

---

**GCOS STEERING COMMITTEE  
THIRTY FIRST SESSION**

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

**Update of GCOS-245**

**Document Title**

The GCOS Steering Committee is asked to consider the update of the GCOS-245<sup>1</sup> for the ECV Requirements

**DRAFT DECISION (x)**

The GCOS Steering Committee decides that:

1. The GCOS Secretariat will update the GCOS-245 to include a revised introduction containing better explanations on how to interpret the requirements and targeted updates of some of the ECV requirements.
2. The GCOS Secretariat will produce a draft of this update by November 2024.
3. The GCOS SC Chair and the Panel chairs will revise the update.
4. The updated version of the GCOS-245 will be published by December 2024.

**Summary:**

In 2022 GCOS published the GCOS Implementation Plan and the ECV Requirements (GCOS-245). The latter contained the requirements for the ECVs. The report is structured in 5 sections: an introduction, a table that lists the changes in the ECVs since the GCOS IP 2016, and 3 sections, one for each domain, containing the ECV requirements for ECVs and ECV products. The introduction provides the definition of the criteria for the requirements (spatial resolution, temporal resolution, uncertainty, stability, timeliness) and a definition for the 3 values of goal, breakthrough and threshold. It does fail to describe how these requirements should be used and the fact that the requirements are technology free and cannot be met by means of a single observing method. This lack of explanation has resulted in confusion within the community and in some cases the requirements were misinterpreted.

Additionally, for some of the requirements there are revisions available.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://library.wmo.int/viewer/58111/download?file=GCOS-245\\_2022\\_GCOS\\_ECVs\\_Requirements.pdf&type=pdf&navigator=1](https://library.wmo.int/viewer/58111/download?file=GCOS-245_2022_GCOS_ECVs_Requirements.pdf&type=pdf&navigator=1)

As next document with the ECV requirements will be published together with the GCOS IP in 2028, the GCOS Secretariat in consultation with the Panels' chairs, suggest updating this document in order to avoid further misunderstanding. The proposed revision will be restricted to the introduction and the update of a very limited number of ECV requirements.

---