

**WMO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS ON HIGH-LEVEL POLICY ON
SATELLITE MATTERS**

(Submitted by WMO)

Summary and purpose of document

To inform CGMS Members of the results from the third session of the WMO Executive Council Consultative Meetings on High-Level Policy on Satellite Matters.

ACTION PROPOSED

CGMS Members to note the deliberations and results of the third session of the WMO Executive Council Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters and comment as appropriate.

DISCUSSION

1. This document contains items of relevance to CGMS arising from the third session of the Consultative Meetings on High-Level Policy on Satellite Matters (CM-3) held in February 2003. Items discussed in CM-3 but covered in WMO WP-6 – WMO Space Programme and WMO WP-7 – Redesign of the Global Observing System are only briefly referred to in this document for completeness. It should be noted that by a resolution made by the Fourteenth WMO Congress, the Consultative Meetings have been “institutionalized” as WMO Consultative Meetings on High-Level Policy on Satellite Matters.

Expanded space-based component of the World Weather Watch’s Global Observing System (GOS)

2. The third session of the Consultative Meetings reviewed the commitments by four R&D space agencies (NASA, ESA, NASDA and Rosaviakosmos) and that the space-based component of the GOS was comprised of three constellations: operational geostationary; operational polar-orbiting; and R&D satellites as shown in Figure 1. The session agreed that this was an important milestone in the history of the World Weather Watch and its GOS.

