



GCOS STEERING COMMITTEE

THIRTIETH SESSION

GCOS SC-30, 7–8 December 2022

Virtual Session

GCOS Joint Panel Meeting

GCOS Joint Panel Meeting

GCOS SC is asked to adopt the draft Decision 6.

DRAFT DECISION (6)

1. The Steering Committee decides to hold a Second GCOS Joint Panel Meeting in June 2023 in Bonn and approves the budget for it.
2. The Steering Committee asks the GCOS Secretariat to:
 - a. Work with ECMWF to identify the venue in Bonn and prepare the logistics;
 - b. In consultation with the GCOS Panels' chairs, organize the content and a provisional agenda for the meeting to cover the topics presented in the Concept Note (Annex A) and present it to the Steering Committee by 15 March 2023.
3. The Steering Committee requests that all efforts are done to ensure an even geographical distribution of venues and to promote the organization of meetings in low-income countries.

Summary:

The document discusses briefly the motivation for a second GCOS Joint Panel Meeting, proposes dates and place for the meeting and describes the main topics that will be covered and its expected outcomes.

Annex A

Draft Concept Note – Second GCOS Joint Panel Meeting

Proposed dates and venue: 26-30 June 2023, Bonn (Germany).

1. Background and Rationale of the Meeting

The importance of cross-panel work has been consistently highlighted at the last GCOS Steering Committees and aligns with the Earth-System approach adopted by WMO since its reform process in 2019.

The first Joint Panel Meeting, which took place in 2019 in Marrakesh, Morocco, was extremely successful. Joint Panel Meetings allow members of different GCOS panels to meet and discuss around topics of common interest. When organized back-to-back with individual panel meetings, they also enable minimising GCOS programme carbon footprint.

AOPC, in its last session (June 2022) decided to hold their next in person meeting in Bonn at ECMWF headquarters. After discussion with OOPC and TOPC and with the agreement of ECMWF, it was suggested that Bonn could also be a suitable venue for a second GCOS Joint Panel Meeting.

It is proposed that the second Joint Panel Meeting focuses on some or all of the following topics:

- Cross-panel actions in GCOS Implementation Plan (see Agenda Item GCOS SC-30 2.1)
- ECV rationalization (see Agenda Item GCOS SC-30 2.2)
- Work on Earth System Cycles (see Agenda Item GCOS SC-30 2.4)

Other extra topics can be added. A consolidated concept note and plan should be presented to GCOS Steering Committee for approval by March 15th with a list of expected outputs.

The second Joint Panel Meeting will allow for remote participation, however, it is expected that part of the discussions take part in break-out sessions where interaction in remote mode will likely be less effective.

The Joint Panel Meeting will likely last two days and will be followed by meetings of AOPC, OOPC and TOPC.

2. Partners

Some potential partners are WMO, IOC-UNESCO, ISC, UN Environment Programme, EUMETSAT, ESA, NASA, EC Copernicus and its Climate Change Service, the joint space-agencies Working Group on Climate, GOOS and WCRP.

3. Participants

The members of the three GCOS panels (including ex-officio members) will participate to the Joint Panel Meeting.

In addition to that, other participants could include:

- Members of GCOS SC.
- Representatives of the panel co-sponsors and GCOS co-sponsors and GCOS programme funding agencies.
- Relevant experts from the climate observation community.

4. Expected outcomes (Tentative)

The Joint Panel Meeting aims at:

- Discuss a way forward for the cross-panel activities identified in GCOS Implementation Plan.
 - Assess the feasibility and convenience of a different grouping of ECVs, as well as the identification of redundancies in the current list of ECVs products, in order to get to a shorter and more rational set of ECVs and ECV products.
 - Contribute to the work, together with WCRP aims on identifying actions to close the gaps in the observations for the earth system cycles including, potentially, the definition of climate indicators.
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