

SC response to letter of sponsors

1. welcome the very positive endorsement of the work of the GCOS programme given by sponsors
2. appreciate the need for GCOS, as an intergovernmental programme, to be coherent with new WMO structures and with the governance bodies of other co-sponsors
3. need to ensure all sponsors' ambitions are satisfied by the future GCOS
4. need also to ensure that the wider stakeholders in GCOS, especially those within the Earth system sciences community continue to be recognized

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5. notes that many ECVs and observations are supported or originate in non-NMHS services (eg C3S, CEOS/CGMS WG Climate, operational oceanography agencies). These agencies are effectively 'sponsors' of GCOS. The very successful integration of such disparate interests is achieved through the GCOS office. It attracts external intellectual and financial support in this role.
6. need to maintain the high regard for GCOS among wider community, that ensures the coordinating role and its requirements management are respected and addressed
7. note the unique role of GCOS in addressing observations in support of the Earth system cycles across domains. This integrating function of GCOS is critical and should be maintained in any future implementation among sponsors.

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8. welcome the importance ascribed by sponsors to climate mitigation and adaptation and the need for supporting observations for these through GCOS
9. welcome ongoing collaboration with GOOS through OOPC, and reconfirm the future importance of the partnership. Future arrangements for GOOS and GCOS must maintain the current strengths of the OOPC panel
10. encourage sponsors to continue dialogue with S/C to ensure that the wider stakeholders are fully recognised in future plans
11. recall the strength of the historical mandate to GCOS from UNFCCC-SBSTA to report on climate observations and ensure its future continuity
12. recognize the climate coordination mechanism proposed by WMO and note the unique capacity of GCOS to provide leadership in this