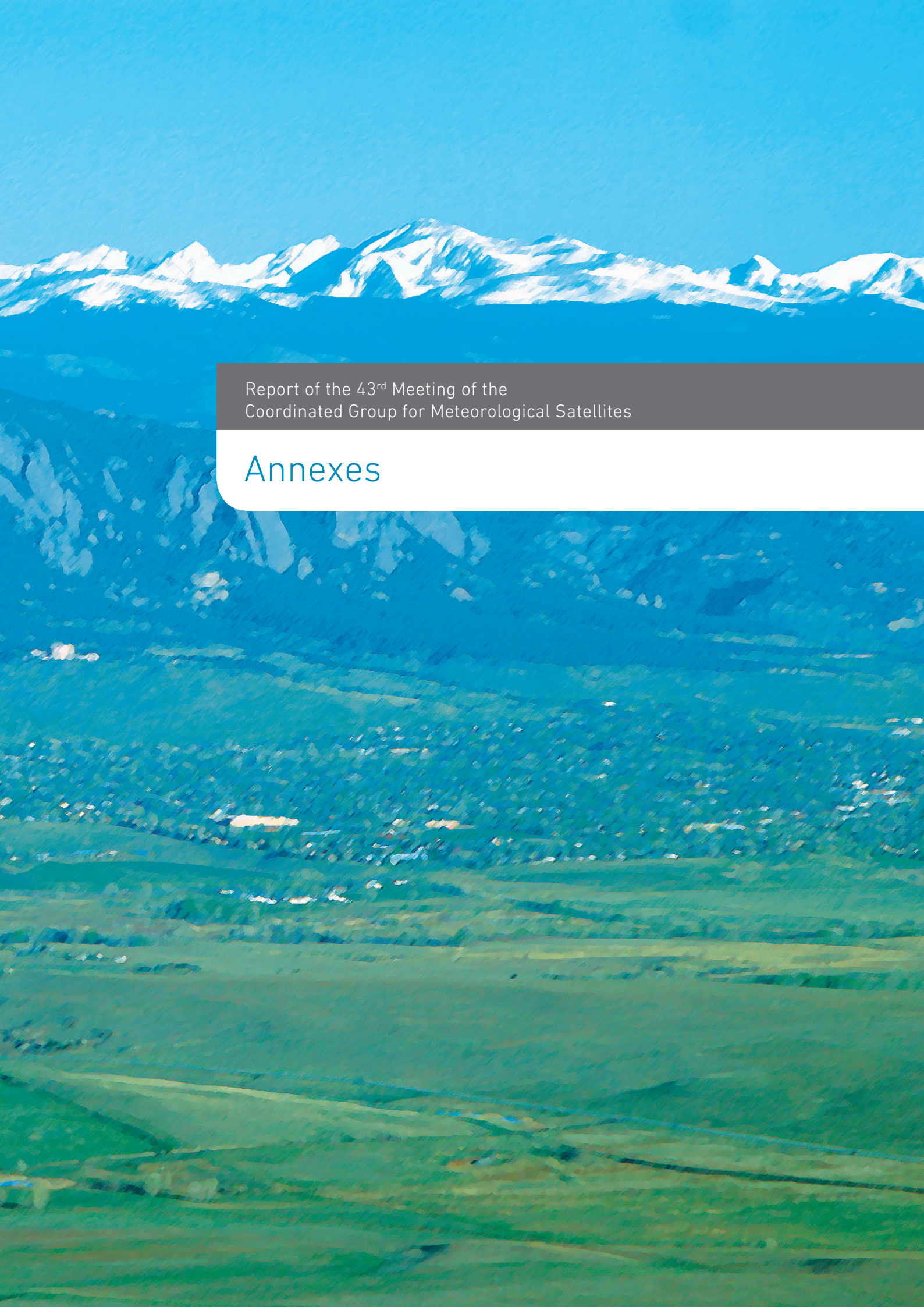

Report of the 43rd Meeting of the
Coordinated Group for Meteorological Satellites

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The annotated agenda and Working Papers (WPs) can be found at http://cgms.eumetsat.int/views/agendaext.jsf

Information on points of contact and list servers can be requested from the CGMS Secretariat CGMSSec@eumetsat.int

Other information such as the CGMS Charter and the current list of Members and Observers are available at http://cgms-info.org

STATEMENTS IN OPENING CEREMONY

Dr Stephen Volz, Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, NOAA

Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It my distinct honor to welcome you to the 43rd Meeting of the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites. Welcome to Boulder, Colorado. I am Stephen Volz, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services. I have only been in this new position for over six months. While this is my first CGMS meeting, I was aware of CGMS in my previous position and supported Jack Kaye who represents NASA. You can imagine my surprise when I learned that NOAA was hosting this year and I would therefore be the Plenary Chair. I am grateful for the assistance today from my good colleague Alain Ratier, Head of CGMS Secretariat.

First, let me say a few words about the Boulder, Colorado area. We are pleased to be able to host you here at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) facilities. Boulder has become a science and technology hub, and NOAA plays a big part in Boulder's S&T industry. Boulder is home to NOAA, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), UCAR, and the University of Colorado, which hosts CIRES - the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences - NOAA's largest and oldest cooperative institute, and Ball Aerospace. IBM also has a large facility here. More than 1,000 NOAA researchers, scientists, and engineers staff NOAA's Earth System Research Lab, the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC), the Denver/Boulder Forecast Office, NOAA's Paeloclimatogy Branch, and the geophysical division of NOAA's National Center for Environmental Information. Boulder is an important hub for us. These NOAA scientists support a wide array of atmospheric and space science research, diverse data collection and dissemination programs, as well as operational weather forecasts for the Denver metropolitan area and for space weather. I know many of you visited SWPC yesterday.

I am excited to be a new member of the CGMS community. In my new position, I get to be part of one of the most interesting and important organizations in our field —National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. NESDIS is the backbone of NOAA’s environmental intelligence enterprise, operating satellites and develops the science that our partners in the Weather Service, across government, and around the world use to make critical forecasts and warnings.

As I learn about CGMS, I am impressed by the history of achievements. The ongoing technical coordination, planning, and optimization that take place at CGMS are of great benefit to us all. To name a few, these include establishment of a global back-up framework; optimization of the Global Observing System by rigorously looking at requirements, gaps, and strategies to mitigate gaps; standardization of data dissemination formats; coordination of protective measures for meteorological satellites radio-frequency allocations; and the great strides being made in calibration/validation and satellite inter-calibration critical to move us toward a more integrated global observing system.

I look forward to our discussions today and tomorrow as we carry forward a number of these very significant topics. As the host organization, we are also happy to be able to provide presentations on preparing users for our upcoming GOES-R mission planned for launch in 2016.

Finally, I want to thank the CGMS Secretariat staff at EUMETSAT and my own NOAA staff for the excellent arrangements for this year's meeting.

Thank you for your contributions to CGMS-43. There has already been significant work done with the many working group and side meetings earlier this week. I am also pleased that we welcome a new member to CGMS at this meeting.

I look forward to learning more at this meeting and I hope you find this meeting useful as well.

Have a pleasant stay in the Boulder area.

Thank you.

Stephen Volz

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