

STATUS OF THE GLOBAL ATMOSPHERIC WATCH (GAW) SATELLITE OBSERVATION REQUIREMENTS UPDATE

In response to CGMS action/recommendation A38.40

The World Meteorological Congress (Cg XVI-3.2.3) recommended for the Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) to set up an ad-hoc Task Team to review the needs for GAW regarding satellite measurements and the IGACO recommendations on these that date back to 2004. Congress further recommended this work be done in coordination with the CBS Expert Team on Satellite Systems (ET-SAT) and the Expert Team on Evolution of the global observing systems (ET-EGOS), the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Atmospheric Composition Constellation group and the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) and also taking into consideration GCOS requirements and the vision for the GOS in 2025.

Congress highlighted that the required coverage, precision, spatial and temporal resolution called for geostationary and low earth orbit observation capabilities to be implemented and sustained. Congress requested Members operating satellites to include atmospheric sensors of proven capability aboard future spacecraft, and to maintain continuous atmospheric composition measurements for as long as possible, making a selection of data available to all interested users. Congress recognized that such remote sensing observations are meaningful when they are combined with the in-situ observations to produce global three dimensional high resolution and high quality products. Thus the importance of the in-situ observations by Members is not at all reduced by the presence of satellite and aircraft observations.

It is planned to form the ad-hoc task team towards the end of 2011 and the team will have its first meeting in 2012.