

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

Secrétariat

7 bis, avenue de la Paix – Case postale 2300
CH 1211 Genève 2 – Suisse
Tél.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 11
Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 81
wmo@wmo.int – public.wmo.int

Our ref.: 03211/2021/SI/AER

25 February 2021

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Nomination of the National Focal Point for the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Programme

Action required: Confirm existing or nominate new National Focal Points for GAW by
10 March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, the research programmes, under the Research Board, are undertaking further steps to define their working structures and mechanisms as part of the WMO constituent bodies reform. As part of this process, the Secretariat is revisiting the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) National Focal Points, which were listed under the former Commission for Atmospheric Sciences as "GAW Country Contact" and can be found in the WMO Expert Database [here](#).

The GAW includes a substantial research infrastructure, namely observational stations and calibration facilities. Observational stations operated by Members have to be documented according to *the Manual on the WMO Integrated Global Observing System: Annex VIII to the WMO Technical Regulations (WMO-No. 1160)*. In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the following provisions:

6.2.2 Members should contribute observations through operating or supporting suitable platforms at GAW stations and/or through contributing networks.

6.2.3 When doing so, Members shall register their contribution in GAWSIS and submit their observations to the relevant world data centre.

The registration of the stations is done through the National Focal Points for GAW, who are listed in the GAW Station Information System ([GAWSIS repository](#)) with a user role/programme function such as "National Focal Point for GAW".

Through this letter I would like to bring to your attention the fact that National Focal Points registered in the WMO Expert Database and in GAWSIS are inconsistent. I would like you to inspect your entries in the two databases and confirm at your earliest convenience, preferably by **10 March 2021**, the National Focal Point for GAW. The respective [Terms of Reference](#) of such focal points are attached to this letter. If your country is not involved in the activities of the GAW Programme, you are not required to nominate a National Focal Point for GAW. If your country implements activities related to atmospheric chemical composition, I would strongly encourage you to appoint a National Focal Point for GAW to ensure effective collaboration with the global community on this topic.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

I also encourage you to update the National Focal Point for GAW or to appoint new focal points in the WMO Experts Database. The respective changes in GAWSIS will be reflected by the Secretariat.

The WMO Secretariat remains at your disposal to answer any questions related to the topic at: gaw@wmo.int.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Elena Manaenkova
for the Secretary-General

National Focal Point for GAW:

The National Focal Point for GAW is to be appointed by a Permanent Representative of a country with WMO to support the implementation of the Global Atmosphere Watch Programme in their country or territory and serve as a focal point on technical and operational matters related to GAW. The National Focal Point has the following **Terms of Reference**:

- (1) Keep abreast with the work of the GAW Programme within their country or territory and have a good knowledge of national institutions working on atmospheric composition in the country;
- (2) Provide information on GAW relative activities to the Permanent Representative with WMO;
- (3) Serve as a contact point for enquires related to the National GAW activities from the WMO Secretariat and other interested bodies;
- (4) Assist with the search of national experts in atmospheric composition for relevant bodies of WMO;
- (5) Keep a register of all GAW observing stations on the national territory;
- (6) Serve as National Focal Point for GAWSIS-OSCAR/surface (be registered in OSCAR with the role of "GAW National Focal Point") for the atmospheric composition network, which includes:
 - (a) A revision of GAW stations metadata in GAWSIS-OSCAR/surface;
 - (b) The creation of additional Station Contactsⁱ, including for the purposes of registration of new stations upon request of the Station Principal Investigator, and updating existing Station Contacts for the stations under their national responsibility. A Station Contact is authorized to edit information for the station(s) under his/her responsibility. A returning Station Contact could create new stations (for international networks, such contacts should be added by the Network Focal Point);
 - (c) Issuing WIGOS station identifiers for new stations in a national territory;
 - (d) Carrying out an annual evaluation of stations' information of the network under their national responsibility.

ⁱ For International Networks, such contacts should be added by the Network Focal Point