, the value of the satellite observations that we will collectively deliver will increase.

To this end, CGMS is currently elaborating a consolidated input which will be delivered to WMO by mid-2026, so that it can be taken into consideration when developing the WIGOS Vision 2050. In this process, the role that the private sector will play should not be ignored, and in coordination with WMO, CGMS discussed how to establish the proper interfaces with commercial satellite data providers.

The WMO Space programme plays a key role in maintaining the strong dialogue between WMO and the CGMS Members. The 16th session of the Consultative Meeting on High-Level Policy on Satellite Matters planned early 2026 will be a good opportunity to review the progress made in this area.

The plenary also discussed other interactions with WMO, elaborating on the dialogue that we started on cryosphere monitoring and on the delivery of Space Weather observations.

Despite the fact that the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services around the world are delivering services with significant positive impacts on societies and economies, the demonstration of the socio-economic benefits of satellite systems will remain a pre-requisite to secure the approval of new programmes by CGMS Members. The CGMS plenary therefore discussed how such future quantitative socio-economic studies could be better coordinated at a global level.

The outcome of our recent plenary demonstrates how productive the interaction between WMO and CGMS is, and it is the intention of CGMS Members to continue these interactions in the long-term.

Thank you for your attention.