



GCOS National Coordinators for climate observations

Terms of Reference for the GCOS National Coordinators for climate observations, as approved by the GCOS Steering Committee (Decision No. 2) on the 23rd of January 2024.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Most of the climate observations that contribute to the global observing system for climate are performed under national auspices. The role of the GCOS National Coordinator is to promote communication between national systems and global bodies to ensure the best climate data is available at national level for science and adaptation.

The GCOS National Coordinator will:

- Provide a national focus to coordinate communication with the GCOS Secretariat, including updates on national GCOS activities, and, where appropriate, to participate in international GCOS-related meetings and conferences:
 - Provide the GCOS secretariat copies of any national climate observation report so they are aware of the overall status of the observing system;
 - Assist where possible in the exchange of information on the composition and performance of national components of GCOS networks with a view to enhancing the overall performance of the networks;
 - Work within an informal network of GCOS National Coordinators on priority GCOS issues common to all nations (e.g., funding, communications, training, data exchange, etc.);
 - Contribute to effective national coordination, amongst those responsible for the component systems of GCOS, including especially the WMO Integrated Global Observing Systems (WIGOS), the IOC-led Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS);
 - Ensure that important issues (e.g. funding, sustainability) are made known to the GCOS Secretariat for dissemination more widely as appropriate.

- Advocate for high-quality, sustained, long-term national climate observation of climate data, in particular:
 - Promote the adoption of the GCOS Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) for climate monitoring;
 - Promote adherence to the GCOS Climate Monitoring Principles and 'best practices' for climate observations;
 - Encourage the free and open exchange of all climate data;
 - Advocate for data rescue and the open and free exchange of digitised historic records.
- Promote the reporting and use of climate data within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):
 - Promote the use of the 'Revised UNFCCC reporting guidelines on global climate change observing systems' (FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.2) for facilitating reporting on the status of national components of GCOS;
 - Develop a close connection between climate monitoring, GCOS and national representatives to the UNFCCC, including the national delegations to its Conference of the Parties (COP) and Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).

It is intended that the GCOS National Coordinators will cooperate collectively in an informal network and that groups of National Coordinators will endeavour to meet from time to time, e.g., at SBSTA sessions, to discuss issues related to GCOS and provide advice to the GCOS Steering Committee and GCOS Secretariat.
