Address by the CGMS Secretariat at WMO Executive Council 80 (EC-80)

22-26 June 2026, WMO, Geneva

Statement to be endorsed by CGMS members at CGMS-54 plenary on 2-4 June 2026.

CGMS ADDRESS AT WMO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 80

Monday, 22 June 2026. Item P-4.2, Conclusions of CM-16, 14:30-15:30 – Verbal 2-3 min

Script:

Ladies, Gentlemen, Delegates, colleagues,

It is a privilege to take the floor on behalf of the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) to address the WMO Executive Council. CGMS brings together operational space agencies alongside WMO, representing the global user community. Our shared objective is to ensure the continuous availability of satellite observations in support of weather forecasting, climate monitoring and early warning services worldwide.

Let me begin by recalling that, since its inception, CGMS has effectively positioned itself within the WMO Integrated Global Observing System, WIGOS. CGMS is now contributing to the WIGOS 2040 Vision by ensuring the continuity and robustness of the space-based component, forming the backbone of operational meteorological satellite observations.

In this regard, CGMS members currently operate around 230 institutional satellites contributing to the Global Observing System, as reflected in WMO OSCAR database, including 20 additional ones since the last Executive Council, one year ago. These observations are critical for monitoring and understanding Earth system variables and account for more than 90% of those processed in Numerical Weather Prediction; and are therefore essential to improve forecast accuracy and timeliness. Provided on a free and open basis, they directly support National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, and furthermore underpin key WMO initiatives, such as World Weather Watch and Early Warnings for All.

The most recent plenary meeting, held in Seoul from 2nd to 4th of June, provided an important opportunity to reaffirm this collective commitment to WIGOS. It also provided an opportunity to examine existing observational gaps and to discuss how to improve access to the rapidly growing volumes of satellite data, with a particular focus on ensuring that all WMO Members, including those with more limited resources, can benefit from these capabilities.

We further discussed the rapid transformation of the modelling environment, driven by advances in artificial intelligence and machine learning. These developments are reshaping expectations in terms of the type, quality and timeliness of observations, and are already influencing requirements from the Numerical Weather Prediction community. In this context,

CGMS is keen to work closely with WMO to better understand these evolving needs and their implications for the future observing system, in order to keep a very solid and committed observation baseline from space, providing observations of excellent quality.

CGMS remains fully committed to contributing to this effort through strong international coordination and has provided a consolidated input for the WIGOS Vision 2040 Update, through INFCOM, to support its development.

CGMS Members also discussed that several agenda items of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference 2027 (WRC-27) are of significant interest to both CGMS and WMO Members, including critical threats to passive sensing bands used by NMHSs to measure air temperature, wind speed, cloudiness and precipitation for predicting severe weather events. CGMS appreciates the advocacy provided by the WMO Space Programme in the WRC and encourages WMO Members to coordinate with their national spectrum regulators to communicate the potential impacts on lifesaving forecasts and services. WMO Members are further encouraged to support the Space Programme in its efforts to effectively and successfully represent the interests of the meteorological community at WRC 2027.

CGMS also recognises the growing role of commercial data providers and has begun exploring, in coordination with WMO, how best to engage with the private sector while ensuring data accessibility, reliability and long-term continuity.

In parallel, capacity development remains a key priority, with initiatives such as the WMO-CGMS Virtual Laboratory (VLab) to strengthen user capabilities worldwide. However, securing sustainable funding for such training activities remains a challenge.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the central role of the WMO Space Programme and the strength of the partnership between CGMS and WMO, and stress that we remain fully committed to further strengthening this cooperation in the years ahead.

Thank you for your attention.