



Our ref.: 01184/2025/I/ONM

10 March 2025

Annexes: 2

Subject: Invitation to the WIGOS Vision Update Group meeting and the meeting of the Standing Committee on Earth Observing Systems and Monitoring Networks (SC-ON), to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 28 April to 2 May 2025

Action required: To notify the WMO Secretariat whether you will be able to attend the meetings, at your earliest convenience, but not later than **25 March 2025**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) would first of all like to thank you for your availability to serve on the Standing Committee on Earth Observing Systems and Monitoring Networks (SC-ON) and as a member of the WIGOS Vision Update Group.

I am pleased to inform you that the SC-ON meeting and the WIGOS Vision Update Group meeting will take place at WMO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland:

- (1) The WIGOS Vision Update Group meeting will be held on **28 and 29 April 2025**;
- (2) The SC-ON meeting will follow from **30 April to 2 May 2025**.

Additional details regarding the events can be found in the attached Concept Note ([Annex I](#)).

I have the pleasure in inviting you to participate in the events and would be grateful if you could attend.

It is hoped that the cost of your participation will be borne by your organization. If, however, it is not possible, WMO is prepared to consider, upon request and within available resources, providing financial support which may consist of travel cost (most economic air fare according to the most direct route) and/or per diem. Considering the limited budget available, the priority of funding will be given to participants leading the subgroups for topics that will be discussed at the meetings.

Regarding insurance coverage for non-staff members, may I draw your attention to the following:

*Non-staff members of WMO who are authorized to travel at the Organization's expense and/or who are receiving a DSA from WMO must ensure they are fully responsible for expenses incurred in the event of death, illness or injury during official travel and attendance at meetings on behalf of the*

To: Members of the Standing Committee on Earth Observing Systems and Monitoring Networks and the WIGOS Vision update group (the email contacts are on [Annex II](#))

cc: Permanent Representatives of Argentina, China, Germany, Ireland, Japan, South Africa, United States of America of WMO (limited distribution)

Mr Phil Evans, EUMETSAT Director-General and Head of the CGMS Secretariat,  
email: [phil.evans@eumetsat.int](mailto:phil.evans@eumetsat.int), and [cgmsssec@eumetsat.int](mailto:cgmsssec@eumetsat.int)

*Organization. They are, therefore, fully responsible for arranging life, health, and accident, as well as any other forms of insurance with an adequate level of coverage for the duration of such meetings and events.*

*WMO liability is limited to the performance of services or attendance at a meeting on behalf of the Organization, is covered by an injury and illness benefit insurance which provides limited coverage for medical, emergency, and supplementary official travel expenses.*

For administrative purposes, I would appreciate if you could kindly notify the WMO Secretariat (Ms Jitsuko Hasegawa [jhasegawa@wmo.int](mailto:jhasegawa@wmo.int)) at your earliest convenience, but preferably not later than **25 March 2025** of:

- (1) Your participation in the events;
- (2) If WMO assistance in relation to funding is sought.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the WMO activities.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nir Stav".

Mr Nir Stav  
Director  
Infrastructure Department

## Concept Note

### The meeting of the WIGOS Vision Update Group and the meeting of the Standing Committee on Earth Observing Systems and Monitoring Networks (SC-ON)

WMO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

28 April – 2 May 2025

WMO will be organizing the Standing Committee on Earth Observing Systems and Monitoring Networks (SC-ON) meeting, along with the WIGOS Vision Update Group meeting, at WMO HQ in Geneva, Switzerland:

- The WIGOS Vision Update Group meeting will take place on **28 and 29 April 2025**.
- The SC-ON meeting will follow from **30 April to 2 May 2025**.

The events will be conducted face-to-face; however, remote access will be made available in case any participant is not able to attend in person.

The main objective of the SC-ON meeting is to establish a workplan of the Standing Committee, with expected deliverables to the fourth session of the Infrastructure Commission (INFCOM-4) to carry out the mandated normative work for the establishment and evolution of surface- and space-based observing networks, and necessary coordination among subgroups and with other Standing Committees and Advisory Groups.

