

Prepared by SWTT Co-Chairs
Agenda Item: CGMS-46-SWTT-01
Discussed in SWTT and Plenary

Proposed Terms of Reference for a Space Weather Coordination Group (SWCG)

Specific discussions on space weather coordination at CGMS started in 2013 at CGMS-41 and which led to the Ad-hoc meeting on space weather at CGMS-42 in 2014. These discussions further resulted in the set-up of the Space Weather Task Team (SWTT) on the occasion of CGMS-43 in 2015. Since then the SWTT has supported CGMS and the space weather community by having regular meeting outside the Plenary sessions as well as a dedicated meetings prior to the CGMS Plenary sessions. Furthermore the SWTT has reached out to other Space Weather entities and discussed a potential role for CGMS within the overall global Space Weather activities.

Following further iterations between the SWTT and the CGMS Secretariat, it has become clear that there are space weather matters that need sustained coordinating on within CGMS, but such activities are not reflected upon within the current scope of the existing CGMS WGs I-IV., Hence, it is proposed to create a CGMS Space Weather Coordination Group (SWCG) to liaise with WGs I-IV, to coordinate the overall CGMS Space Weather related activities and to represent CGMS at relevant instances.

This document proposes the Terms of Reference for a Space Weather Coordination Group (SWCG). The ToR will be reviewed during the SWTT meeting on the occasion of CGMS-46 and be submitted to CGMS-46 Plenary Session for approval.

Action/Recommendation proposed:

SWTT recommends to CGMS-46 plenary the adoption of the proposed Terms of Reference for the SWTT to transition into the Space Weather Coordination Group (SWCG).

Proposed Terms of Reference for a CGMS Space Weather Coordination Group (SWCG)

1 INTRODUCTION

The Space Weather Task Team (SWTT) was created in 2015 as a recommendation from the Ad-hoc meeting on Space Weather during CGMS-43. The SWTT has continued to support CGMS and the space weather community by having regular meeting outside the Plenary sessions as well as dedicated meetings prior to the CGMS Plenary sessions.

The SWTT began interfacing with each CGMS Working Group (WG) to ensure the topic of space weather was being considered. The SWTT coordinates with these groups to ensure the space weather experts were in each WG to provide the necessary knowledge on any issue that arose as well to maintain the importance of space weather for CGMS.

The SWTT and CGMS WG II shared action items regarding GSICS. The SWTT was to investigate if the GSICS framework could be used for intercalibrating space weather instrument products. The SWTT is also working with CGMS WG II collecting information from satellite operators regarding anomaly monitoring and if the cause is related to space weather. CGMS WG III and the SWTT are developing what space weather measurements are necessary for a baseline and then to include these measurements within the overall CGMS baseline.

As this coordination role has continued to grow, per the examples above, discussions were held between the SWTT co-chairs and the CGMS Secretariat during European Space Weather Week (ESWW) 14, in Ostend, Belgium. It was agreed that the SWTT would draft a Terms of Reference (ToR) that would be proposed to the CGMS Plenary to transition the SWTT into an Ad hoc Working Group on Space Weather Coordination (as per the CGMS Charter).

The SWTT co-chairs held a preparatory meeting on 12 January 2018, followed by an SWTT inter-sessional meeting on 15 February 2018 to develop the ToR. The SWTT felt that the naming scheme of an “Ad hoc Working Group on Space Weather Coordination” did not do justice to the permanent nature of the need to coordinate space matters and therefore proposed to name it Space Weather Coordination Group (SWCG). Following plenary endorsement, the ToR will transition the SWTT into the SWCG. The following agencies EUMETSAT, JMA, NASA, NICT, and NOAA were present at the 15 February 2018 SWTT inter-sessional meeting. The attendees concurred with the draft and agreed to finalize that ToR proposal at the SWTT meeting ahead of the CGMS Plenary.

2 PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SWTT BECOMING A SPACE WEATHER COORDINATION GROUP

Scope of Space Weather Coordination Group

The SWCG will support the continuity and integration of space-based observing capabilities for operational Space Weather products and services throughout CGMS and the user community, and in supporting the satellite operators in CGMS with regard to space weather phenomena.

Objectives

Space Weather Coordination Group (SWCG) has the following objectives:

- 1) Coordinate space weather activities within and across CGMS WGs including space weather data, ensuring space weather operational measurements are incorporated into the CGMS baseline, relevant frequencies, anomaly resolution, products, knowledge, policy, etc.
- 2) Address space weather topics relevant to CGMS that are not currently within the purview of other CGMS WGs
- 3) Facilitate dialogue between CGMS members and space weather communities
- 4) Identify which space weather organizations/forums the SWCG should interact with both as an active participant and/or engaging them within CGMS activities
- 5) Identify needs and requirements from space weather communities that should be managed and coordinated by CGMS or its members
- 6) Follow current and future international and domestic space weather policies which may have an effect on CGMS or its members
- 7) Review the CGMS High Level Priorities related to space weather

Working arrangements

Members/Participation:

The SWCG is of permanent nature and is co-chaired by two chairpersons appointed by the CGMS Plenary. All agencies participate in SWCG.

Nomination of Participants is under the responsibility of each agency but shall promote continuity and foster active contribution. SWCG co-chairs and CGMS Secretariat shall be informed by agencies of names of representatives and changes before the CGMS Plenary. The CGMS Secretariat will maintain the list of Participants, as well as the related SWCG information on the CGMS web site (www.cgms-info.org).

Meetings:

The SWCG will meet during the annual CGMS plenary session with an agenda covering the objectives of SWCG and shall also assess the status of implementation of the CGMS High Level Priority Plan and propose updates to it as necessary. The SWCG co-chairs, compile a report on the outcome of the meeting of the group, including consensus proposals for relevant CGMS actions and recommendations. This will be reported to the CGMS Plenary and will highlight aspects of relevance and/or identify topics needing high-level approval or guidance at the plenary.

The group will also convene inter-sessional (virtual) meetings for addressing topics of interest or to complete actions and tasks identified at the annual SWCG meeting and plenary.

Coordination between the SWCG and CGMS WGs I-IV:

To ensure sufficient space weather engagement with CGMS WGs I-IV, the SWCG will nominate one person from the SWCG to support each of the CGMS WGs annually during the CGMS annual meeting and at relevant inter-sessional meetings. This person would then follow the Space Weather relevant activities in the respective WG throughout the year. This same individual would then report at the SWCG meeting on the status of these activities as well as collect feedback, actions and recommendations to be put forward to the WGs.

Coordination between the SWCG and international space weather bodies:

The SWCG shall represent CGMS through nominating Participants as required to attend meetings, workshops and conferences within the field of Space Weather. This includes in particular events like European Space Weather Week and the US Space Weather Workshop and with organisations like UN-COPUOS, WMO, ISES, COSPAR, ISWI, ILWS, IAU.

3 CONCLUSIONS

This document proposes the Terms of Reference for a CGMS Space Weather Coordination Group to succeed the CGMS Space Weather Task Team - SWTT.

The SWTT is invited to recommend to CGMS-46 plenary the adoption of the proposed Terms of Reference for a Space Weather Coordination Group.