

CGMS WG III – Terms of Reference

At CGMS-43, Terms of Reference documents were agreed for WGs I and IV. For completeness Terms of Reference documents are proposed at CGMS-44 for WGs II and III.

This document proposes Terms of Reference for WG III

Action/Recommendation proposed:

- CGMS-44 plenary the adoption of the proposed Terms of Reference for WG III

Terms of Reference for CGMS Working Group III: Operational Continuity and Contingency Planning

1 INTRODUCTION

The Working Group on Contingency Planning (WG III) was established in 1992 in order to deal with the risk of discontinuity in the key data services provided to WMO, and with contingency action planning to mitigate such risks. The approach to contingency planning involves global planning supplemented by bilateral agreements based on the “help your neighbour” concept.

The Working Group was initially focusing on key missions for weather monitoring and forecasting. In 2002, CGMS agreed extend its considerations to climate monitoring missions, and in 2015 also to space weather missions.

With reference to the baseline configuration of CGMS missions in support of weather monitoring and forecasting, climate monitoring and space weather applications, global contingency planning measures are being developed to ensure robust implementation of this baseline configuration.

As examples of these measures, bilateral agreements are in place for ensuring mutual back-up amongst several geostationary satellite operators of adjacent regions. Mutual back-up operations were conducted on a number of occasions since 1992 to replace or second a failing satellite by an available spare satellite, e.g.: Meteosat-3 was relocated over the Atlantic in replacement of GOES-7, and Meteosat-5, 6 and 7 over the Indian Ocean in replacement of GOMS-Electro N1; GOES-9 was moved westwards over the Pacific to fill the gap between GMS-5 and MTSAT-1R. A multi-lateral approach has been established to ensure a robust coverage of geostationary data over the Indian Ocean after the end of operations of Meteosat-7 in 2017. For the Low Earth Orbit, WG-III proposed the optimisation of the overall configuration by launching the future FY-3 satellite of the China Meteorological Administration to an early morning orbit.

2 PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WG-III: OPERATIONAL CONTINUITY AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Scope of WGIII

WG III reviews the global satellite planning agreed by CGMS Members in response to requirements expressed by WMO, IOC and other relevant user communities, to monitor the risk of gaps in implementing this planning, and to define individual or collaborative actions to be taken accordingly by CGMS Members if the risk arises, in order to secure continuity of the critical services.

Objectives

WG III has the following objectives

- 1) Review of the overall baseline for the CGMS observing system, with reference to the Vision of the Global Observing System and taking into account the strategic plans of CGMS members
- 2) Review of the Status of implementation of the CGMS baseline
- 3) Analyse the mapping of planned missions against the baseline
- 4) Identify continuity issues and initiate risk analysis as appropriate
- 5) Propose contingency planning addressing specific observational gaps
- 6) Propose optimisation measures for the observing systems as appropriate
- 7) Integration of R&D missions (research to operations transition)

Working arrangements

The working group is of permanent nature and is co-chaired by two chairpersons supported by a rapporteur, all appointed by the CGMS Plenary. All agencies of CGMS participate in WG-III. Nomination is under the responsibility of each agency but shall promote continuity and foster active contribution. WG-III co-chairs, WG-III rapporteur and CGMS Secretariat shall be informed by agencies of names of representatives and changes before the CGMS.

CGMS Secretariat will maintain the list of representatives up-to-date in the corresponding WG-III CGMS web page. The working group will meet during CGMS with an agenda covering the objectives of WG-III and shall also assess the status of implementation of the CGMS High Level Priority Plan and update it as necessary. The WG III co-chairs, with the support of the rapporteur, compile a report on the outcome of the meeting of the working group, including consensus proposals for relevant CGMS actions and recommendations. This will be reported to CGMS Plenary and will highlight aspects of relevance and/or identify topics needing high-level approval or guidance at the plenary. As necessary, the working group will also convene inter-sessional meetings for addressing topics of interest or to complete actions and tasks identified at WG meeting and plenary.

3 CONCLUSIONS

WG III is invited to recommend to CGMS-44 plenary the adoption of the proposed Terms of Reference for WG III