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COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS  
OPEN PROGRAMME AREA GROUP  
ON INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

ITEM: 2

EXPERT TEAM ON OBSERVATIONAL DATA REQUIREMENTS  
AND REDESIGN OF THE GLOBAL OBSERVING SYSTEM

Original: ENGLISH

REDUCED SESSION

OXFORD, ENGLAND, 1 – 5 JULY 2002

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

(Submitted by the Chairman)

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### **Summary and Purpose of the Document**

The chairman reports, in summary form, on the recent activities of the Expert Team and outlines the work before the group for this Reduced Meeting that includes reviewing the status of various OSEs, finalizing recommendations to CBS for redesign and evolution of the Global Observing System, and preparing for the upcoming ICT.

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### **ACTION PROPOSED**

The Expert Team is invited to take note of the status of the multiple efforts so-far undertaken by the Expert Team on Observational Data Requirements and Redesign of the Global Observing System (ET-ODRRGOS) and to continue to develop its recommended action plan for submission to CBS through the Open Area Program Group on Integrated Observing Systems (OPAG/IOS)

This WMO/CBS Expert Team (ET) has two main tasks: (a) to continue the Rolling Requirements Review (RRR), under which requirements for observations to meet the needs of all WMO programmes are compared with the capabilities of present and planned observing systems to provide them, and; (b) to make recommendations to the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) of WMO on the “re-design” of the Global Observing System (GOS). The ET-ODRRGOS is now coming towards the end of its 4-year work programme.

**1** The January 2002 ET meeting made considerable progress in preparing a set of recommendations for the evolution of both the space-based and ground-based components of the GOS; these will be refined in this July 2002 meeting and then passed on through the OPAG IOS to CBS for consideration at their next meeting in late 2002. A full report on the January 2002 ET meeting is available via the WMO homepage:

<http://www.wmo.ch/web/www/reports.html>. Highlights were:

1.1 The ET reviewed a paper, prepared by Dr B Bizzarri (as a consultant to EUMETSAT) for the Co-ordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS), setting out a vision for how the space-based component of the GOS might evolve to meet a much broader range of user requirements for observations. This vision includes, in addition to upgrading current series of operational meteorological satellites through technological advances, proposals for how dedicated small satellite missions, R&D satellites and commercial satellites might contribute. This paper served as the basis for the preparation of a draft set of recommendations to CBS on how the space-based component of the GOS should evolve.

1.2 The Team heard about significant progress in AMDAR and the in situ marine observing systems. Summary papers for these two areas (by Jeff Stickland and Etienne Charpentier respectively) are available. The ET also discussed reviews of previously prepared “Statements of Guidance” (the output from the RRR process) for global and regional NWP and synoptic meteorology that contained a number of suggestions on GOS improvements needed to overcome current deficiencies. All these inputs formed the basis for preparation of a draft set of recommendations to CBS on how the ground-based component of the GOS should evolve.

1.3 Work on the RRR process was extended into other application areas. A teleconference with John Gille (NCAR) discussed a Statement of Guidance (SoG) for atmospheric chemistry. Hiroshi Kawamura and Etienne Charpentier made considerable progress on defining “application areas” for observational requirements of activities covered by the Joint Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM). They started the preparation of SoGs for “ocean weather forecasting” and “coastal marine services”. Mike Manton presented a revised SoG for seasonal and inter-annual forecasting, which was followed by a discussion on the need to define a set of “application areas” that would be sufficient for defining the observational requirements for all climate-related activities.

1.4 The ET discussed the preparation of the next Workshop on NWP Impact Studies. The last workshop took place in Toulouse in 2000. It was organised by the SEG of COSNA (the Scientific Evaluation Group of the project on the Composite Observing System for the North Atlantic) with financial and other support from WMO/CBS. It was agreed that the organisation of the next meeting should be led by WMO (i.e. CBS, via members of this ET) with strong participation from regional observing system activities (e.g. COSNA, EUCOS, NAOS). The current plan is to hold a workshop in early 2004.

**2** Overall, substantial progress has been made on the work programme drafted at the last CBS. The goals for this meeting are to:

- 2.1. consider the implications from the May 2002 SEG meeting on GOS monitoring activities and NWP impact studies;
- 2.2. hear progress reports on the eight OSEs requested at previous ET meetings and consider any other OSEs that could be important;
- 2.3. consider any appropriate revisions to existing Statements of Guidance in light of new information from OSEs or other sources;

- 2.4. review and refine the recommendations for evolution of the GOS;
  - 2.5. develop input to be submitted to CBS-Ext. 2002 that would summarize the major outcomes of ET-ODRRGOS activities; and
  - 2.6. prepare for the upcoming ICT meeting in October 2002.
- 3.** With the next meeting of CBS approaching and the necessity for review of all recommended actions emerging from ODRRGOS by the chairman of the OPAG-IOS, it is imperative that all actions previously undertaken be completed. A full review of all actions accepted by the group since CBS XII (and not completed at previous meetings) will be undertaken. For any actions not completed, remedial action should be contemplated.
- 4.** At the conclusion of this meeting, it will be necessary to draw up a consolidated paper defining the inputs from this Expert Team to CBS. This document, along with those prepared by the other Expert Teams within the OPAG-IOS will be consolidated into appropriate OPAG-IOS input for the CBS-EXT (2002). It may be necessary for a drafting group to complete this document and circulate it via the internet for final agreement by the ET before submission to the chairman of the OPAG-IOS.