

Item 7.1

GCOS Work Plan 2019-2022

Carolyn Richter

GCOS Steering Committee (SC-27)

28-31 October 2019



**GLOBAL CLIMATE
OBSERVING SYSTEM**

KEEPING WATCH OVER OUR CLIMATE



Next (4th) Assessment Cycle : 2017-2022

GCOS prepares regular reports on the status of the global climate observing system followed by implementation plans to address issues, gaps and new developments and user needs. These reports are submitted to the UNFCCC SBSTA. GCOS is now on the 4th assessment cycle: 2017-2022

GCOS Work Plan for 2019-2022 is aligned to the publication of IPCC's sixth assessment report (AR6) and to the 2022 UNFCCC COP which will provide the input to the UNFCCC Global Stocktake in 2023:

- Updated status report to be available by October 2021.
- Revised implementation plan to UNFCCC in time for the COP in November 2022 to allow it to be available for the UNFCCC's Global Stock Take in 2023 and align with the IPCC assessment cycle.

Considerations in developing this work plan:

- The need for transparency and community involvement in the process
- Allowing enough time for any issues to be resolved on individual ECVs
- Ensuring that the status report and the implementation plan are updated consecutively not simultaneously
- Deadlines of October 2021 for the Status Report and October 2022 for the Implementation Plan

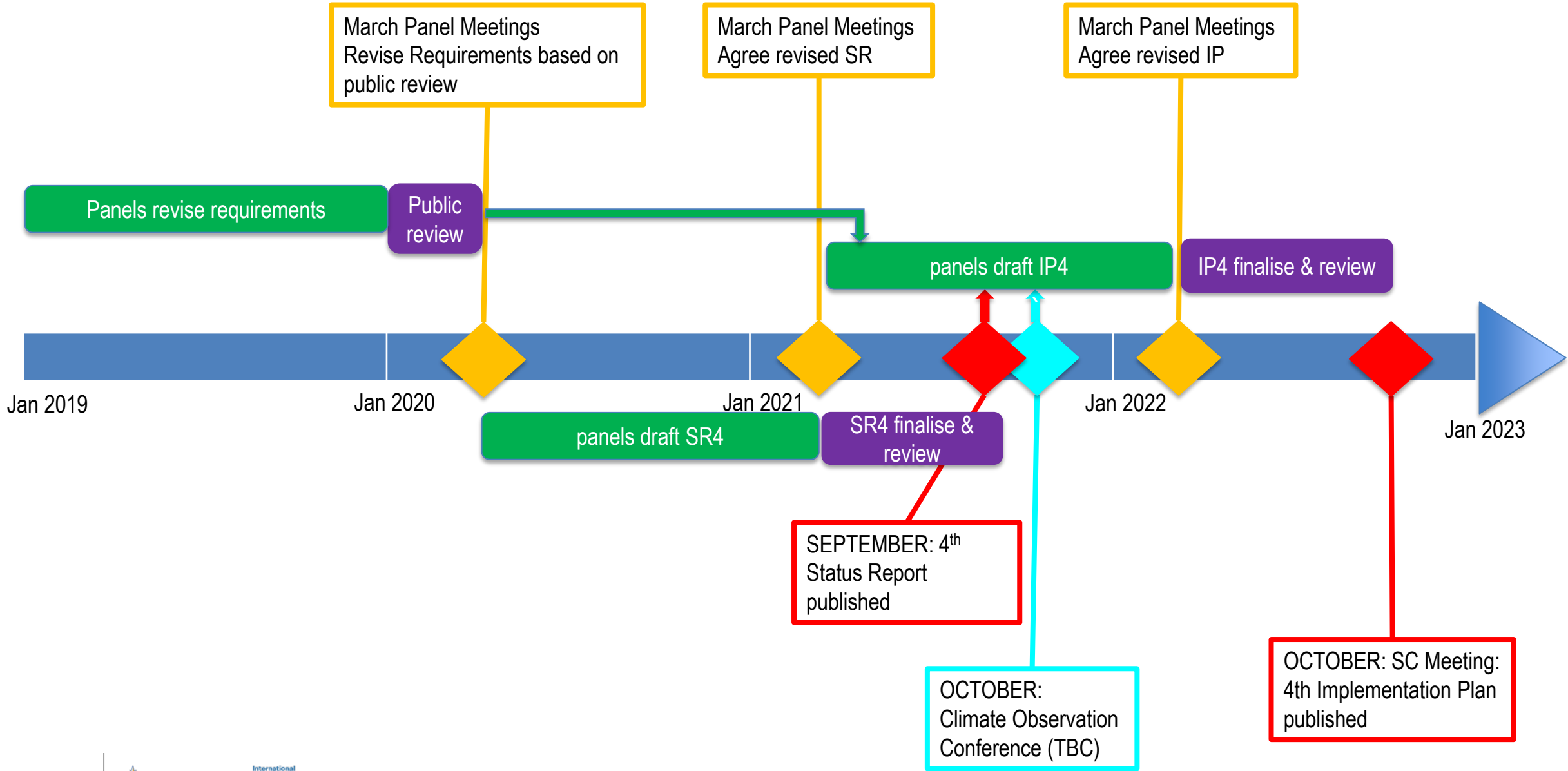
ECV Requirements:

