

INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CGMS AND GEO/GEOS

Summary of the Working Paper

The GEO initiative has produced a 10 Year Implementation Plan for the development of a Global Earth Observation System of Systems. This is based upon the requirements in 9 societal benefit areas one of which is Weather.

This document outlines the plan and proposes a working relationship between CGMS and GEO in the context of WMO.

Interrelationships between CGMS and GEO/GEOSS

1 INTRODUCTION

The concept of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) was established at an Earth Observation Summit in July 2003 which declared the need for “timely, quality, long-term, global information as a basis for sound decision making.” As a result the Summit established a small group who prepared a 10-Year Implementation Plan to address this challenge.

The plan was approved at the GEO at its meeting in Brussels in February 2005. This plan is based upon the requirements in 9 societal benefit areas one of which is Weather. Supporting the Plan is a detailed reference document setting out in more detail the specific recommendations for each area. Attached at Annex I is the text of the 10-Year Plan. The implementation of this plan is referred to as the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS)

This document outlines the plan and proposes a working relationship between CGMS and GEO in the context of WMO.

2 GEO and GEOSS

The vision of GEOSS is to “expand world-wide capacity and means to achieve sustainable development.” GEOSS is a step toward addressing the challenges articulated by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals. The vision of GEOSS is to be accomplished by facilitating access to observations, as well as collated, interpolated, and processed products.

The purpose of GEOSS is to achieve comprehensive, co-ordinated, and sustained Earth observations for the benefit of humankind. GEOSS implementation will enable improved monitoring of the state of the Earth, increased understanding of dynamic Earth processes, enhanced prediction of the Earth system, and further implementation of international environmental treaty obligations.

GEOSS aspires to encompass all areas of the world, and to cover *in situ* observations as well as airborne and space-based observations. The focus of GEOSS is on observations relevant to large parts of the world and issues that require global information to be addressed optimally. GEOSS will be a “system of systems” with components consisting of existing and future Earth observation systems across the processing cycle, from primary observation to information production.

3 GEO 2006 WORK PLAN

Within GEOSS it is important to recognise that the existing mandates and governance arrangements for individual systems will be maintained, and in the implementation of GEOSS the intention is to make maximum use of existing structures and mechanisms. Thus in the area

of weather, water, climate and disasters it is expected that both WMO and CGMS will have a clear role to play. However, at this moment in time there is no clear understanding in the GEO Secretariat on how the role of CGMS will be incorporated into their activities.

THE GEO Secretariat have produced a work plan for 2006 and this is attached at Annex II. This has activities that are directly related to the Weather Societal Benefit area. In addition the sections on Architecture, and Data Management cover relevant areas, and the section on Disasters, Water and Climate are also relevant.

3 ROLE OF CGMS

Within the GEO concept, there is a clear opportunity for CGMS to act as a mechanism on in support of GEO objectives. Given the mix of technical and political issues any activity would have itself to be coordinated and agreed with at least WMO and its technical groups.

The meeting of CGMS is opportune in that comments on the 2006 GEO work plan are required by 11 November 2005. Thus CGMS could usefully consider the proposals in the plan from the following aspects.

- i. Which specific actions proposed would fall within the ambit of CGMS for implementation.
- ii. Whether these specific actions are correctly stated.
- iii. How and at what timescale CGMS could address any of the specific actions.

On the basis of a first analysis, and if agreed by CGMS Members, the CGMS Secretariat would prepare a short input to the GEO Secretariat by 11 November 2005. This would also formally state that CGMS would wish to be involved in the specification and implementation of relevant activities in support of GEO objectives in future meetings. This may also imply that CGMS should seek membership in GEO as a participating organization.

3 CONCLUSION

CGMS Members are invited to consider the comment. Given the timescale of the availability of the Draft GEO Work Plan the first comments may be brief.

The Annexes are provided under separate cover.

Annex I (EUM-WP-18A1) The GEO 10-Year Implementation Plan

Annex II (EUM-WP-18A2) The GEO 2006 Work Plan