The main objective of the WIGOS Vision Update Group meeting is to develop the first-order draft of the Vision for the WMO Integrated Global Observing System 2050, which aims at describing the state of the global observing system, with space- and surface-based components, in the 2050 timeframe, for the target audience of space agencies/operators, national and international agencies in charge of in-situ, ground, ocean- and air-based observing systems networks, private and public actors, in the business of designing and deploying observing systems in general. The meeting will also discuss the strategy and plan for the community engagement in developing and reviewing the draft Vision.

A provisional agenda of the SC-ON meeting will be posted on the following web-page: <https://community.wmo.int/en/meetings/sc-meeting-30-april-2-may>.

A provisional agenda of the WIGOS Vision Update Group meeting will be posted on the following web-page: <https://community.wmo.int/en/meetings/wigos-vision-update-group-physical-meeting-28-29-april>.

The list of the invited participants is attached to this letter.

Should you need any assistance with visa requirements please contact Ms Zoya Andreeva, [zandreeva@wmo.int](mailto:zandreeva@wmo.int).

**List of invited participants****The meeting of the WIGOS Vision Update Group  
WMO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland****28 – 29 April 2025**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Authorized by</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Email</b>
Dr Sid Ahmed Boukabara	Chair	United States of America	ET-EOSDE member	<a href="mailto:sid.a.boukabara@nasa.gov">sid.a.boukabara@nasa.gov</a>
Dr Mary-Jane Morongwa Bopape	Member	South Africa		<a href="mailto:maryjane.bopape@gmail.com">maryjane.bopape@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:mm.bopape@saeon.nrf.ac.za">mm.bopape@saeon.nrf.ac.za</a>
Dr Jianxia Guo	Member	China		<a href="mailto:guo_jianxia@163.com">guo_jianxia@163.com</a>
Mr Sean Burns	Member	CGMS	CGMS representative	<a href="mailto:Sean.Burns@eumetsat.int">Sean.Burns@eumetsat.int</a>
Dr Elian Augusto Wolfram	Member	Argentina		<a href="mailto:ewolfram@smn.gob.ar">ewolfram@smn.gob.ar</a>
Dr Mike Seablom	Member	United States of America		<a href="mailto:Michael.s.seablom@nasa.gov">Michael.s.seablom@nasa.gov</a>
Dr Lihang Zhou	Member	United States of America	ET-SSU Vice-chair	<a href="mailto:lihang.zhou@noaa.gov">lihang.zhou@noaa.gov</a>
Dr Junhong (June) Wang	Member	United States of America	SC-MINT co-vice-chair	<a href="mailto:jwang20@albany.edu">jwang20@albany.edu</a>
Dr Osamu Ochiai	Member	Japan	CEOS representative	<a href="mailto:ochiai.osamu@jaxa.jp">ochiai.osamu@jaxa.jp</a>
Dr Paolo Ruti	Subgroup 2 member	EUMETSAT		<a href="mailto:Paolo.Ruti@eumetsat.int">Paolo.Ruti@eumetsat.int</a>
Dr Stephan Bojinski	Subgroup 2 member	EUMETSAT		<a href="mailto:Stephan.Bojinski@eumetsat.int">Stephan.Bojinski@eumetsat.int</a>

**List of invited participants****The meeting of the Standing Committee on Earth Observing Systems and Monitoring Networks (SC-ON)****WMO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland****30 April-2 May 2025**

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<b>Member</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Authorized by</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Email</b>
Lic. Martina SUAYA	Co-vice-chair	Argentina	SC-ON co-vice-chair	<a href="mailto:msuaya@smn.gov.ar">msuaya@smn.gov.ar</a>
Ms Lijuan Shi	Member	China	ET-SON co-chair	<a href="mailto:shilj@cma.gov.cn">shilj@cma.gov.cn</a>
Ms Tanja Kleinert	Member	Germany	ET-WTR chair	<a href="mailto:tanja.kleinert@dwd.de">tanja.kleinert@dwd.de</a>
Dr Sid Ahmed Boukabara	WIGOS Vision update group chair	United States of America	Member of ET-EOSDE	<a href="mailto:sid.a.boukabara@nasa.gov">sid.a.boukabara@nasa.gov</a>
Dr Peter Thorne	Member	Ireland	GCOS	<a href="mailto:peter.thorne@mu.ie">peter.thorne@mu.ie</a>