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**GCOS STEERING COMMITTEE  
TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

GCOS SC-27, 28–31 October 2019  
Paris, France

**GCOS Panel Members Terms of Reference**

*(Submitted by the GCOS Secretariat)*

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**Summary and Purpose of Document:**

This document gives background for updating the GCOS Panel Members Terms of Reference and is asking for a decision on the proposed Terms of Reference.

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**Action Proposed:**

Adopt the draft Decision 11.

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**DRAFT DECISIONS**

**Draft Decision 8.5 (SC-27)**

The GCOS Steering Committee decides to adopt the GCOS Panel Members Terms of Reference as in Annex 1.

## **Background**

During the Steering Committee 26 in Helsinki, the Terms of Reference for panel membership was discussed and changes were recommended to the proposed draft. The changes have been included and the revised ToR can be found in Annex 1.

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## Annex 1

### GCOS PANEL MEMBERS TERMS OF REFERENCE

(Draft 9 October 2019)

Members of the GCOS Panels shall:

- 1) Lead the evolution of sustained and systematic observations of the global climate system in accordance with their expertise, as part of a GCOS expert panel.
- ~~1)2)~~ In agreement with the panel chairperson(s), take responsibility to report to the panel for one, or a few, Essential Climate Variables and/or networks on:
  - a) The ECV requirements for long-term monitoring of the Earth's climate;
  - b) The adequacy of observing networks (in-situ, satellite-based), compared with the ECV requirements;
  - c) Progress on actions contained on the latest GCOS Implementation Plan.
- ~~2)3)~~ Contribute to the revision of the ECV, based on user needs for climate monitoring, adaptation and mitigation, as required.
- ~~3)4)~~ Contribute to the regular updating of the GCOS Status Report and Implementation Plan.
- ~~4)5)~~ Liaise with relevant research and operational communities.
- 6) Undertake, in agreement with the panel chair(s) other tasks in line with the panel Terms of Reference
- 7) The term of a panel member shall be 3 years with a possible extension of a further 3 years, if approved by the GCOS steering committee. The GCOS secretariat will support travel to meetings and related costs.
- 8) The total commitment is expected to be about 10 days per year, including:
  - a) One panel meeting a year (usually in the first quarter of the year);
  - b) Taking part in panel teleconferences as decided by the panel chairs, (expected to be at least 4 times a year).
- 9) The panel chairs, supported by the GCOS Secretariat, shall lead the panel, guiding and prioritizing the panel's agenda and work. Specific duties include, proposing experts to join the panel and attending the GCOS Steering Committee as ex-officio member once a year.
- ~~5) Attend one panel meeting a year (usually in the first quarter of the year)~~
- ~~6) Take part in panel teleconferences as decided by the panel chairs, (expected to be at least 4 times a year)~~
- ~~7) The term of a panel member shall be 3 years with a possible extension of a further 3 years approved by the GCOS steering committee~~
- ~~8)1) Undertake, in agreement with the panel chair(s) other tasks in line with the panel Terms of Reference~~