An important concept of the GCOS programme are the Essential Climate Variables (ECV). Each ECV may comprise of one or more parameter, called ECV Products, and for each of these GCOS provides requirements in terms of definitions, resolution and uncertainty.

In 2018, the GCOS panels have already been tasked with considering the ECV requirements, assessing if they are still fit-for-purpose and proposing refinements in consultation with their respective communities. An on-going task of the GCOS panels is to review how well ECVs are monitored and to review the status of actions in the most recent implementation plan. To do this, the panels have appointed ECV Stewards and IP action rapporteurs.

This timeline has been already introduced to the Steering Committee at its 26th session in Helsinki in 2018, and to all panels at their joint session in March 2019. It was approved at the 30th IOC Assembly in July 2019.

Timeline



Update of the Status Report (SR4)

Proposed timeline for revising the Status Report

		4 th Status Report (SR4)
2019	Now-December	Continue monitoring IP actions and ECV observations (Tasks of the panels)-ongoing tasks of the panels
2020	January-February	
	March	Draft revised status report. Based on contribution from the ECV stewards and IP action Rapporteurs, compiled and coordinated by the GCOS Secretariat
	April-December	
2021	January-February	Public review of SR4. All the relevant communities invited.
	March-April	
	May-August	The GCOS Panels and Secretariat will finalize SR4 by addressing all comments. Final document approved by GCOS sponsors.
	September	

Update of the Implementation Plan (IP4)

Proposed timeline for revising the Implementation Plan

		4 th Implementation Plan (IP4)
2019	Now-December	Review and revise ECV requirements. Led by ECV stewards, who include the views of their communities. The Secretariat monitors progress.
2020	January-February	Public Review of initial proposed ECV requirements. All the relevant communities will be specifically invited.
	March	Panel meeting. Consider responses to ECV requirements, identify areas for further work
	April-December	Activities focused on ECVs where additional consideration is needed.
2021	January-February	
	March-December	Draft revised IP4. Led by the GCOS panels and incorporates the revised ECV requirements. Contributions and inputs from SR4, climate observation Conference and interested scientific communities
2022	January-March	
	March-April	Public review of IP4 draft.
	May-September	The GCOS Panels and Secretariat will finalize IP4 by addressing all comments. Final document approved by GCOS sponsors
	October	Publish revised IP4 in time for the UNFCCC COP (7-18 November 2022)

Update of requirements for the IP4

ECV Product requirements are being updated where needed. There are some significant changes in the presentation of the ECV Product requirements:

- Threshold and Goal Values: for each ECV Product there should be defined two values, the threshold and GOAL following the approach of WMO' Observing Systems Capability Analysis and Review Tool (OSCAR)
- Each number for the requirements needs to be documented for future traceability
- Timeliness has been added

The following are the components of an ECV Product Requirement:

- Name of ECV and ECV Product
- Resolution
- Uncertainty
- Stability
- Background information

DRAFT DECISIONS

Draft Decision 7.4 (SC-27)

1. The Steering Committee reinforces its endorsement of the timeline and its details and requests the GCOS Secretariat to coordinate with the panel chairpersons the timing of related activities.
2. The Steering Committee requests the director to ensure that the timeline will find approval by WMO's 72nd Executive Council in 2020 and at the appropriate governance level of ISC and UN Environment.
3. The Steering Committee requests the Secretariat to provide the budget and resources necessary to act on these milestones.