

GCOS STEERING COMMITTEE THIRTY FIRST SESSION

GCOS SC-31, 2–5 July 2024
WMO, Geneva, Switzerland

GCOS 5-yr Timeline and the Annual Workplan

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The Steering Committee is asked to consider and approve the 5yr timeline for GCOS (Table 1) and the GCOS Annual Workplan of the Secretariat (Table 2).

DRAFT DECISION (x)

The Steering Committee decides that the GCOS Secretariat will work according to the activities listed in Table 1 and that GCOS will follow the timeline in Table 2, including the publication dates of the next Status Report and Implementation Plan.

Summary:

1. 5-year Timeline

The timeline shown in Table 1 covers the next 5 years. It includes inter alia: meetings of the GCOS Panels and Steering Committee; meetings that are organized by GCOS; external meetings where GCOS needs to participate; and finally a timeline for the preparation of the next GCOS Status report and Implementation plan. It does not include the several meetings where GCOS Secretariat or GCOS panel members are regularly requested to attend, such as for example the WGClimate, WCRP or GOOS meetings.

Table 1: GCOS Timeline 2024-2028

Time	Panel Meetings	GCOS Steering Committee	Meetings on specific topics	Other meetings	Milestones
Q3 2024	AOPC				
Q4 2024	TOPC		GSRN-TT-3	COP-29	
Q2 2025	OOPC		GSRN Focal Points	SBSTA	
Q3 2025		Steering Committee	Data Centers		
Q4 2025			ECV Rational	COP	
			GSRN-TT-4		

			GRUAN-ICM 16		
Q1 2026	JPM: AOPC-OOPC-TOPC		LC-GCOS 8th Workshop	INFCOM-IV	Start work on Status Report
Q2 2026				SBSTA	
Q4 2026			GSRN-TT-5	COP	
Q1 2027		Steering Committee			
March-Apr 2027					Public Review
June 2027					Publish Status Report
Q2 2027			GRUAN- ICM 17	SBSTA WMO Congress?	Start work on IP
Q3 2027 (September)	Separate meetings AOPC, OOPC and TOPC				
Q4 2027			GSRN-TT-6	COP	SR to COP
Q1 2028 (Jan)			Drafting Team for IP		
Q2 2028		Steering Committee		SBSTA	
Q2 2028 (March-April)					Public Review
August 2028					Publish IP
Q4 2028			GSRN-TT-7 GRUAN-ICM 18	COP	IP to COP

2. Updated GCOS Secretariat Workplan 2024 (Q3-Q4)-2025 (Q1-Q2)

The GCOS secretariat have considered the tasks that are necessary to support the GCOS expert panels, task teams and the Steering Committee, and implementation of the GCOS Implementation Plan. Tasks needed to ensure visibility and impact of the programme, as well as engagement with GCOS stakeholders, including its co-sponsors (in particular WMO) have been considered too. Many of the activities for 2024 and 2025 have been started and are described in detail in Doc. 6.1. Table 2 shows a summary of the workplan for 2024 and Q1-Q2 of 2025, including deliverables and timeline. In brackets the reference to the activities described in Doc 6.1. Any other activity decided during the SC-31 will be added to this table.

Table 1: GCOS Secretariat Workplan 2024 (Q3-Q4)-2025 (Q1-Q2)

Continuous/ongoing Activities

#	Activity	Objective	Deliverable	Ongoing
1.	Support to GRUAN WG Chairs, task teams, online meetings (2)	Implementation of GRUAN		Meeting in Q3 2024

2.	Monitoring GUAN and GSN (2)	Long-time series of observations	Reports	
3.	Participation into the process for recognition of Global Climate Data Centres in WMO (6.2 and 6.3)	Implementation of WMO Data Policy; increase of historical observations in data centers	Climate needs (includes data management aspects) considered in the WMO process for data centers	
4.	GCOS and SOFF (6.4)	Support to climate observations	GCOS rep in SOFF Advisory Board; climate observations in SOFF. GCOS member in ET-SON	
5.	Participation in co-sponsors subsidiary meetings and other WMO meetings (SC-ON, INFCOM-3, AG-Oceans, EC) plus requests and reviews (6.7)			
6.	Support panels (reports, online and in person meetings) (10.)	Improvement of climate observations	IP actions related to panels advanced. AOPC and TOPC reports published	AOPC Meeting in Q3; TOPC meeting in Q4 OOPC meeting in Q2 2025