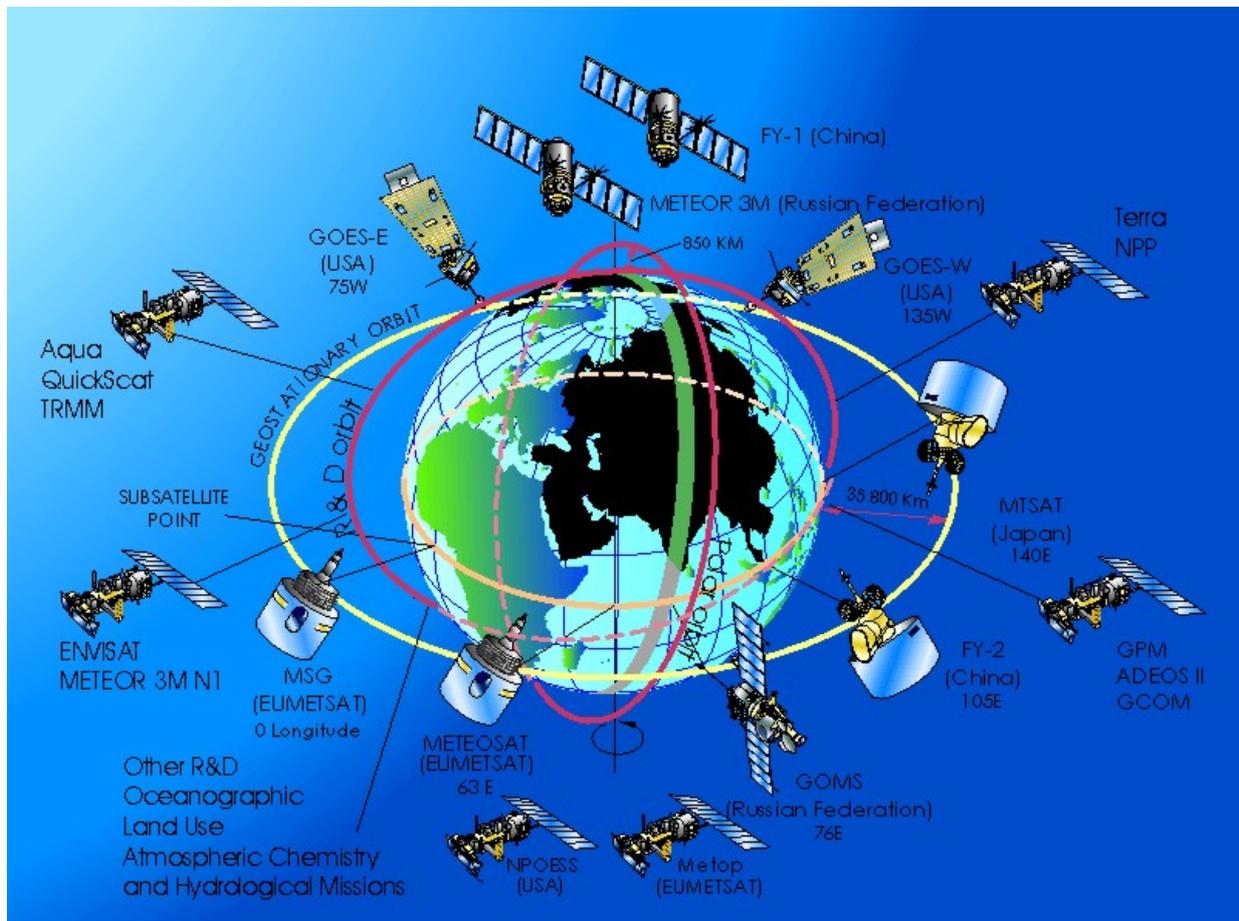


Figure 1 – Space-based component of the Global Observing System at CM-3

CGMS Membership expansion

3. The session was informed that at CGMS-XXX, WMO discussed the expanded space-based component of the GOS. CGMS-XXX noted the recent expansion of the space-based component of the GOS to include appropriate R&D satellite missions, in particular, the confirmed commitments by NASA, ESA, NASDA and Rosaviakosmos. CGMS-XXX also recalled WMO’s

recommendation for increased external coordination. In particular, WMO felt that a means to improve cooperation with both operational meteorological and R&D satellite operators would be through an expanded CGMS. WMO felt that CGMS could act as a principal forum for the necessary dialogue between WMO and the satellite operators, as well as for discussions between satellite operators, especially for technical matters concerning data formats, work station configuration, commonality of satellite instruments and missions, coherent and coordinated mission planning, data dissemination systems, etc. WMO also noted that the expansion of the space-based component of the GOS, GAW, GCOS and WHYCOS would be step-wise, i.e., only those R&D satellite system operators that have the potential to contribute to WMO and supported programmes would be considered, and would have the option of following the guidelines. Thus, WMO recommended that NASA, ESA, NASDA and Rosaviakosmos be considered for full membership in CGMS.

4. At CGMS-XXX, all CGMS Members supported the expansion of its Membership to include research agencies as CGMS Members. The session was informed by NASA that it had recently informed the CGMS Secretariat of its acceptance of the invitation to join CGMS as a full member. ESA indicated that it would shortly send a positive reply to the CGMS Secretariat. NASDA indicated that it would respond by 15 March 2003 and Rosaviakosmos indicated that it would respond to the invitation to join CGMS as a full member within the February 2003 timeframe. The session noted that this was another important milestone in increased coordination for the space-based component of the GOS. **[Since CM-3, NASA, ESA, NASDA and Rosaviakosmos have confirmed to the CGMS Secretariat acceptance of the invitation to become a Member.]**

5. Having noted that WMO was seeking an expanded space-based component of the GOS, and that CGMS supported expanding its membership to include space agencies contributing to the space-based component of the GOS, China's National Space Agency (CNSA) expressed the wish to join CGMS. In doing so, it indicated that, as an initial step, it would inform WMO of the contributions it would make to the GOS with the expectation that WMO could then make a proposal to CGMS to include CNSA as a full CGMS Member. The session noted that the WMO Secretariat would send CNSA a copy of the *Guidelines for Requirements for Observational Data from Operational and R&D Satellite Missions* that described the availability for data, product and services from potential contributors to the space-based component of the GOS. **[A dialogue, both formally through written correspondence and informally through emails, has continued between CNSA and WMO since CM-3].**

Redesign of the Global Observing System

6. The Redesign of the Global Observing System was discussed at CM-3 and more detailed information can be found in WMO WP-7.

Review WMO Space Programme

7. The Fourteenth WMO Congress reviewed recommendations from CM-3 concerning the WMO Space Programme and WMO Space Programme Long-Term Strategy. More detailed information is contained in WMO WP-6 – WMO Space Programme.