

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR NEW WORKING GROUP FOR  
COORDINATING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REPRESENTATION  
OF SATELLITE DATA IN BUFR**

Summary of the Working Paper

After discussion by the CBS Expert Team on Data Representation and Codes, it has been decided to allocate part of the existing BUFR master table 0 for the representation of satellite data.

This paper proposes Terms of Reference for a new Working Group of CGMS, which will co-ordinate the requirements of satellite data providers and users for the representation of these data in BUFR.

## **Terms of Reference for new Working Group for coordinating requirements for the representation of satellite data in BUFR**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

At CGMS XXXII the following action was decided:

*32.17 A working group of CGMS Members should be established to draft a master BUFR table for satellite data. CGMS should designate a rapporteur between this group and the CBS ET on Data Representation and Codes. CGMS Member designated experts will be asked for input and to submit updates at upcoming CGMS meetings. The WMO Space Programme will compile the input and maintain the master BUFR table for satellite data. Deadline: CGMS XXXIII*

This issue was also discussed at the last meeting of the CBS Expert Team on Data Representation and Codes<sup>†</sup>, which was held in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia 21-26 June 2004.

### **2 OUTCOME OF EXPERT TEAM MEETING**

After a lengthy debate on the potential use of a dedicated BUFR master table for satellite data, the Expert Team decided that in the short and medium terms, a better solution would be to allocate classes 40 to 42 of tables B and D in the existing BUFR master table 0 exclusively for the representation of satellite data. In principle, the use of a separate master table makes the possible the definition of, for example, significance qualifiers and operator descriptors, either of which would require updated BUFR handling software. The approach endorsed by the Expert Team, however, ensures that existing software developed for handling BUFR data will be able to handle any new satellite data, given the appropriate descriptor definitions.

The Expert Team supported the concept of the proposed involvement of a Working Group of CGMS and the WMO Space Program in this process, as per the original proposal made jointly to CGMS XXXII and the Expert Team.

### **3 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NEW WORKING GROUP**

Because a complete new BUFR master table no longer needs to be compiled, the proposed Working Group of CBS can have simplified Terms of Reference. It is proposed that the initial Terms of Reference for the Working Group be:

- Solicitation and collation of requirements from satellite data providers and users, for representation of satellite data and products in BUFR
- Co-ordination of the pre-operational exchange of data between centres using proposed descriptors as part of the validation process

---

<sup>†</sup> Agenda item 3.5, document 3.5 (1)

- Preparation of a consolidated proposal for new BUFR table B, D, code table and flag table entries, in the form of a paper submitted to the Expert Team on Data Representation and Codes or equivalent group.
- Nomination of a *rapporteur* to present the consolidated proposal to the Expert Team and to report back to the Working Group any matter arising.

#### **4 CONCLUSION**

CGMS is invited to instantiate the proposed Working Group, and to adopt the proposed Terms of Reference given above.