Underway Activities

#	Activity	Objective	Deliverable	Timeline Q3-Q4 2024, Q1-Q2 2025
7.	Identification of entities that can provide support to networks in 1. And of strategy to obtain support (1.1)	Ensure continuity and development of long-term time-series needed for climate monitoring	List of entities; list of strategies	Q3-Q4 2024 Q1-Q2 2025
8.	Review existing monitoring standards, guidance and best practices for each ECV (1.2)	Improvement of consistency of observations across countries	List of ECVs for which standards do not exist	Q2-Q4 2024
9.	Identify ECVs for which adequate global centres do not exist or are not sufficiently supported	Availability and distribution of all observations for each ECV	List of climate data centres for all ECVs and identification of those in need of additional support	Q1-Q3 2024
10.	Support of GSRN Pilot Phase (2)	Implementation of pilot GSRN	GSRN: Plans for next period agreed, including interaction with stations contacts; initial metadata and data flow	Q1-Q4 2024 Meeting in Q4 2024 Q1-Q4 2025

11.	ECV Rationalization TT (3.1)	Ensure transparency, consistency and fitness for purpose of the ECV list	Governance of the process to be followed for adoption of ECVs and ECV products/quantities and a proposed new set of ECVs and ECV quantities. Consultation with users.	Q1-Q4 2024 Q1-Q4 2025
12.	Climate Data Centers (3.2)	Ensure consistent management across all climate data archives	Broad agreement within all GCOS panels of a set of requirements to use to assess data repository adequacy	Q1-Q4 2024
13.	Improve estimates of latent and sensible heat-flux (3.3)		1. Paper or report on available observations and gaps of fluxes ready for publication. 2. Depending on outcome in 1.	1. Q4 2024 2. Q1-Q4 2025
14.	Earth's cycle: addressing recommendations from Workshop (3.4)		Paper on the global integrals ready for publication; Joint WCRP/GCOS Task Team established with TOR, timeline and milestones	Q4 2024 Q1-Q4 2025 (TBD at SC31)
15.	Earth's cycle	Action B10: Identify gaps in the Climate observing system to monitor earth cycles	Support to regular assessment of observations gaps to monitor.	TBD at SC31
16.	Indicators	Propose new climate indicators to cover new domains, reflect the cycles, and/or address extremes	Factsheets for the proposed new indicators	Q4 2024 (TBD at SC31)
17.	Interviews with GCOS National Coordinators, Contact countries where GCOS National Programme does not exist (4.)	Raising GCOS profile, learning about climate needs, fundraising	Initiate communication with identified national coordinators; Online forum	Q1-Q4 2024
19.	Establish regular interactions with a stable core group of GCOS National Coordinators	Get insight at national level, including inputs to the UNFCCC process. Promote the creation of GCOS National Programmes	Group established and first in-person meeting held (depending on the available resources)	Q1-Q4 2025

20	Additional work to move forward the GCOS National/Regional work			TBD at SC31
21.	GCOS Coordination Mechanism: apply to terrestrial case (4.)	Support the Hydrological Networks	Draft pilot project for supporting field(s) site(s) in Uzbekistan.	Q3-Q4 2024
22.	Adaptation: Finalize paper on the ECV Fire; Draft paper on the role of reanalysis for adaptation (5.)	Define the role of GCOS in adaptation	Published paper on ECV-fire Draft paper on reanalysis for adaptation	Q3 2024 Q4 2024
	Additional decision on adaptation from SC-31			
23.	Expansion of GBON to hydrology	Support the GBON Expansion	Draft concept document	Q2-Q3 2024
24.	Update OSCAR/RRR with the ECV requirements from GCOS-245 (6.6)	Climate requirements in RRR	ECVs updated in RRR after interaction with JET-EOSDE	Q1-Q4 2024 Q1-Q2 2025
25.	Approval of MoU (7.)	Approved MOU	Signed MoU	Q3-Q4 2024
26.	Prepare and participate in SBSTA 61 and COP 29 (8.)	Visibility, communication strategy	Presentation at Earth Information Day; Revised GCOS Climate Monitoring Principles endorsed	Q3-Q4 2024
27.	Organization of GCOS Steering Committee Meeting (10.)	To get guidance and decisions from SC	Report with decisions agreed	Q1-Q3 2024
28.	Redesign/rebuild of GCOS Website (11.)	Improvement of communication as part of GCOS strategy	Updated Website	Q2-Q4 2024
29.	EU project (12.)	Streamline climate-related activities between GCOS, WMO and GEO and obtain financial support for GCOS	Project submitted	Q2-Q4 2024